

One day on her way home from school, a clever little girl named Allegra finds a golden flute buried in a pile of leaves and when she blows on it, strange things begin to happen. Her street turns into a dark forest and when she blows again, out pops a feathered bird catcher named Papageno—with a padlock on his mouth! Why has he had a padlock put on his mouth—not once, but *three* times—and what must they do to find their way out of the forest? Papageno has been sent there to learn three lessons about himself. He claims that the flute Allegra found is “the Magic Flute”, that she has been given it to help him, and if she blows on the flute, she can become anyone she wants. Clever Allegra doesn’t believe in magic, but she’s willing to give it a try. Through the power of music and the magic of make-believe, Papageno and Allegra embark on an adventure of sharing and self-discovery, involving a four-legged, two-winged, fire-breathing dragon, the much scarier Queen of the Night, and many more fabulous characters. Eventually, Papageno learns his three lessons, he is reunited with his Papagena, the forest disappears, and Allegra can finally go home having also learned some valuable lessons—about the wonders of opera and the power of the imagination.