

The Wondrous Adventures of Rocky, a book by Jennah Vainio. The book consists of 15 pieces composed by combining classical guitar technique with heavy metal and rock aesthetics. Not too many pieces like these exist for elementary levels, therefore it is great that the gap is now being filled.

The musical world of the compositions speaks strongly to both the player and the listener. Each piece has a clear pedagogical goal related to the activities of Rocky the dog. For example, in "Frisbee Fetching" which describes throwing a frisbee, the student tries to catch the glissando note like a dog catches a frisbee flying in the air.

From my experience, I can say that the compositions get the students' imagination going and help them to see behind the notes thus give meaning to what is done and heard—and that, if anything, motivates to practice. Many thanks to Jennah Vainio for the new material, which is guaranteed to be played diligently.

/ Rody van Gemert, Classical guitar teacher, Music Institute Avonia, Espoo (2021)