

Carlo Collodi
PINOCCHIO

Read by **John Sessions**

JUNIOR
CLASSICS



1	Mr Cherry finds a piece of wood and gives it to Gepetto to make a marionette	5:01
2	Gepetto makes his puppet and calls him Pinocchio	5:14
3	The 'Talking Cricket'	2:48
4	Pinocchio is hungry and goes off to search for food	3:51
5	Gepetto returns to find Pinocchio's feet have been burnt	8:29
6	Pinocchio sells his ABC book in order to go to the Marionette Theatre	10:04
7	In which Pinocchio meets the fox and the cat	9:57
8	Pinocchio and The Assassins	6:23
9	The Blue-haired Fairy saves Pinocchio	8:50
10	Pinocchio is taken to the Field of Wonders	12:54
11	Pinocchio is heartbroken to discover that the Blue-haired Fairy is dead and the pigeon takes him to look for Gepetto	5:11
12	Pinocchio arrives at the Land of the Busy Bees	17:23
13	Pinocchio learns that he will soon no longer be a puppet, but a boy. He plans a celebration	6:38
14	Pinocchio is tempted by Lampwick to go to the Land of Toys	15:20
15	Pinocchio turns into a donkey	6:33
16	Pinocchio is bought by the owner of a circus	7:33
17	Pinocchio narrowly escapes drowning but is swallowed by the shark	7:13
18	Pinocchio finds and rescues his father	6:34
19	Pinocchio ceases to be a puppet and becomes a real boy	12:16

Total time: 2:38:13

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PINOCCHIO

Pinocchio was the creation of Carlo Collodi. This was his pen name; his real name was Carlo Lorenzini. Collodi is the name of the little village in Northern Tuscany where his mother was born and it is now forever linked with the name of *Pinocchio*.

Carlo Collodi was born in 1826 and died in 1890. He was a soldier before he became a journalist and then he turned to writing for children. His adventures of *Pinocchio* were first serialized in a newspaper and then published with great success in 1883.

As everyone knows, Pinocchio is a wooden puppet who, to the surprise of his maker, the woodcarver Gepetto, comes to life and proceeds to have the most astonishing adventures. He is a naughty, mischievous puppet who is full of good intentions but wants everything, and lets nothing stand in his way. He knows that Gepetto loves him like a son, and is aware that he is hurting him, but he just can't seem to stay out of trouble. There are always so many temptations, such as the invitation from the cat and the fox (with voices, in this recording, inspired by Dustin

Hoffman and Jack Nicholson) to make his five gold coins into five hundred times as much by burying them in the 'field of miracles'; or the temptation from his friend, Lampwick, to go to live in Playland where nobody does any work at all and you can just play all day.

However, Pinocchio has a conscience and is always vowing that he will turn over a new leaf. Anyway, he desperately wants to become a boy and he knows that this will never happen until he can learn to be more thoughtful and not keep running off or telling lies even to himself. Famously, when he does tell a lie, Pinocchio's nose grows longer and longer. So much so, that at one point in the story the Blue-haired Fairy has to get a thousand woodpeckers to peck it down to its right size again.

Eventually Pinocchio comes through his gripping adventures; adventures which lead him to all kinds of places – a cave where he nearly gets fried alive; the circus; Busy Bee Island and even the inside of a shark, to name but a few. On his way he meets many curious characters, some good and some

bad. But above all he discovers, in the Blue-haired Fairy, a mother, and he learns to value Gepetto as a father. He is rewarded by being made into the 'real boy' he always wanted to be.

Like all fairy tales the story is dark and scary as well as being exuberantly positive and, of course, everything comes right in the end and everybody lives 'happily ever after.'

Notes by Jan Fielden

The music on this recording is taken from the NAXOS catalogue

PROKOFIEV SUITES 8.550381
CSSR State Philharmonic Orchestra/Andrew Mogrelia

**PROKOFIEV PETER AND THE WOLF/
SAINT-SAENS CARNIVAL OF THE ANIMALS** 8.550335
Czecho-Slovak RSO/Ondrej Lenárd

Music programming by Jan Fielden

Cover picture: Sue Tewkesbury 1997

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Read by **John Sessions**

Pinocchio is a wooden puppet who comes to life and has the most astonishing adventures. A naughty, mischievous creature, he is full of good intentions but is greedy, and lets nothing stand in his way. His maker, poor Gepetto, loves him like a son, but Pinocchio just can't stay out of trouble.



John Sessions, the highly versatile actor and comedian, is well known for his comic work in films such as *My Night With Reg*, *In the Bleak Midwinter* and *The Pope Must Die*, and the TV shows *Whose Line Is It Anyway?*, *The New Statesman* and *Spitting Image*. He also reads *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* and *Kidnapped* for Naxos AudioBooks.

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2:38:13