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### **BEATLES INTRODUCED TO NEXT GENERATION OF FANS IN NEW PICTURE BOOK**

Forty-five years after the Beatles broke up, their popularity remains undiminished, with 41.8 million “likes” on Facebook, 2.8 million Twitter followers, a ranking as the “most important band” on Wikipedia\* and the #1 spot on *Rolling Stones’* list of 100 Greatest Artists of All Time. Yet many kids today can’t even name the members of the group! Luckily, a new picture book introduces John, Paul, George and Ringo to the next generation of music lovers, helping to ensure the Beatles’ fame well into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

***Fab Four Friends: The Boys Who Became the Beatles*** (Christy Ottaviano Books/Henry Holt), by award-winning author Susanna Reich, illustrated by award-winning illustrator Adam Gustavson, shines a spotlight on the Beatles’ earliest years, showing how four ordinary boys from Liverpool became the bestselling band in history. Beginning with John Lennon’s birth in the dark days of the Liverpool blitz, the book traces the Beatles’ roots through each boy’s childhood and teen years. Evocative language and richly-detailed paintings tell the story of the band from its earliest days as a skiffle group to its explosion onto the world stage.

"*Fab Four Friends* is the perfect introduction to the mythic pop band — a thoughtful and delightful retelling that, like the Beatles, hits all the right notes."

- Bob Spitz, Beatles biographer

It’s all here, from John and Paul’s meeting at St. Peter’s Church to George’s audition on a double-decker bus and Ringo’s early love of the drums. Heady nights in Hamburg, sweaty gigs in the Cavern Club, the adoration of hometown fans, the crush of being told that "guitar groups are on the way out," the thrill of Beatlemania—this ultimate rock ‘n’ roll story will appeal to readers of all ages.

"A gorgeous love letter to an unforgettable band" - *School Library Journal*

[Susanna Reich](#) is the author of many books for children and young adults, including *Minette’s Feast: The Delicious Story of Julia Child and Her Cat*, *José! Born to Dance*, *Painting the Wild Frontier: The Art and Adventures of George Catlin* and *Clara Schumann: Piano Virtuoso*. Her awards include the NCTE Orbis Pictus Honor, Tomás Rivera Award, International Latino Book Award, ALA Notable, ALA Best Books for Young Adults, and Best Books of the Year from *School Library Journal*, *Booklist*, *Kirkus*, Scripps-Howard, the New York Public Library, CCBC,

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Bank Street College and the Association of Booksellers for Children. A former Chair of the Children's and Young Adult Book Committee of PEN American Center, she lives in Ossining, New York, with her husband, children's book author Gary Golio.

[Adam Gustavson](#) has illustrated more than twenty books for children, including *Rock and Roll Highway: The Robbie Robertson Story* and *The Yankee at the Seder*, a Sydney Taylor Honor book. Adam holds an MFA from the School of Visual Arts and teaches at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. He lives in New Jersey with his family and several guitars.

\* Open Wikipedia Ranking, Laboratory for Web Algorithmics, University of Milan

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*Fab Four Friends: The Boys Who Became the Beatles*

Written by Susanna Reich

Illustrated by Adam Gustavson

Published by Christy Ottaviano Books/Henry Holt

Glossary, end notes, author's note, bibliography

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