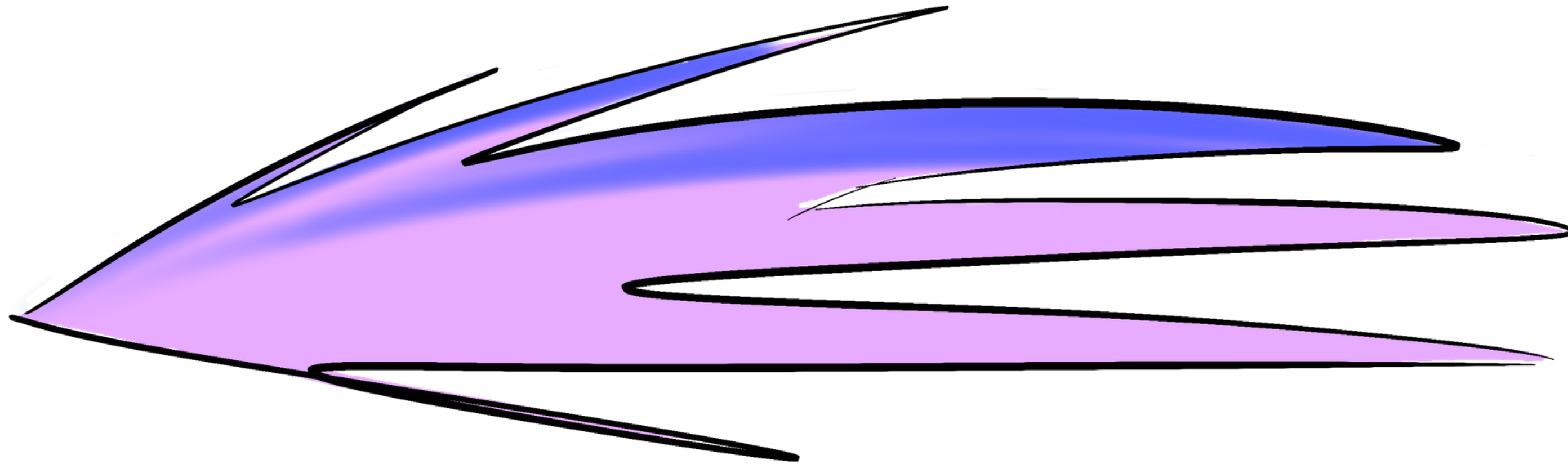


How I MET MEWS

By Ashley Higginbotham
Illustrations by Brad Higginbotham



I could have sworn I saw a flash of violet out of the corner of my eye
as I practiced piano one night!
I searched high and low but couldn't find anything.



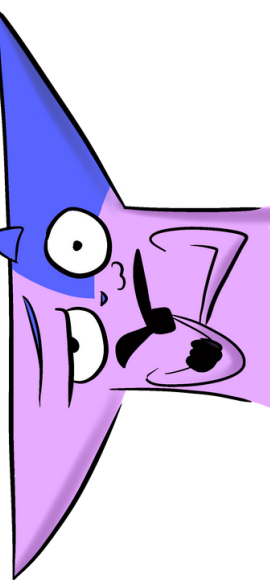
THUMP THUMP

The next day, while I was strumming my ukulele,
I heard thumping from the stairs!
I raced to my staircase but the culprit was nowhere to be found.

The next few days, thumping, jumping, and the occasional blur of purple fur became a regular part of music time.

Sometimes, if I forgot to put an instrument away,
I would even hear music playing in the middle of the night
while I was trying to sleep.

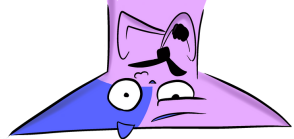
Whatever this thing was, it could really play!



I just had to catch this thumping, jumping, purple fur blur!
So, one night, I set out all of my instruments: my keyboard, ukulele, guitar,
maracas, and even a microphone with a speaker.



I just knew this creature wouldn't be able to resist,
so I hid on the stairs and waited for the concert to begin.



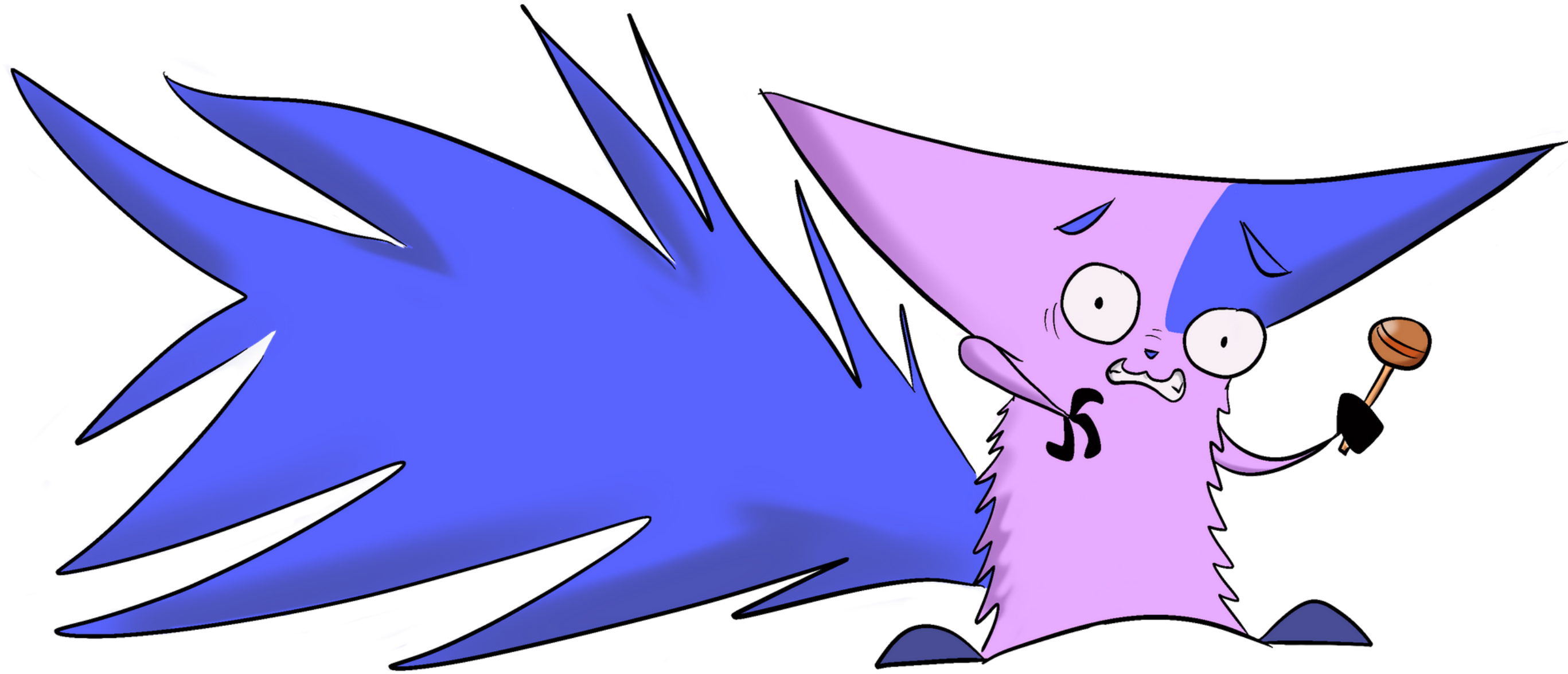
After a few minutes, I heard it.
Beautiful music filled the house! I hopped out from hiding and shouted,



A-HA!

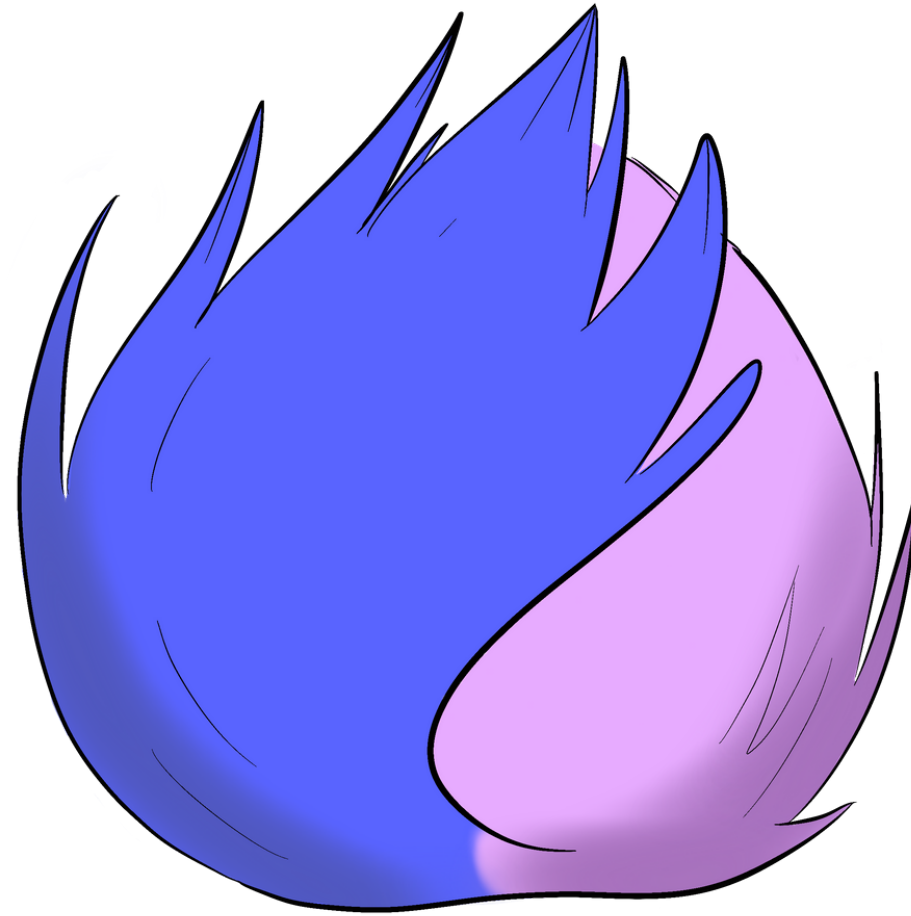


...and I couldn't believe my eyes.



Before me stood a small creature with a violet tail as big as its entire body!
It had two large purple ears, two tiny hands, two tiny feet, and two bright eyes.

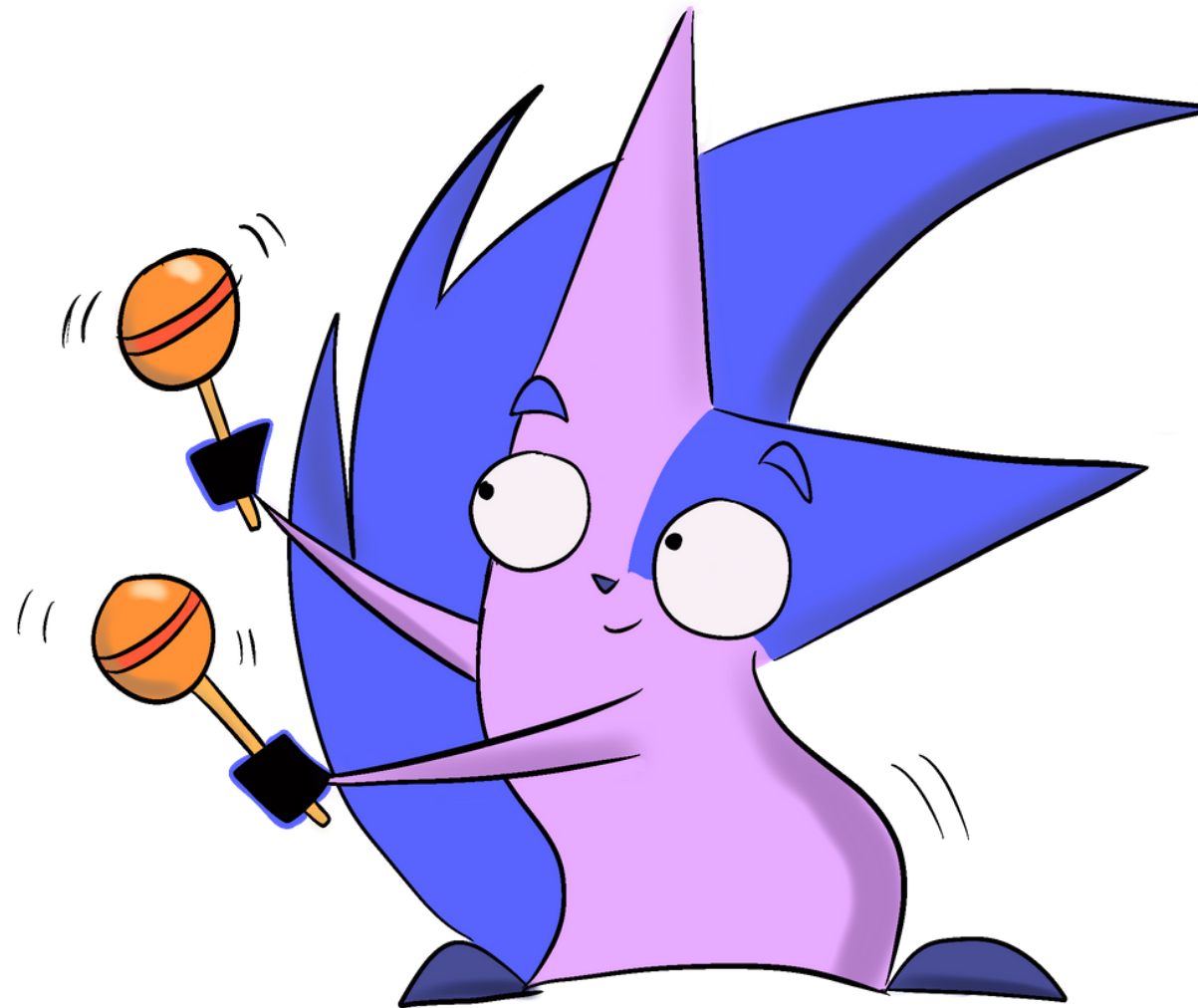
When it saw me, though, it turned into a puff and hid behind its bushy violet tail!
It was so scared.



I felt pretty bad for frightening the small creature,
so I did the only thing I could think of... I started humming a quiet tune.
The strangest thing happened. Its fur started moving to the music!

I slowly picked up my ukulele and began to strum a few chords.

I could hear that gentle thumping underneath its fur,
so I nudged my maracas toward it and continued to play.



It took a little while but, eventually, the creature became brave enough
to pick up the maracas and play along.

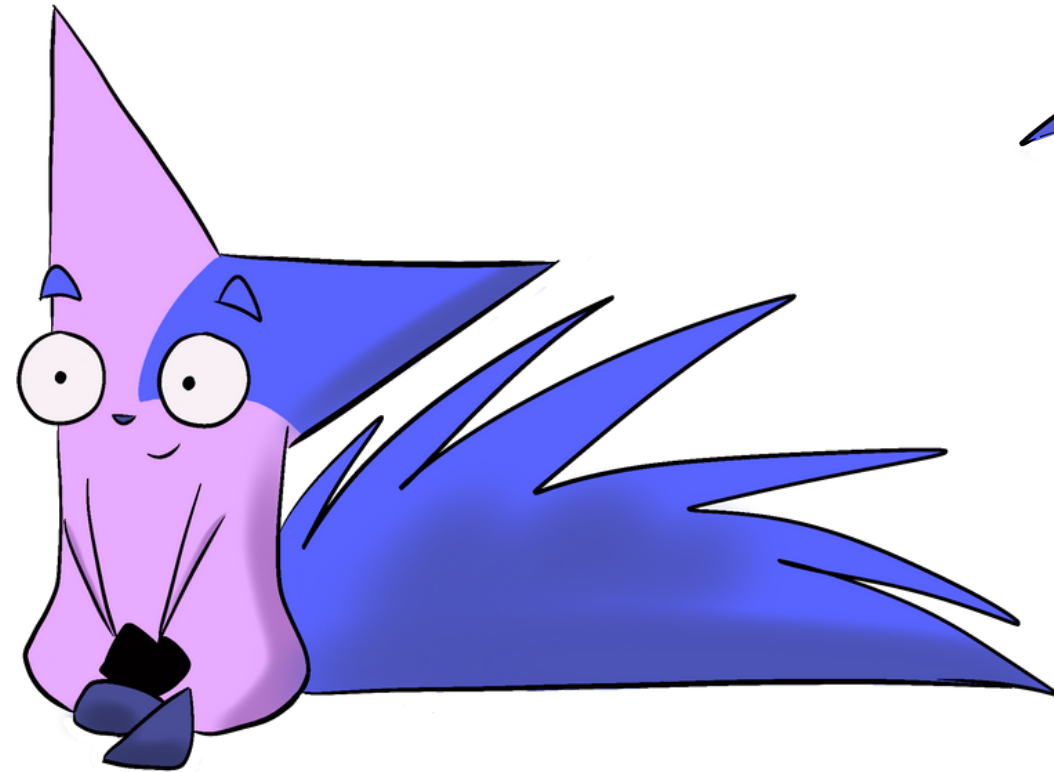
After many moments of music-making, I learned that the creature's name is

Mews

Mews loves all kinds of music
and can play just about every instrument I give them.
(Probably from sneaking into my music room and practicing while I'm asleep.)

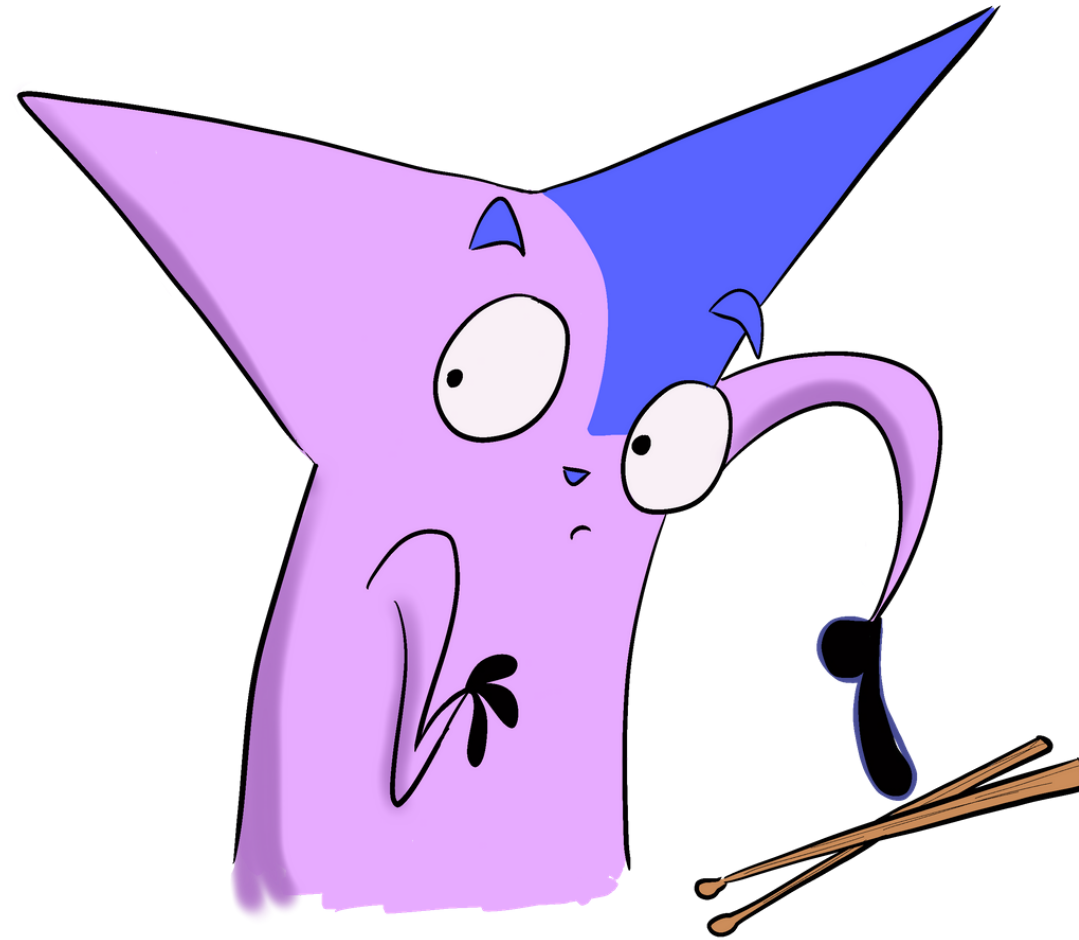


Mews isn't much of a talker but they know our language and they like to sing.
Sometimes Mews and I sing and play together.
Sometimes Mews dances while I sing and play!



And sometimes, Mews likes to sit and quietly listen.

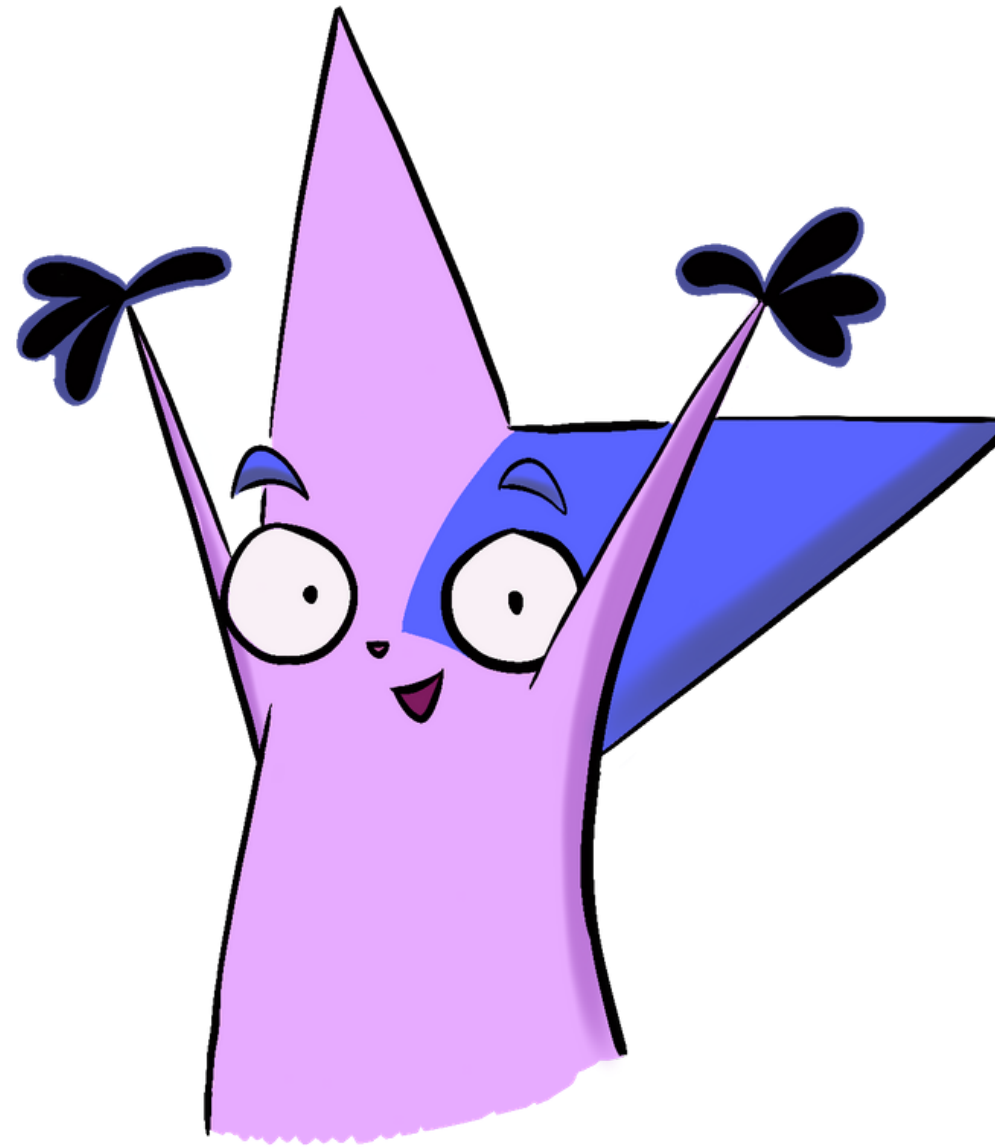
Other times, even though Mews loves music, they get nervous or frightened.



You should've seen the first time I brought a bucket drum home!
It took a little while but, once Mews gave it a try, they were hooked.

Now, I have to hide the drumsticks
or Mews will have a midnight percussion party!

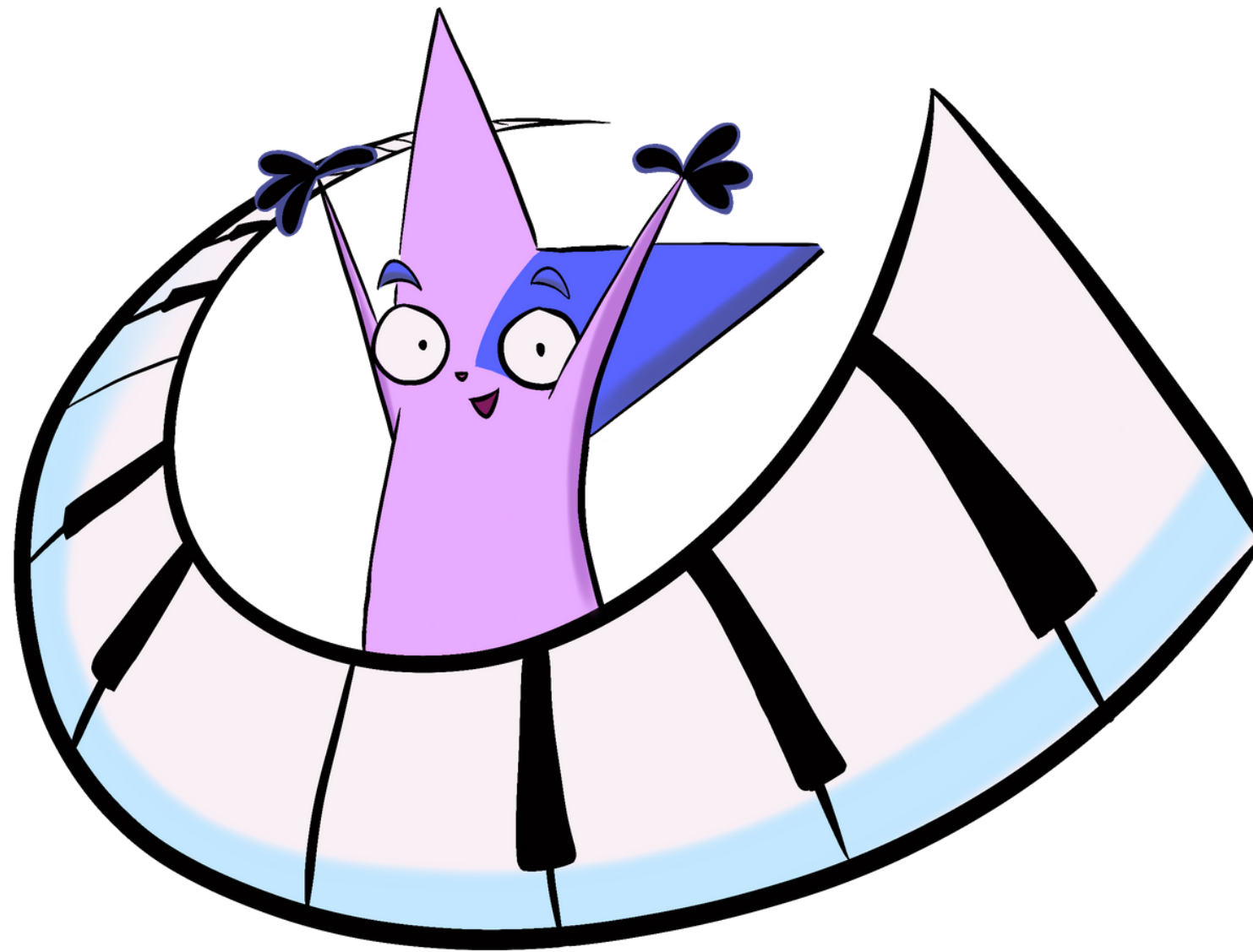
Mews and I worked together to find some tips and tricks that help when they get nervous or frightened.



When I asked Mews to help me share those tips and tricks with you, they were so excited!



So, while I don't know what kind of creature Mews is exactly and I'm not sure where it came from, one thing is clear:

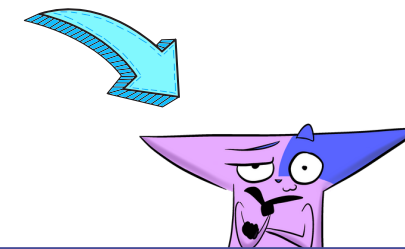


Mews loves to groove and wants to help you groove, too!

Groove with Mews!

- Use this story to follow along with the YouTube video, "How I Met Mews"
 - Listen to the "Mews' Favorite Tunes" playlist on Spotify
 - Do one (or a few!) of the "Getting To Know Mews" Activities
- Bonus: You can find Mews sneaking around in this story 5 times.

Can you spot them all?



All links and downloads can be found at:

www.gettinginthegroove.org/mews