



# The Sister Solo

*It was hard to hear all the notes. Could Sophie be brave enough to sing?*



**By Heather Merkley**  
(Based on a true story)

*“And Jesus listening can hear the songs I cannot sing”*  
(Hymns, no. 227).

Sophie loved to sing. She sang at school, at her friends’ houses, and at home. Her favorite place to sing was at church.

“Mom,” Sophie asked one day, “I want to learn to sing better. Do you think I could take lessons?”

“That sounds like a fun idea,” Mom said. “Let me see what I can find.”

Singing wasn’t always easy for Sophie. She was deaf and couldn’t hear most sounds on her own. She had a special little device behind her ears to help her hear. Things sounded a little different to her than they did to other people. But Sophie still loved to sing.

“Good news, Sophie!” Mom said a few days later. “I found a class you can join. It’s a choir with other children who are learning to sing together. The teacher said you could start tomorrow!”

Sophie did a little dance. She was so excited!

But that night, she started to get nervous.

“Are you excited for your class tomorrow?” her big sister Kayla asked.

Sophie nodded. “Yes. But I’m also a little scared. I wish I didn’t have to go by myself.”

“You can do it!” Kayla said. “But would it help if I came

with you? We can learn to sing together.”

Sophie hugged Kayla. “That would be awesome.”

The next morning, Sophie and Kayla got up early to go to their singing class. Nervous thoughts ran through Sophie’s head as she climbed into the car. What if she couldn’t understand the teacher? What if she didn’t make friends? What if people stared at her?

Mom pulled the car into the parking lot and turned around to look at Sophie. Sophie slid down low in her seat.

“I’m not sure I want to go anymore,” she said.

“What happened?” Mom asked. “You were so excited before.”

Sophie didn’t say anything. She just looked down at the ground and kicked her feet back and forth.

Mom smiled. “You don’t have to go if you don’t want to. But if you get nervous, you can pray to Heavenly Father, and He will help you! Plus Kayla will be there too.”

Kayla held Sophie’s hand.

“We’ve got this!” she said.

Sophie gulped. Her stomach felt like it was full of butterflies, but she

climbed out of the car anyway. She held tight onto Kayla’s hand as they walked into the classroom.

For the first few days of class, Sophie always sat by Kayla. Then one day Sophie noticed a girl who always sat by herself. Maybe she was scared too. Sophie went and sat next to her.

“Hi!” Sophie said. “Can I sit here?” The girl nodded. Soon they were laughing and singing together. Sophie was glad she had been brave enough to make a new friend.

Singing with the group was so much fun! Sophie loved learning the notes and tapping her foot to the beat of the music. She was even able to teach some of the other kids how to say the words in sign language.

One day the teacher had an exciting announcement.

Everyone in the class would get to sing three solo parts in a special program. At home, Kayla and Sophie

worked hard to practice their solos. Soon Sophie could sing her first two solo parts. But the last one was really hard! She couldn’t hear all the notes. How would she be able to sing it by herself in front of so many people?

Sophie remembered what Mom said about praying to Heavenly Father for help. She got down on her knees. “Heavenly Father, this last song is very hard for me. Could you help me find a way to sing it and not be so nervous?”

At her next singing class, Sophie’s teacher came up to her. “I know you’re nervous about your third solo. Would you like to sing that one with Kayla? It could be a sister solo!”

Sophie smiled. She felt warm and happy. She knew Heavenly Father was answering her prayer.

At the performance, Sophie sang her first two solos with confidence. When it was time for her third solo, she jumped up and grabbed Kayla’s hand. They walked up to the stage and sang the sister solo loud and proud. Sophie didn’t feel nervous or scared at all! Heavenly Father had answered her prayer in a way she didn’t expect, but she was so thankful that He always heard her. ●

*The author lives in Utah, USA.*

ILLUSTRATIONS BY ALYSSA PETERSEN

