



Ryan Swenar, Dreamscape Media, LLC, is the 2017 recipient of the (Andrew) Carnegie Medal for *Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl's Courage Changed Music*. He delivered his acceptance remarks at the ALSC Book and Media Awards Program on Monday, June 26, 2017, during the American Library Association Annual Conference.

For more information about the Carnegie Medal, visit <http://bit.ly/carnegie-award>.



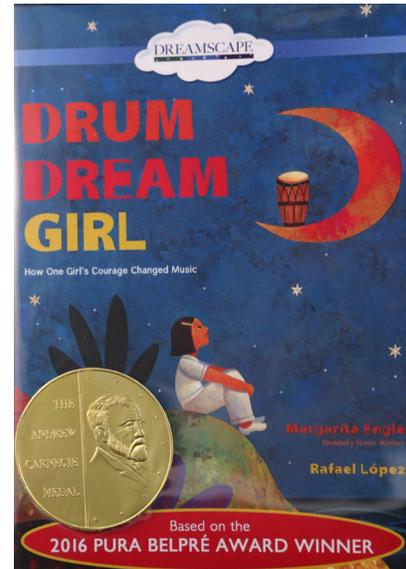
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Good morning. About 10 years ago, I was a naïve college graduate with a degree in the perhaps-not-financially-rewarding field of creative writing (insert sad trombone sound here). Writing is a labor of love, not riches. Many of the writers in attendance can commiserate, I'm sure. Unlike them, however, I was not a great writer, or even a good one, and I had no idea what to do with the next phase of my life. Luckily, it wasn't long before I received a message from a former classmate asking me if I was still looking for a job. Suddenly, I found myself interviewing with a company that I had never heard of, which did something I never previously considered. The company was Midwest Tape. The job was distributing media to public libraries.

Before that moment, I didn't know how media ended up at my local library, or even where my local library was located. I had two credit cards, but no library card. It was stunning to learn just how many libraries operate in the United States, and to witness how they positively affect people from all walks of life. Now a little older and a little wiser, I am proud to have been part of an industry that improves communities and helps shape minds in immeasurable ways. I am also happy to report that my household now owns more library cards than credit cards.

Today we celebrate *Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl's Courage Changed Music* by Margarita Engle and illustrated



by Rafael López. Inspired by real events, *Drum Dream Girl* tells the story of a little girl who overcomes social taboo to fulfill her dreams and subsequently become her island's first female drummer. Despite the fact that *Drum Dream Girl* was inspired by a real-life musician in 1930s Cuba, its themes are unfortunately, stubbornly still relevant around the world. However, books that teach self-determination, inclusion, and equality, such as *Drum Dream Girl*, play an important role in creating a better future for our world, and to have the opportunity to create video adaptations from such books is an absolute privilege.

I would like to thank Margarita Engle for penning such a beautiful poem, and Rafael López, whose illustrations are always a delight to work with. I

Dreamscape Media is an audiobook and video producer dedicated to the art and craft of entertainment. Since 2010, Dreamscape Media has been building a collection of audio and video titles, including Nutmeg Media's catalog of award-winning children's videos. Dreamscape has offices in New York, Chicago, and Toledo.



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would like to thank Adriana Sananes, the narrator of *Drum Dream Girl*, and Andy T. Jones, Dreamscape's lead animator. Andy and I have worked together in one form or another on every single Dreamscape book-based video—over 150 of them—since 2013. His vision, animation, and sound design bring these books to life.

I would like to thank Joanna Fabicon and the members of the Carn-

egie Medal/Notable Children's Videos committee for selecting *Drum Dream Girl* out of a very impressive field of wonderful videos. Finally, I would like to thank my beautiful fiancée, Karen, for her steadfast love and support.

It is an honor to receive this award. I am truly humbled.

Thank you!



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