

MUSIC TOGETHER®

THE JOY OF FAMILY MUSIC®

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SINGING THE PRAISES OF MUSIC TOGETHER®— FOR 20 YEARS

“I never expected to be able to sing a lullaby to my baby,” said a parent in Pennington, New Jersey, “but something about those classes makes the music come right out of my mouth!”

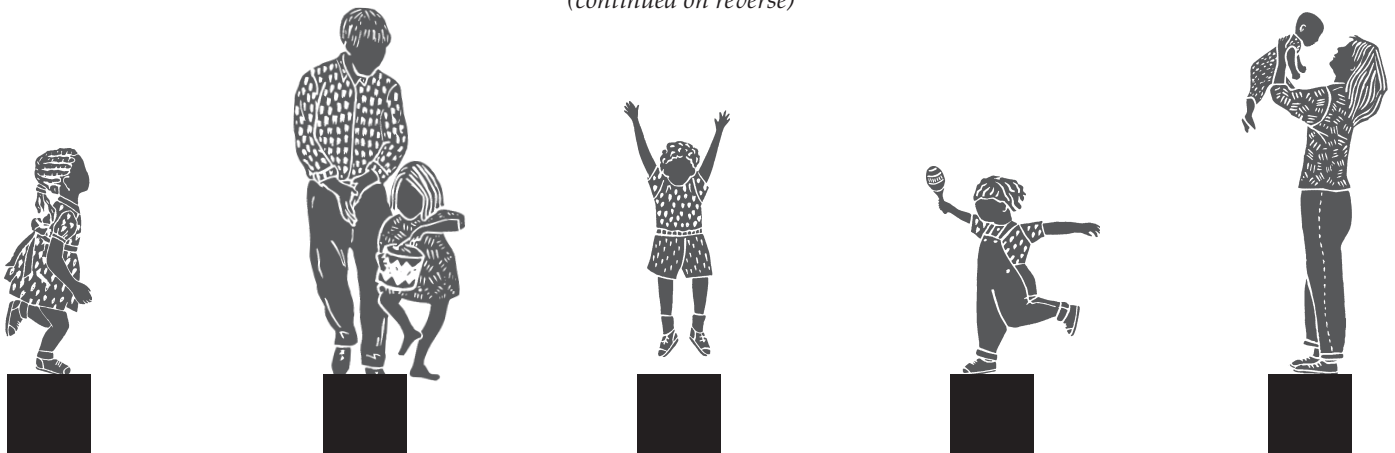
Kenneth K. Guilmartin, founder and director of Music Together LLC, has been hearing the same song from parents of very young children for twenty years now—that Music Together brings music, joy, learning, and a special relationship into their lives. This year, thousands of families throughout the world will help celebrate Music Together’s Twentieth Anniversary.

In the mid-1980s, Mr. Guilmartin envisioned children and the adults who love them making music together, much as in the days before the advent of television and recordings—singing, playing instruments, and moving together, regardless of musical background. Such an environment of relaxed and pleasurable participation by all sets the model and provides the opportunity for children to develop the natural, inborn musical ability they all have.

Music Together classes are forty-five minutes long and include an artistically conceived flow of songs, nursery rhymes, instrumental jam sessions, fingerplays, and movement activities. The combination and types of activities are research-based and support children in developing tonal and rhythm competence. In addition, activities evolve from the child’s world and include vocal play, rhythm play, animal sounds, and a good bit of genuine, silly fun!

All this has been skillfully crafted into materials—the professionally recorded CDs and illustrated songbook—that go home with families each semester to encourage music-making in the car and at home, as well as in class. Not your average “kiddie music,” these creatively produced recordings of traditional, world, and original songs have multi-generational appeal and are often among the families’ favorites.

(continued on reverse)



With active, ongoing experiences in music and movement from birth, most children can develop basic skills in music like singing and moving rhythmically. These are natural abilities and easily learned skills for young children, provided they are modeled by parents and caregivers. And the program is not just about music—parents and caregivers learn many new ways to play and interact with their children.

The process is designed to be delightful for the entire family. "Among my happiest memories from Sarah's toddler years are the times we spent at Music Together," says parent Debbie Toth of Hopewell, NJ, who took classes with her daughter from 1991–1993. "It was the highlight of our week...for that hour we could just be together in a supportive, creative, and joyful environment."

Key to Guilmartin's approach to family music was current research in early childhood education, particularly the parent-child relationship as it supports learning. The program drew from the work of leading educators and theorists, including Emil Jacques-Dalcroze, Edwin Gordon, Howard Gardner, Joseph Chilton Pierce, Lilian Katz, and Shinichi Suzuki. Mr. Guilmartin collaborated with Rowan University researcher Lili M. Levinowitz, Ph.D., to develop the Music Together curriculum for children ages birth through kindergarten and their caregivers.

The first classes for children and parents were held in suburban Philadelphia in 1987. This followed a period of development by the Center for Music and Young Children® (CMYC), founded by Mr. Guilmartin in 1985 in Princeton, New Jersey. CMYC continues to sponsor ongoing research and development in early childhood music and movement and operates a lab school serving over one thousand local families each year.

Since 1989, Music Together has sponsored intensive teacher trainings in an effort to make the curriculum available to those who want a developmentally valid approach to early childhood music, coupled with songs and activities that are fun and musically rich. Music Together now annually sponsors over fifty international three-day trainings, participates in national and international conferences, and publishes in professional journals. Music Together's rapidly expanding outreach initiatives include a program for teenage mothers and a major preschool development program for Head Start and other preschool populations.

Music Together LLC licenses and supports hundreds of independent centers throughout the United States whose programs offer weekly Music Together classes in their communities. Centers are also located in Canada, Germany, Japan, Hong Kong, Switzerland, and other foreign countries.

"I had no idea I would become so passionate about Music Together when I started teaching," says Judy Woodson, a teacher and center director from Newport Beach, California. "What a joy to see parents and caregivers interacting musically with the children. And what a gift they are giving their children, who will be able to comfort and express themselves through music for the rest of their lives!"

Twenty years of Music Together has meant a lot to hundreds of school directors throughout the world. These people audition, hire, and support teachers, and they connect to parents and to the community. One New York City center director is particularly inspired by the total joy that a family experiences. "That is what feeds me and all of the teachers. I've spent years building the community's awareness of the value of early childhood music classes. I want to preserve this and offer it to the next generation of babies."

Information about the program, class locations worldwide, teacher training, and child-safe instruments may be found at www.musictogether.com or by calling (800) 728-2692.

Music Together of _____ Celebrates ___th Anniversary

*["Thanks to Music Together[®], my son has decided that he can be musical anywhere; so he is musical at museums, and we have baskets of musical instruments for him to play at home," said Cynthia Schreiber, a Music Together parent.]*** Parents like Mrs. [Schreiber] credit Music Together for bringing musical joy to their children and to their families.*

***[Substitute a quote above from one of your own parents.]

Music Together of _____ is celebrating its ___th anniversary this year, having grown from one location in [year] to offering classes in [town], [town], and [town] at times most convenient for families. "I knew I wanted to offer music to really young children, and I _____, said _____, Director of Music Together of _____. "I have been overwhelmed by the interest and response of parents to Music Together."

A ___th anniversary family party is scheduled for _____ at _____. Also, a free Music Together demonstration class will be held on _____ at _____. To reserve a place in the demonstration class—or to join us for our anniversary party—please call (____) _____ or visit our website at www._____.

Faculty members of Music Together of _____ include _____. "I love teaching the families because _____," says _____, the Music Together teacher at [town]. Classes are available locally as well as nationally.

The Music Together program is currently celebrating its twentieth anniversary, both nationally and in several foreign countries. It was founded by Kenneth K. Guilmartin, a composer and educator. Key to his approach to family music was current research in early childhood education, particularly the parent-child relationship as it supports learning. The program drew from the work of leading educators and theorists, and Mr. Guilmartin collaborated with researcher Dr. Lili M. Levinowitz in developing the Music Together curriculum. The first classes for children and parents were held in suburban Philadelphia in 1987. Music Together was the first program to offer music experiences for infants and toddlers, and it continues to be a leader in research and programs for young children and the adults who love them.

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