



# MUSIC TOGETHER®

MUSIC TOGETHER OF THE GREATER ROCKFORD AREA

MusicNotes, MTGRA Newsletter for Parents and Children

Triangles Collection, Issue 1, 2009



## Featured Song - Coulter's Candy

Although we are using this song as a lullaby, it originally had quite a different purpose. A man named Robert Coltard wrote this song as a kind of advertising jingle for his anise flavored candy sometime in the late 1800's. At that time "greetin'" meant crying, and he charged a "bawbee," (a silver six-pence) for a "wee" bag. The recipe for the candy died with him in 1890, and the song was almost lost too. Like most folk music, it had been passed through the generations by the aural tradition - grandparents singing it to the children. Then, in 1958, a letter in "The Weekly Scotsman" reported that a man remembered hearing it from his grandmother, and she remembered learning it around 1845. It might have been lost completely if James T. Ritche hadn't heard it at a children's playground in 1964. He published the song, with several extra verses, in a book called "The Singing Street." Here is an additional verse, with translation, for you to enjoy. Be sure to have fun with your Scottish accent!

Mammy gie's ma thrifty doon (thrifty - money box)  
Here's old Coulter comin' roon'  
Wi' a basket on his croon (croon - head)  
Sellin' Coulter's candy

## Quick Thoughts about role models and "again"

Your role modeling is vital to your child's musical development, so make sure that you are always singing, doing the finger plays, playing instruments, and dancing along with everyone else in class. Show your child how much fun it is to actively respond to music!

The word "again" is your child's way of letting you know he enjoyed whatever you did and wants (needs) to practice it. Remember that your little ones need repetition, so play those cd's and sing those songs at home, in the car, or wherever you are.

No cd player? No problem! Just start singing one of the songs yourself in the park, in the checkout line, at diaper change time, play time, etc. etc. etc. You will be reinforcing how much you enjoy music, and showing that you don't need recordings to have music – you can make it yourself! Your child will think you are a super star!

One of the best things about the Music Together collections is that adults enjoy the music too, so that magical word "again" doesn't drive us nuts. It's always fun to sing the songs or listen to the different tonalities that our music provides.

See you in class!

## *Saturday Class is going strong! - Thursday reminder!*

Music Together is the place to be on Saturday mornings! If you would like to schedule a makeup class, or even just try out Saturdays, please call or send me an email. Class starts at 9:15 at Westminster Presbyterian Church. We have a beautiful area with lots of room and natural light. The seven families who come every week are really enjoying the space. Do you have a friend who might like to try a class? Forward them my information and I'll schedule them in for a free preview.

Remember that on Thursday, May 7 our class will not meet at Midway Village. They are hosting an historic reenactment during that week and they need every space. On that day we will have class at Westminster Presbyterian Church at 10am.

## Good Tunes

### *What we've been listening to lately*

"Ally Bally," from the Triangles Collection, really got me interested in folk music again. I've been listening to The Kingston Trio, The Mamas and Papas, John Denver, Peter, Paul and Mary, and even Bob Dylan. I'm really enjoying the simplicity of acoustic guitar accompaniments and clear, pure sounding voices. It seems to lift me up, and give me a sense of beauty. Since the Susan Boyle phenom I have also been listening to all of the music from Les Miserables. Most of that music is simple sounding too, like more modern folk music. I haven't gone back to basics completely - I'm listening to them on my iPod!

## Words of Wisdom

Music isn't something where we go from point "a" to point "b" and then we are finished. Musical development is something that continues all of our lives. I'm still developing musically and so are the adults and children in our classes.

## Upcoming Events

Our Thursday class has already had a last minute picnic, and we hope to do it again. We'll have donut days soon. I'll announce a date when the weather is more dependable.

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