

Press Release
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A welcome shake-up for the children's music scene

Classically-trained musician releases new CDs for under 5s, featuring a refreshing mix of the traditional and the new

HELEN SMITH ARCM, London mum and former pupil of the Royal College of Music, is today announcing the release of four sing-along CDs for children under five years old.

'Singalong with Helen' Volumes 1-4 are the result of working with children and music for 25 years. Helen started her career with the launch of her 'Cadenza' music and movement classes in West London and since then has introduced thousands of children to the delights of music. It is this experience, under-pinned by her own training and education at the Royal College of Music, which has created such continued success for her music classes, and has led her to create her own CDs.

Commenting on the release of her CDs, Helen says: "I have seen first-hand the benefits that music gives children, and the pleasure it brings. The CDs are made with the children's needs in mind, being particularly good for both language and pitch development."

Helen believes in reaching out to children as equals. "If you give a child limitations... it will reach them!" so she mixes the age groups to stretch the younger ones.

Helen also believes that what she does is quite unique in the children's music market. "My classical music background sets me apart from others. In the Cadenza classes I play real instruments - clarinet, trumpet and recorder. The children listen and watch with fascination at the different sounds these instruments make. They join in with a variety of percussion instruments and I encourage them to listen to the beat and the tempo of the music as they do", she explains, "My classes are not about just making a noise and blowing off steam in a church hall - it's an 'edu-tainment' sort of class. Interacting with music builds confidence, and many of my pupils go on to become the stars of their annual nativity plays once they reach school".

After 25 years of playing music to children, Helen has tried and tested hundreds of songs, with only those that have stood the test of time during her experience making it onto the CDs, so parents can be confident that they are buying an album of music that will hold and maintain their children's interest. The songs are a mix of the traditional and the new, plus some of Helen's own compositions which were developed in response to a need for more factual, informative and educational songs.

The CDs 'Singalong with Helen' Volumes 1-4 cost £4.99 each and are available to download from iTunes, Amazon, play.com, HMV digital, BlackBerry, Spotify, and over 150 other digital music retailers. The lyrics accompanying each CD are available to download free from Helen's website at www.cadenzaclasses.com.

Further info www.cadenzaclasses.com or email Abby Parkes at abbyparkes@gmail.com

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