

Music Together®

Willamette Valley
Music Together

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION (week of February 27, 2018)

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Date: 02/27/2018

Willamette Valley Music Together to celebrate 9th annual campaign to promote importance of making music with children

March is ***Sing with Your Child Month***, a time to focus on the importance of making music with children. This year, the campaign, created in 2009 by [Music Together LLC](#), an international pioneer in early childhood music education, will focus on encouraging families to sing, dance, and make music together.

Beginning March 1, Music Together will ask families on Facebook, “What 3 songs get your family singing and dancing together?” and encourage followers to share the question and answers (using the hashtag **#SingMonth2018**) across their social media platforms to generate a global list of songs that inspire family music-making.

According to **Wendy Reznicek**, Director of **Willamette Valley Music Together**, “We want to use this campaign as a way to get our communities involved in a national effort to share what kind of music gets them moving with their kids and hopefully inspire all families to make music with their children—in March and all year long. When we sing and make music as a family, we form everlasting bonds and memories, which ultimately allow children to feel secure as they grow.”

Research shows the impact of early music education and participating in music can have not only on musical growth, but also on overall development. Recent findings include: music instruction can promote key school readiness skills; music education in early childhood can have a profound impact on developing the areas of the brain integral to reading ability; and participation in music activities is associated with child and adolescent achievement outcomes in math and reading.

Kenneth K. Guilmartin, Founder/CEO of Music Together LLC, adds, “All children are born with the ability to learn music from birth. Music learning supports all learning by promoting creativity, personal expression, and social interaction. Many adults may not realize they can contribute to

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the enrichment of their child's music development, even if they don't consider themselves musical.

"Singing together does not cost money, requires no special skills, and can have a tremendous impact on development in many areas—not to mention the joy it brings to families. The impact of singing with your child is immeasurable, and the rewards will help make the world a better place," Guilmartin says.

Explore Ways for Your Family to Celebrate

Free StoryJam Events! Join Willamette Valley Music Together and friends as we bring storybooks to life through song! In our free StoryJam events we will "sing" through beautifully illustrated picture books based on songs from Music Together's award-winning Family Favorites CDs, as well as some other traditional tunes you may already know. Special guest author and artist Natalie Meraki will read her original children's story, *The Shiny Bee Who Felt Out of Place*. Let us inspire you to support pre-literacy learning, music development, and imaginative play, while spending quality family-time together!

Join us for StoryJam at one or both of these locations:

- Love Bites by Carnie in Sherwood on March 11 at 3:00 pm
- Gwynn's CoffeeHouse in Canby on March 18 at 3:00 pm.

These events are free. Bring a friend!

Free Demonstration Classes & Class Visits. 45 minutes. Join us and learn what makes Music Together the gold standard in early childhood music programs for 30 years. Early childhood music specialist Wendy Reznicek will lead you in fun, engaging music activities designed to stimulate and support your child's musical development. Limit 12 families per demonstration class. Reservations required. See all available spaces and sign up at [Valley Kids Music / Visit a Class](#).

Join the conversation on Facebook. Share 3 songs that are guaranteed to get your family up and singing and dancing. Post as your status: "The 3 songs that always get my family to joi in are ..." Then tag 3 of your friends and challenge them to make their own lists! Don't forget to tag "Music Together" and use the hashtag "SingMonth2018."

For more about ***Sing with Your Child Month***, including ways to create "Musical Play Dates" and other activities, visit www.musictogether.com/singmonth.

Willamette Valley Music Together has been serving families since 2013 in the communities of Wilsonville, Canby, Oregon City, and Sherwood. In 2017 more than 170 children under the age of 6 participated in Music Together® classes with their parents, grandparents, and other adult caregivers.

Music Together® is an internationally recognized, developmentally appropriate early childhood

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music and movement program for children birth through age seven. First offered to the public in 1987, the Music Together curriculum, coauthored by Kenneth K. Guilmartin and Dr. Lili M. Levinowitz (Director of Research), is based on the recognition that all children are musical. All children can learn to sing in tune, move with accurate rhythm, and participate with confidence in the music of our culture, provided that their early environment supports such learning. Music Together offers programs for families, schools, at-risk populations, and children with special needs, in over 2,500 communities in 41 countries. The company is passionately committed to bringing children and their caregivers closer through shared music-making and helping people discover the joy—and educational value—of early music experiences. More at www.MusicTogether.com and www.facebook.com/MusicTogether.

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