

The CMN 2008 National Conference Workshops **Listed by interest track**

Children are invited to attend workshops marked with *

MC after the workshop name indicates a master class; SS, a song swap

Musicianship Skills (Saturday only)

Wiley Rankin: Harmonica for Everyone MC* (Ages 6 and up)

No musical experience? Not a problem. Convinced you'll never play anything? Think again. With a harmonica, you can learn more music than you ever thought you could. We cover the basics, and each step is easy. Then, on to folk, rock, and blues, plus some music fundamentals. You will amaze yourself. All of this on a 10-hole diatonic harmonica ("blues harp"). The fun begins right away!

This class includes a music booklet for you to take home. Harmonicas will be available for up to 24 students at a cost of \$7 per harmonica. You are also welcome to bring your own C harmonica (10-hole, diatonic blues harp.)

Wiley has played harmonica with the legendary guitarist Les Paul, and with the Yardbirds at Slim's in San Francisco. He performs and teaches regularly in the US, with occasional performances in England. He has been featured on the cover of the San Jose Mercury News Arts & Entertainment section. He has played harmonica at Carnegie Hall under the musical direction of esteemed drummer David Meade (percussionist for Aretha Franklin). His harmonica playing has even been heard on the Dr. Demento Show. He holds a BA degree in music (classical flute/performance).

Anna Stange: Dulcimer MC*

(Ages 6 and up. Children younger than 6 may attend if they have dulcimer skills.)

Learn how to read music and play it on the mountain dulcimer! Participants will learn to play 2–3 relatively "famous" classical tunes during this workshop. Beginners to advanced players will equally benefit from this workshop. You will take home handouts with the music and the guide for reading music. A few dulcimers will be available in case you are not able to bring a one with you to the workshop.

Anna Stange makes her living as a folksinger and music teacher. She spends the rest of her time and energy working as an organic gardener, traveler, and muckracker, and with her family.

Early Childhood

Kathy Reid-Naiman: Fingerplays, Hand Tales and Tickles for Early Childhood

A participatory teaching workshop

Hands that tell a story and fingerplays that sing. A picture is worth a thousand words and seeing a rhyme performed that you may have read in a book can bring it to life. Using some creative signs and some American Sign Language, Kathy will demonstrate many of her favorite fingerplays. Traditional and original material will be covered.

Kathy's many credits include musician, singer, educator, recording artist, record producer, and president of Canada's foremost early childhood recording company, Merriweather Records Ltd. She is a multi-instrumentalist who plays guitar, fiddle, Appalachian dulcimer, banjo ukulele, bowed psaltery, and autoharp.

Fran McKinney: Early Childhood Singing and Reading—a Good Partnership for Thematic Learning MC * (3–7)

This workshop will display the connection between songs and books through a variety of materials developed to supplement thematic units in the early childhood classroom. Materials will include published books, teacher-made books and visual supports that promote participation for all levels of early childhood learners. Songs for thematic units will include seasonal songs as well as songs for family, friendship and feelings. This workshop will also discuss the connection between singing to “read” the books and the powerful key music can be in unlocking a learning experience for even the most challenged of students.

Fran McKinney has taught early childhood students with special needs for the past 30 years. She retired from the public schools last spring and is now teaching toddler music at the Central Wisconsin Children’s Museum in Stevens Point. Fran began writing songs for her students about 15 years ago and was amazed to find the increase in language development and early literacy skills that occurred when the songs were combined with printed words and pictures.

Gari Stein: Put on Your Listening Ears! Using Songs, Movement, and Classical Music to Enhance Listening Skills MC * (3–8)

Our hurry-up-dot-com world and visually-oriented society provide few opportunities for young children to develop the listening skills necessary for learning and social success. This interactive presentation provides simple activities to enhance any program. It will even get the babies listening!

Gari Stein has been an educator for 40 years and a music specialist for 15 years. Degreed in child development and dance, she is the founder and director of Music For Little Folks, providing classes and concerts to children birth to 8 and their families. She is a keynote and workshop clinician throughout the Midwest and author of numerous programming and curriculum guides for the state of Michigan—plus the grandmother of three singing grandchildren.

Marie Hopper: Early Childhood Song Swap *

Come share a song! Come learn new songs! Everyone who loves to sing and work with children from birth to age five is invited to join us for a song swap. This year we are especially interested in songs that invite participation and movement—fingerplays, movement activities, scarves, and shaky eggs. All participants are requested to bring 3 to 5 songs to share.

Marie Hopper is the founder and director of Musicare, a preschool music program. She is always thrilled and amazed at how many new songs she can learn even after over 21 years of singing with preschoolers. We do believe that Marie set a CMN record last year when 43 songs were covered at her workshop in a mere one hour and fifteen minutes

Performer/Songwriter

Jackson Gillman: Flak Happens MC

UCO's (Unidentified Crawling Objects and/or Under-Chaperoned Overexuberants), PA interruptions, technical disasters, fire drills—you name it—all these performance curveballs happen. Some can be prevented, others ignored, and still others need to be dealt with. This workshop will offer tips and exercises to better prepare us for handling all those Great Unexpectations.

Jackson has been pitched many curves in his varied performing career. He's been hit by some, struck out at others, walked, fouled, deftly slammed some back, but is always learning.

Debbie Block: The Business of Children's Music

This is a master class and discussion for performers who are also handling their concert bookings and CD distribution. Debbie will address how to approach booking concerts locally, regionally and nationally, explore the world of music distribution, and examine how to maintain your own Web site and handle your own PR. Most importantly she will share how she manages to balance it all!

Debbie Block has been Bill Harley's agent, manager and wife for 28 years. This arrangement allowed Bill to focus on his art and both Debbie and Bill to raise their sons together. In that time she's learned some things about running an independent organization that supports touring and recording artists. While it's a lifetime of work, she is happy to share stories, tips, ideas regarding the business of singing and telling stories for a living.

Pam Donkin: Elementary School Assemblies, Nuts and Bolts PD

This panel, hosted by Pam Donkin, includes Mr. Billy, Tom Pease, and Patricia Shih, all of whom have presented elementary school assemblies in various areas of the US for many years. The panel will discuss surefire tips: how to choose an assembly theme, create a cohesive set list, pricing, marketing and more, based on participant interest.

Panel facilitator Pam Donkin has been presenting assemblies in elementary schools in Northern California and beyond since 1983. She is an award-winning children's recording artist on the A Gentle Wind record label, a songwriter, performer and educator. She is also a CMN Board member and serves on the Executive Committee.

Stuart Stotts: Creativity and the Classroom MC

For musicians working in schools it can be helpful to understand educational terms and trends. In this workshop we will look at trends in arts-in-education, literacy, and the growing focus on creativity found in schools around the world. Come and learn how to connect your work with educational practice.

Stuart Stotts is a songwriter, storyteller, and author from Wisconsin. He's worked as a full-time performer since 1986, and he gives over 200 shows a year for kids, families, and adults around the Midwest, and sometimes farther. Stuart has worked extensively as an artist-in-residence in elementary, middle, and high schools. He has released several award-winning recordings, and is the author of several books.

[Song Swaps/Repertoire](#)

Joanie Calem: Play Party Games *

This swap will feature play party games from singing traditions around the world. Learn songs and story games that can be done on the spot, with or without instrumental accompaniment, that teach traditions and values in a fun and non-competitive manner.

Joanie Calem is a musician, singer/songwriter, and teacher. She has been happily teaching music and facilitating family music programs since 1983. She began her work as a piano teacher, using both conventional piano pedagogy methods and the Suzuki system. She soon realized that children's natural response to music was through their bodies, and that this innate movement is the easiest way for them to learn. Her general approach is "child-led," i.e., creating programs drawn from children's natural interests and developmental stages. She is a known children's performer in Columbus, Ohio, where she currently lives, providing family music programs and teaching movement-based music education at a number of locations.

Sharon Price: The Lullaby Preservation League *

This workshop will celebrate music that soothes while promoting intergenerational and intercultural sharing. CMN members are wealthy in this area, so bring your favorite lullaby to share and pass on.

Sharon Price has had her sanity saved many times over the years by music: she is a parent of four, stepparent of five, Bubby of five, child care provider to many, and former owner of Family Music, a music promotion and retail sales business. She has hosted song circles in her home for many years in the Chicago area.

Nancy Silber: Sunday Morning Spiritual Rounds & Songs (with leader) * (Over 10)

After the high excitement at the CMN conference of seeing friends, reconnecting, singing all day and night, it is good for the soul and psyche to begin Sunday with singing quiet spiritual rounds and songs. This will be a time for deep breathing, slowing down, reflection, and beautiful harmony.

Nancy Silber lives in Port Washington, New York, where she teaches classroom music and directs several children's choirs. She is a longtime member of CMN and stepped down this year after more than five years as editor of Pass It On!

Jenny Heitler-Klevans: Anti-Bias Activities & Song Swap

Jenny will lead participants in a thought-provoking exercise designed to open discussion about diversity and racial identity. We will then share songs and thoughts related to anti-bias education.

Jenny Heitler-Klevans is part of the duo Two of a Kind with her husband David. They have been performing together, leading artist residencies and teaching workshops at schools and other venues across the country since 1987. Jenny is also a certified trainer with the Anti-Defamation League. She lives in Cheltenham, Pennsylvania, with her husband and twin sons.