

CONNIE GREENWOOD BIO

Connie is a FAME endorsed First Steps in Music teacher, teacher trainer, mentor, and advocate. Motivated by her deep love for God, children and music, Connie has taught preschool music classes for over thirty years and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience. Connie runs her own music business, Greenwood Music Services, LLC, and presently teaches preschool through kindergarten music classes in several area schools as well as First Steps in Music parent/child classes.

Connie has taught Kodaly Methods Level 1, First Steps in Music Teacher Trainer Courses and college-level Music and Movement Development classes for non-music majors. She served as the lead teacher in the successful First Steps in Music program through the Hartt Community Division in West Hartford, Connecticut for over 20 years. Connie directed and conducted a children's choir for over 20 years and is very active in her church music program.

Connie completed her Bachelor of Music degree from the Hartt School at the University of Hartford and worked with Dr. John Feierabend in the early development of the First Steps in Music Curriculum. She taught K-2 and elementary choir in the West Hartford, Connecticut Public Schools. Connie graduated from the University of Hartford with a master's in music education, Kodaly emphasis degree. She completed her Kodaly Levels, Conversational Solfege Levels, and her First Steps in Music Certification. Connie is a founding member of the FAME organization and has served as Secretary of the Board of Directors. She is honored to be featured in the DVD, First Steps in Music for Infants and Toddlers in Action (GIA, 2018), she is a contributing writer to the book Feierabend Fundamentals (GIA, 2018) and wrote the First Steps in Music Parent Handbook (GIA, 2018). Connie also partnered with Carnegie Hall's Lullaby Project and supported young families by organizing a team of musicians (including herself) who composed and recorded 13 original and personal lullabies.

Connie has a passion for unleashing creativity and curiosity in children in a playful, musical manner. She has taught voice, guitar, piano, and recorder, and enjoys accompanying herself on folk guitar, autoharp, ukulele, piano and dulcimer. She loves teaching the First Steps in Music program, not only because of its educational benefits to children, but also because of its authenticity in folk music and how it connects generations.

“First Steps in Music has changed my life. From the moment I bought Dr. Feierabend's first book and used it with my 10-month-old, now over 30 years ago, I knew it was just what I was looking for.

I have always been interested in early childhood music, but I was trained as a professional music teacher for K-12 only. I remember asking seasoned teachers what to do with a one- year- old or a four- year- old but no one could answer. I even had the opportunity to go to Hungary to watch Katalin Forrai teach in her classroom. I knew there was something more than what we were experiencing in America.

Since using the First Steps in Music curriculum I have seen firsthand its benefits, not only for children but for families as well. The collection is based on folk material and can be enjoyed by generations. Parents are looking for interactive activities to do with their birth to five – year- olds and First Steps offers them the opportunity to become tuneful, beatful, and artful together.

Connie has raised four tuneful, beatful, and artful children with her supportive husband and is now excited to be sharing interactive musical activities with her seven precious grandchildren. To relax, Connie enjoys reading, gardening, drinking coffee with friends, and cooking for her family.

Email: ckgreenwood@gmail.com