

About **Debbie Cavalier** of **Debbie and Friends**

Children's entertainer Debbie Cavalier of Debbie and Friends uses original songs to tell stories that children know and love. With the release of her debut CD, *Story Songs and Sing Alongs* and her new release *More Story Songs & Sing Alongs*, Debbie is making a splash in the children's music world. But it's not exactly her first rodeo.... As a performer, as a music teacher, as a songwriter, and as an author of more than 100 music education method books and musical arrangements, Debbie has been making great music for children for more than 20 years.

Since her first family album's debut in October 2007, Debbie and Friends have already performed at some of the most choice children's venues in the Northeast, including the Regent Theater in Arlington, Mass., the Center for Arts (TCAN) in Natick, the Regattabar Children's Series in Cambridge, the DeCordova Art in the Park festival, World Café Live in Philadelphia, and libraries from Boston to the tip of Cape Cod.

A live Debbie and Friends show is a trip for the entire family—a joyful jaunt through a variety of styles, from straight-ahead pop, to country, to rock, to reggae, all delivered by a band of musicians who are clearly there because they love it. Kids become the Big Bad Wolf and blow the house down, fix Rosie's wrong rhymes, and test their skills with the Simon Says song. Like everyone's favorite teacher, Debbie connects with her audience and respects kids for the people they are, and her warmth is sincere and her radiance downright contagious.

What kids love is her energy, her sunshine, and the interesting array of musicians she brings to each show, including keyboard, all sorts of hand percussion, energetic and sometimes zany backing vocalists, saxophones, banjo, fiddle, flute, whistles—you name it. Every show is different. Kids love being active participants in every song, and the audience is as much a part of the show as Debbie and her band.

What parents love is that her work is firmly rooted. By day, Debbie is the Dean of Continuing Education at the prestigious Berklee College of Music in Boston—where she graduated with a degree in music and music education. Today at Berklee, she directs the curriculum at Berkleemusic, the online extension of the college, as well as Berklee Press, a music education publisher that she helped to build when the college reinvigorated its publishing interests in 1998. Before Berklee, she had been a managing editor for music education publications at Warner Bros. Publications, and before that, she taught both elementary and high school music. Her recording sessions and busy performance schedule marks a happy return to what it was all about in the first place: the kids.

Story Songs and Sing Alongs collected several awards, including the Great American Song Contest Honor Award, the Parent's Choice Award, the iParenting Media Award, the Creative Child Magazine Award, Mr. Dad Seal of Approval Award, the Dove Family Foundation "Family Approved" award, and others. *More Story Songs & Sing Alongs* is already getting media attention and rave reviews.

The reasons for Debbie and Friends' success are immediately evident. Debbie's songs are joyful, the music is catchy and singable, the stories are fresh but also familiar, and she and her band's energy onstage brings out the kid in everyone. Once you get to know Debbie and Friends' music, it'll become a toss up as to who will shout "AGAIN!" the loudest: you or your child.

www.debbieandfriends.net