

# The Importance of Keeping Music Alive within the Community

*Presented by Linda Cole, UMTA –Arts Awareness and Advocacy*

In folklore, whether it is true or not, some people think fairies help keep a garden healthy. A Florida-based group called the “Garden Fairies” has helped neighbors through community gardening projects. They help gardeners who can no longer maintain their gardens due to physical limitations. **We as music teachers can be like Garden Fairies in our communities.** We can care for people in our communities through music.



- \* Music has always been essential to economic recovery and for healing communities.
- \* Music can address mental health, education, and cultural competency.
- \* Music is found in storytelling, films, and narratives of histories.
- \* Music reaches out to all types and ages of people to include poor, disabled, sick and traumatized.
- \* Music is used for traditions, culture, and religion.
- \* Music helps with motivation to serve, create, take a break and move your body.

Every community in America, large or small, urban or rural, has music as part of its collective experience. Music performers live everywhere and their work seeks to engage their fellow humans to ask questions, to look at a topic in a new way, to foster dialogue, or to bring people together. There is something magical that happens when the audience sings or listens together in a live performance. They feel closer and more connected because of that experience.

Some of the public places, in the community, that we as teachers can encourage our students to perform at:

Schools, parks, community centers, festivals, theaters, museums, libraries, zoos, animal shelters, airports, hospitals, assisted living homes, senior centers, and indoor/outdoor shopping malls.



**Our music students are like the plants, fruit, flowers and vegetables of a garden.** They each have their own unique beauty and traits. They are artistic, adventurous, affectionate, courageous, energetic, funny, helpful, imaginative, and inquisitive, to name a few. They can be enjoyed and shared by so many in the community.

Other outreach activities that students can do for their community: 1. Record and virtually post on social media, a musical performance, which could include a puppet show, or dress up. 2. Create a music poster and display it somewhere visible at a public place. 3. View an online virtual concert and give a report on it to their friends. 4. Give a music performance at home, invite friends, neighbors, and relatives, include decorations and refreshments. 5. Create a musical composition and share it with friends. 6. Compose a one line musical jingle to go with a favorite recipe, invite over guests and sing it while eating the food item. 7. Draw musical sidewalk drawings so somebody taking a walk can see the drawings. 8. Create a musical game, and play it with friends and family. 9. Read about a composer, talk about the composer to friends and family and listen together to one of the composer’s songs.

## Words to “Goldilocks and the Three Bears” song

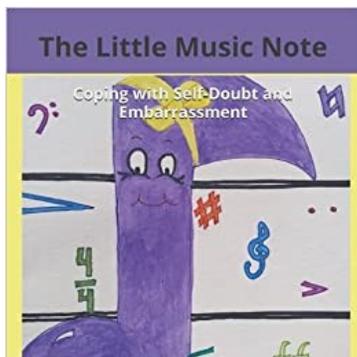
When Goldilocks went to the house of the bears, Oh what did her blue eyes see? A **bowl** that was huge, a bowl that was small, and a bowl that was tiny and that was all, she counted them, one, two three. (substitute word bowl for **chair**, then **bed**, then **bear**)

**Parents of our students are like the mushrooms in a garden.** Mushrooms are hugely beneficial. They are signs of a healthy soil containing lots of organic matter. Some of its known benefits to plants include: Increase ability to take up water and nutrients from the soil, improve drought tolerance and disease resistance, reduce stress from weather conditions and transplant shock, and accelerate growth rate of plants at every developmental stage.



Parents can help spread the importance of music in the community:

1. Participate by: singing, playing music, reading a book, dancing, or drawing with their child at home.
2. Support by: encouraging their child to participate in creative outlets and celebrate their participating in musical and art activities both in their school and community.
3. Speak up by: attending a school board or PTA meeting and voice their support for adequately funded music and arts education programs as part of the school's budget.
4. Take the lead by: telling their child's teacher or principal about how vital music and the arts are to quality education. They can ask the teachers what they need and how they can help?
5. Think local by: reading their local newspaper or community website to find out about local cultural events for them and their child to enjoy.
6. Volunteer by: Donating time, supplies, or other resources to their child's school or local art and music education programs.
7. Join a cause by: campaigning about keeping the music and arts in public schools.
8. Be an advocate by: showing their support for music and the arts by speaking with education leaders and decision makers.
9. Stay informed by: keeping up to date on the latest music and the arts education news feeds.



### **“The Little Music Note—Coping with Self Doubt and Embarrassment”**

Author and Illustrator “Angie Jowers”

who is a musician and parent of piano students

Cost is \$6.99 order on Amazon

<https://www.amazon.com/-/es/Angie-Jowers/dp/B099C52TRY>

*A little music note is worried about being embarrassed and struggling with feelings of self-doubt. Join her as she finds healthy ways to cope with these emotions and bring more hope and happiness into her life.*

As music continues to work overtime, in every community, household, and family, doing what it does best, connecting us, giving us needed moments of joy, and most of all creating hope. **We as music teachers can keep music alive in our community by:** 1. continuing to teach music, 2. encouraging our music students to perform publically out into the community, 3. involve parents in encouraging music, 4. advocate for music on social media and share our stories, 5. support the local arts and build partnerships within the community, 6. get to know our neighbors, and bring out the humanistic side of music through service.