

## More about dana

[www.danasmusicplayground.com](http://www.danasmusicplayground.com)

Dana Cohenour is widely recognized as one of the pioneers of independent children's music. Her seven albums for kids have won 26 national awards and wide acclaim from critics, educators and parents alike. With her dog pal Rowdy (a lovable giant costumed character), Dana has toured the nation, greeting thousands of young fans who love to sing, jump and play along with her highly interactive songs and bubbly personality. Incorporating both familiar favorites and original songs from her popular recordings, Dana's dynamic performances stimulate imaginations, inspire interaction and introduce children to nearly every style of music.

In June 2020, Dana's seventh recording for children, *A Place to Call Home* was released. The album includes eleven original songs that explore the different places animals make their homes. Featuring a wide variety of musical genres from rock to reggae, bluegrass to bossa nova, the songs are designed to educate and entertain children while planting seeds of care for the planet we all call home.

Dana grew up in Lakewood, Colorado, where she started piano, dance and tumbling lessons at an early age. This foundation, along with the "oversized ham bone" which she inherited from her grandfather, sparked an early desire to make a career upon the stage.

After earning a bachelor's degree in music and theater from the University of Northern Colorado, Dana began her career starring in Broadway musicals in regional and stock productions around the country. A gifted pianist and songwriter, she entertained for many years on the New York City and European cabaret scenes before embarking on her family music career.

Inspired by the birth of her first nephew, Dana began to focus her songwriting and performance skills exclusively on the young audiences with whom she has always felt a special connection. "I wrote and recorded a few lullabies as a gift for my new nephew, and through the process, realized that I loved writing for young children. Envisioning little smiles and open imaginations filled me with inspiration. I felt I had truly found my niche, especially once I started performing for live audiences of children. To me, hearing children's laughter and watching them literally jump into your music is a reward beyond measure." Encouraged by the success of her debut album, *Gather Your Dreams* (1994), Dana made a commitment to bring high quality, meaningful and fun music to children and families while introducing kids to numerous musical genres.

As Dana moved from singing in toy stores to performing at larger venues, she learned the importance of engaging her young audiences with movement and participation. High-energy and interactive songs became the emphasis of Dana's next two recordings, *Dana's Best Sing & Play-A-Long Tunes* and *Dana's Best Travelin' Tunes*. Drawing on her piano-bar days and her love of composers such as Duke Ellington, Cole Porter and the Gershwins, Dana decided next to focus on making jazz accessible and fun for children. Combining classic jazz and cool original songs, *Dana's Best Sing & Swing-A-Long Tunes* became an instant hit with kids and parents alike.

*Dana's Best Rock & Roll Fairy Tales* came along soon after. "I wanted to kindle a love of literature and reading in children. In setting classic fairy tales to rock and roll beats and re-working them to soften some of the scary elements, I hoped to bring out the humor and morals in the tales and bring them new life. Plus, I just love rhyming and doing crazy character voices!"

After taking a hiatus from recording to raise her son, Jack, Dana returned to the children's music scene in 2017 with *Dana's Best Jump & Jam Tunes*. Designed to get kids up, moving and away from their screens, the album is a musical party that promotes healthy habits, exercise, and of course, a lot of jumping!

Inspired by many years of leading story times at her local library, Dana created the original online series, ***Dana's Music Playground*** in 2019. Through animated characters, music, rhyme, sign language and movement, the interactive episodes introduce children to early childhood learning concepts. "There are many children who do not have the opportunity to attend a weekly class or story time, and I wanted to give young ones everywhere a chance to have the kind of enriching experience that was so valuable to my own child." says Dana. Young families can now find these programs on Dana's YouTube channel and the streaming service, Kidoodle.

To reach out to children in her own community, Dana developed her **Music Playground** program for youngsters from ages 1 to 4. Celebrating 6 successful years, these fun and engaging music and movement classes have become a mainstay for families in Bellingham, WA near where Dana and her family now live.

Visit [www.danasmusicplayground.com](http://www.danasmusicplayground.com) for the latest news about upcoming releases, videos and concerts.

## **Dana's Discography**

- Gather Your Dreams – 1994 (Now available as Dana's Best Lullabies & Morning Songs)
  - Dana's Best Play-a-Long Tunes -- 1995
  - Dana's Best Travelin' Tunes -- 1996
- Dana's Best Sing & Swing-a-Long Tunes (Classic & Cool Jazz for Kids) -- 1997
  - Dana's Best Rock & Roll Fairy Tales -- 1999
  - Dana's Best Jump & Jam Tunes -- 2017
    - A Place to Call Home -- 2020

## **Awards for Dana's music**

**National Parenting Publications: Gold Award (NAPPA) (X6)**

**Parents' Choice: Silver Award (X2)**

**Family Choice Award 2017 & 2020**

**Parents' Choice: Approval 2017**

**KIDS FIRST Endorsement 2017 & 2020**

**International Songwriting Competition (3<sup>rd</sup> Place)**

**Hot Diggity Award 2020**

**Early Childhood News: Directors' Choice Award**

**Children's Music Web Awards:  
Best Music For Young Children (X2)  
Best Song For Young Children**

**Dr. Toy's Best Vacation Product (X3)**

**CHILD Magazine: Best Children's Music of the Year (X2)**

**CHILD Magazine: Top 5 Kids' Singers You Should Know**