



Dana is widely recognized as one of the pioneers of independent children’s music. For over two decades, she has toured the nation, entertaining young families with her upbeat songs and bubbly personality. Dana’s seven albums for children have won 27 national awards and wide acclaim from critics, educators and parents alike. CHILD Magazine called her energy and enthusiasm “contagious” and named her as one of the “Top Five Kids’ Singers You Should Know.” In addition to her recordings and live shows, Dana has engaged thousands of young viewers and listeners with her ***Dana’s Music Playground*** video series and podcast/radio show.

Dana’s new single, ***Bring On Summer*** will be released on June 2, 2023 with an accompanying music video. After an especially rainy and windy winter and spring in her home state of Washington, Dana found herself longing for the warmth and sunshine of summer. While out running in her raincoat, she was inspired to write an upbeat song celebrating the fun activities and joy of the season to come. Dana and her crew of stellar musician friends in Nashville recorded the song remotely to get the tune ready to release just in time for summer.

Last year, Dana was honored to have her song, “I Am Brave” included on the compilation album, “Arise Together” which was produced by the One Little Finger Foundation. All proceeds from the project go to support children with special needs, especially those in and from Ukraine. It was an incredibly moving experience for Dana to be involved in this meaningful endeavor and she is thrilled that the song is now nominated for Best Children’s Song in the Hollywood Independent Music Awards. (HIMA)

In June 2020, Dana released her seventh album for children, ***A Place to Call Home***. The recording includes eleven original songs that explore the different places animals make their homes. Featuring a wide variety of musical genres, the songs are designed to educate and entertain children while planting seeds of care for the planet we all call home. The album received 5 national awards, including the coveted NAPPA Award, the Creative Child Magazine CD of 2020, the Family Choice and Hot Diggity Awards, as well as the KIDS FIRST Endorsement of 2020.

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, educational 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, interactive songs became the emphasis of Dana’s next two recordings, ***Dana’s Best Sing & Play-A-Long Tunes*** (1995) and ***Dana’s Best Travelin’ Tunes*** (1996). 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*** (1997) became an instant hit with kids and their parents.

Dana's Best Rock & Roll Fairy Tales (1999) 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 literally jumped back into 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 her original ***Dana's Music Playground*** video series 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 find these programs on Dana's YouTube channel and the streaming platforms, KIDOODLE and SENSICAL.

In 2021, Dana created the ***Dana's Music Playground*** radio show, which streams world-wide on the children's radio station JUMP105.3 every weekday and is available as a podcast on Dana's website. Along with her magic music box character, "Jingle", Dana hosts a magical hour of music and themed fun. Young listeners love guessing the "words of the day" and learning about everything from colors and senses to dinosaurs and days of the week. The show has twice been honored by Creative Child Magazine with the "Media of the Year" award in 2021 and 2022, and has received the award for "Best Podcast" from both the NAPPA Awards (2021) and the Hot Diggity Awards (2022).

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 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
- I Am Brave 2022 (Single featured on the compilation album, Arise Together)
 - Bring On Summer (Single) 2023

Awards for Dana's music:

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

PARENTS' CHOICE: Silver Award 1997 & 1999, Approval 2017

Family Choice Award 2017 & 2020

Creative Child Magazine CD of the Year 2020

Hollywood Music in Media Awards Nominee (HMMA) 2021

KIDS FIRST Endorsement 2017 & 2020

International Songwriting Competition (3rd 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

**HIMA (Hollywood Independent Music Awards) Nomination: Best Song for Children 2023
(For "I Am Brave" - Award Ceremony in August, 2023)**