

## Music for Young Children

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By Beatriz Ilari, McGill University, Montreal, and Elissa Johnson-Green, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York

## Classical

*Berceuse: Music of Calm and Peace*. Various composers. Naxos, CD #553843 (1999). Lullabies, nocturnes, and other soothing orchestral pieces make up this album. Berceuse leads a musical journey from Bach through Stravinsky. Music from the Romantic period dominates.

*Build Your Baby's Brain 1*. Various composers. Sony, CD #60815 (1998). This album is first in the series inspired by the still-disputed "Mozart Effect." The quality of these recordings is excellent, even if their beneficial effect on babies' cognitive development is yet unknown.

*Listen, Learn and Grow: Lullabies*. Various composers. Naxos, ASIN B00004TTJF (2000). This album is the best in this series of classical music CDs for children. The selection ranges from Brahms and Mozart to Schumann. Look for other titles in the series, including *Listen, Learn and Grow: Newborn and Listen, Learn and Grow: Playtime*.

*Mommy & Me; Sleepytime Strings*. Various artists. Madacy Records, CD #980 (2000). Part of the *Mommy & Me* series, *Adventures in Classics*, this album features less well-known pieces as well as familiar ones.

*Sweet Dreams*. Various artists. Sony, CD #44998 (1989). This compilation CD features soloists such as Frederica von Stade. Most of the tunes on this classical CD are orchestral versions of familiar songs.

## Lullaby and Playsong

*Happy Baby: For the New Arrival*. Various artists. Happy Baby Products, CD #15060 (1995). It combines traditional lullabies with classical. The songs are recorded in conjunction with computer-generated womb sounds. According to creator and researcher Fred Schwartz, MD, the mixture of womb sounds and music comforts and soothes the newborn.

*Lullaby Favorites: Music for Little People*. Various artists. Rhino Records, ASIN B0000033ZW (1997). This album contains traditional lullabies. Each song is arranged simply and accompanied by violoncello, guitar, piano, and other instruments.

*Lullabies: A Songbook Companion*. Various composers. ESS.A.Y Recordings, CD #1054 (1997). The voice of Julianne Baird makes this album worth adding to a collection. An attractive songbook illustrated with art from the Metropolitan Museum Art's collection is available for purchase.

*Peter, Paul and Mommy*. Peter, Paul & Mary. Warner Brothers, ASIN B000002KAV (1969). This CD includes many familiar folk tunes and children's playsongs commonly

associated with the artists, such as ‘Puff, the Magic Dragon.’ Some songs include children’s voices.

*Toddlers Sing: Outrageous Vocals.* Various artists. Music for Little People, ASIN B0000OC41T (1998). Toddlers perform playsongs. Instrumental accompaniment is clever and rhythmic inviting children and adults to move along with the music.

*A Tisket, A Tasket: A Child’s Rhythm Basket.* Brent & Lily Lewis. Ikauma Records (1997). These interesting and varied versions of familiar songs are fun and refreshing. Highly recommended.

*Song’s & Games for Toddlers.* Bob McGrath. Bob’s Kids Music, ASIN B0000OH03K (1998). Performed by Bob McGrath of Sesame Street fame, these songs are for two and three-year-olds to actually sing, play and do themselves.

#### Popular Music Recordings

*Lullabies for Little Dreamers: Soft Rock Classics from Your Favorite Stars.* Various artists. Rhino Records, ASIN B0000033Q2 (1996). Aretha Franklin, James Taylor, The Carpenters, and Emmylou Harris are just some of the voices producing these lively yet peaceful renditions.

*Daddies Sing Goodnight.* Various artists. Sugar Hill Records, ASIN B00000OF3B (1994). Country western and bluegrass make up this lively CD. Doc Watson, The Red Clay Ramblers, and Leon Redbone contribute to the lineup of wailing fiddles and falsetto.

*Bedtime with the Beatles: Instrumental Versions of Classic Beatles Songs.* Jason Falkner. Sony Entertainment, ASIN B00005R62U (2001). Can any song be turned into a lullaby? ‘Michelle,’ ‘Here, There and Everywhere,’ and ‘The Fool on the Hill.’

#### World Music

*Lullaby: A Collection.* Various artists. Music for Little People, ASIN B000002M78 (1994). Artists such as Bobby McFerrin, Sweet Honey in the Rock, and Judy Collins perform lullabies from diverse cultures. Highly recommended.

*The World Sings Goodnight.* Various artists. Silver Wave, ASIN B00000OPOT (1993). This album gathers world lullabies from 33 different countries sung a capella and with accompaniment. The sound quality is excellent, as is that of the album’s sequel, *The World Sings Goodnight 2*, released in 1995.

*Children’s Songs From Around the World, Vol. 3: Lullabies.* Various artists. Arion, ASIN B00000OTX4 (1995). This CD contains lullabies recorded in India, Senegal, Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Thailand, and China. This album may serve as a learning tool for those educators and practitioners working in multicultural environments. The same applies to other albums in the *Children’s Songs From Around The World* series: *Guinea & Senegal (Vol. 1)*, *South India (Vol. 2)*, *Nepal, Thailand, Malaysia & Indonesia (Vol.4)*, *China (Vol. 5)*, *South America (Vol. 6)*, and *Chicago-Gospel (Vol. 7)*.

*The Planet Sleeps.* Various artists. Sony, ASIN B000002BOW (1997). This compilation of world lullabies was recorded on trips to Algeria, Cambodia, Cameroon, Israel, Maori,

and Tonga. Most of the songs are traditional lullabies in their countries. An excellent 36-page booklet included.

*World Playground: A Musical Adventure for Kids*. Various artists. Putumayo World Music, ASIN B00000JT4P (1999). Alongside exotic instruments and styles, lyrics describe the lives of children in far-off lands. Lively and rhythmic songs from Australia, Bolivia, Greece, Jamaica, and Canada will arouse and amuse children and parents. Excellent for moving and dancing. Try *World Playground 2* also.

*Papa's Lullaby*. Various artists. Ellipsis Arts, ASIN B00005K9SH (2001). This album contains traditional lullabies performed by various male artists from India, Sicily, Argentina, and the United States. Diversity makes the CD interesting. Each track is performed using instruments traditional to the song's culture.

*Mama's Lullaby*. Various artists. Ellipsis Arts, ASIN B00005A8IP (2001). . Women sing traditional and recently composed lullabies. Some of these songs are rousing enough to be classified as playsongs. Other titles in this series include *Brazilian Lullaby*, *Cuban Lullaby*, *Guitar Lullaby*, *Mediterranean Lullaby*, *Papa's Lullaby*, and *World Music for Little Ears*.

*Brazilian Lullaby*. Various artists. Ellipsis Arts, ASIN B00001SI9K (1999). Brazilian singers and composers recorded these songs on location with traditional instruments such as the *berimfcau* and the *reco-reco*. Some are traditional songs passed orally from one generation to another, seldom found in world music books or on recordings for children.