## The Musik Connection

# Kindermusik and Keyboards

Director, Rita Hawley Scherer, M.M.

#### Kindermusik Background

The Musik Connection is located in Independence, Missouri and Liberty, Missouri. Rita Hawley Scherer founded this program in 1985 and continues to direct one of the most successful licensed Kindermusik and Keyboard programs in the country. She has recently been recognized for outstanding service. Out of 5,000 Kindermusik teachers worldwide, Rita is one of twelve to achieve a Master Teacher Certification. There are currently 180 children enrolled in the program that offers all levels of Kindermusik and Keyboard lessons.

#### **Approach**

Kindermusik believes every child is musical and that parents are children's most important teachers. That's why Kindermusik programs involve children *and their* parents in activities, music, movement and more. Parents are also supplied with home materials to make music and learning part of their family time together.

Kindermusik curricula are developmentally appropriate, so the music — in both tonality, pace, rhythm and song is suitable to each stage of development. Appropriate movement, cognitive, language and emotional development are incorporated into all Kindermusik classes and activities.

Kindermusik has carefully sought out leading professionals from various related disciplines such as speech and language, reading, child psychology, movement, dance and neurology in the creation of our programs. We help these experts connect with musicians, early childhood specialists and educators to create our unique program. Our research and development is on going.

### **Today**

Kindermusik is the world's leading music and movement program for children from birth through seven years of age, and their parents. In over 35 countries around the world licensed educators are using Kindermusik's rigorously researched, developmentally appropriate curricula, CDs, books, instruments, games, posters and activities to bring the joy of music to children's lives.

#### Roots

More than 25 years ago, Dan Pratt, a singer, college professor and higher education administrator became a founder of Kindermusik International. From his back porch in upstate New York to a 45,000-square-foot headquarters in Greensboro, North Carolina, Dan has seen his passion for Kindermusik grow from four educators to over 5000 Kindermusik educators who now are touching the lives of more than 1.5 million families with small children.

For more information, contact: Rita Hawley Scherer 816-795-0777 www.musikconnection.com