



Martha on the Island of North Haven, Maine conducting a workshop with budding music makers



MusikGarten is an exciting program for infants to age seven. Classes are taught by early childhood music and movement specialist, Martha Hills. Children love music for the pure joy of it! When nurtured in a child's early years, the rewards of a musical foundation expand to provide immeasurable results. Music is a vital link for all future learning. Martha's MusikGarten program provides opportunities for children to build confidence in musical expression and lays a foundation for future music learning. Through a combination of songs, movement games, instruments, story telling, and listening, children are exposed to a wonderful musical experience. Created by early childhood music specialists Lorna Heyge and Audrey Sillick, each level of the curriculum introduces children to musical concepts and provides opportunities for sensory-motor exploration, language development, and abstract thinking. Classes are designed to grow with your children. Children learn best through moving and listening. MusikGarten classes will help them grow and develop into successful students. To find out more about MusikGarten Programs and how to enroll your child(ren), give Martha a call at 540-209-3540 or email her at martha@meandmartha.com.

***Music Makers at Home in the World
The Next Step to Music Literacy***

More about **Martha Hills**



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Martha Hills

Martha is one of 10 children and grew up in Maine on a farm just outside of Belfast. Her uncle, Archie Gordon was a master Maine fiddler and violin maker making over 100 fiddles. Her love of outdoors and nature is central to her being. Most of the time you will find Martha singing with kids, taking a spin biking, sliding down the ski slopes, riding horseback, out walking in the woods, boating, reading or cooking up a storm. Her adventuresome spirit has taken her many places from boy scouting in the tablelands of Newfoundland and Labrador to swimming with turtles on the Galapagos Islands.

Martha fell in love with acoustic roots music in the early 1990's. She has been playing up-right bass since 2002 with her husband, Don DePoy. Don is a 5th generation mountain music maker from Virginia's Shenandoah Valley and Martha's bass playing provides a solid bottom for their musical excursions. But their joy of music is found in their love for the art of music making. In each performance, they take a musical journey with some of their favorite songs. They pick songs that tell about the many untold stories of life. Some songs are peppy and happy while others tell of human weakness and tragedy. The selections and arrangements of their material compel the audience to become absorbed in the music as each story unfolds. *Me & Martha* provide a glimpse into the world of the music makers.

"...if you play from the heart and open yourself to music and just tell the truth, the music will LIFT YOU UP."

John Santa



Martha & Don spent 7-years in Maine operating a sailing company and sharing songs aboard ViVA

Keeping the family tradition of Appalachian mountain music making alive, *Me & Martha* travel internationally performing and conducting slow-jams and musical workshops at all levels. They are members of America's Old-Time Country Music Hall of Fame and typically perform over 125 concerts and workshops in Virginia alone. Their spiritual messages and songs are a welcome addition to church services. Martha is now embarking on an even larger educational musical excursion. She and Don have joined the *Young Audiences of Virginia* as their newest touring group. They offer school programs highlighting the History of Mountain Music Making specifically relating to the Shenandoah Valley.



Martha offering an introductory bass lesson

Martha has devoted her life to helping others and has spent most of her career working in the non-profit sector. Majoring in the Early Childhood Education program at the University of Maine, she has previously been on faculty as a pre-k-3 teacher at a private school. Most recently she works as a certified *MusikGarten* teacher at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Virginia and finds joy in the wide-eyed curiosity of children. She also conducts digital photography classes for James Madison University and teaches healthy gourmet cooking on a budget or *how to cook once and eat three times*.



Martha sitting with some of her instruments and picking out a tune by ear on the mandolin