

From C to C

Delivering NEW Canadian repertoire to Canadian Children

By **Donna Rhodenizer**

Juno nominee, Canadian composer and music educator, Donna Rhodenizer provides a first-hand look at the music she has composed for children, leading workshop participants through samples from her published collections of original compositions and award-winning recordings.

Donna's 25 years of experience as an elementary music education specialist ensures that her songs are developmentally and musically age appropriate and in a singable key for children. They have all been tried and tested in her classroom.



Educators:

Discover fresh, new repertoire for your **regular classroom, music classroom, concert settings and thematic units**. Using her music resources, Donna will introduce activities and strategies that can be used to create positive, musical, learning experiences for students. Many selections will be perfect for elementary school classrooms.

Bilingual resources also presented

Reproducible vocal scores, lyrics and student worksheets allow teachers to make multiple copies for their students without going bankrupt (or going to jail). Her award-winning, professionally recorded CDs are included in the teaching resources. The CDs provide full performance tracks as well as instrumental accompaniment tracks for all songs.

Repertoire from Donna Rhodenizer's Song Collections, Teacher's Resources and CDs supports the teaching of music expectations as outlined in the New Brunswick Music Education Curriculum K-5. These resources also provide cross-curricular connections to other subject areas.

Who should attend?

- ✓ All K-6 elementary school **classroom teachers**
- ✓ All K-6 elementary school **music teachers**
- ✓ All teachers who are interested in **new, original Canadian music** for their students

Where: Barkers Point School (music room)

When: Mar. 16, 2011 1:30 PM

Please RSVP, ASAP to:

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Or contact:

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Donna Rhodenizer



2007 Juno nominee Donna Rhodenizer is an accomplished *songwriter* and *composer*. Her song lyrics sparkle with imagination and humour and reflect a writer who has the ability to reach into the imaginations and hearts of children (and their parents!). Donna's songs become favourites of the fans who hear her perform in concert as part of the duo, Donna & Andy, listen to her songs on Donna & Andy CDs and are delighted to sing her songs in their school music programs. She is a *music education specialist* who has been teaching elementary school music for over 25 years. This wealth of experience with children and music is very evident in the songs she creates.

Donna has written three songbooks with recordings for elementary level students: [Dinosaurs, Dragons and Me](#), [Computer Cat](#), and [It's Christmas Time](#); as well as co-writing a fourth book, the recent release, [Blue Skies and Pirates](#), (**2009 ECMA nominee**) with fellow writer/performer/musician, Andy Duinker. The "Computer Cat" recording received a **2004 East Coast Music Award for Children's Recording of the Year**, and the "Dinosaurs, Dragons and Me" CD received an ECMA nomination in the same category in 2006. "Dinosaurs, Dragons and Me" was **nominated for a 2007 Juno** and received a **2006 Nova Scotia Music Award for Children's Recording of the Year**. "It's Christmas Time" was nominated for a **2007 ECMA**.

Donna has received *three nominations for Educator of the Year* from Music Nova Scotia (MNS). **Music teachers** use her songbooks in music programs across Canada and in the U.S., and watch with great anticipation for her newest offerings. Donna has written over 100 songs, which are in print, with more than two-dozen waiting to be brought into the public musical arena. Donna and Andy have released 9 recordings to date.

Donna teaches elementary school music in Kentville, Nova Scotia. Much of her musical inspiration is derived from regular contact with her young students (budding musicians). Her original songs are enthusiastically received by her students who often help by critiquing her song ideas before they reach their final form. Her children's songs are all "**child tested and approved**" by some very discerning young singers before the rest of the world ever hears them.

In addition to writing music for children, Donna writes *original songs and arrangements for adult audiences*. Her songs reveal a writer in touch with people and life experiences, a strong wit and a unique way of seeing the world. Her ability to tell a good story, both in music and in general conversation, are strengths in the folk music world. Donna's music reflects her love of harmony and beautiful singable melodies instilled through her choral experience and classical music training. These strengths have resulted in Donna being commissioned to write songs and/or arrangements for several leading choirs in Nova Scotia. Her music is well-loved by the choirs who include her songs in their regular repertoire. Donna's choral compositions now top 40 in a variety of voicing configurations for professional, community and school choirs. Her music is printed and promoted by Red Castle Publishing, the company she co-founded and co-owns with Andy Duinker.

In addition to writing and publishing, Donna is an active *performer*. She performs with Andy Duinker in a variety of musical settings. The duo "Donna & Andy" can be found singing for children and families. Attending an "Andy Duinker and Donna Rhodenizer" concert treats the audience to original, adult folk, contemporary, easy listening, or sacred arrangements, depending on the venue.

Donna received her Bachelor of Music Education from Acadia University, where she majored in violin and minored in piano. She was a Masters of Music Education candidate at Brandon University in Manitoba.

Donna shares her musical expertise as a *workshop clinician*, equally at home discussing her own composing journey as well as encouraging fellow educators to experience music with children in their classrooms. She has been a conference clinician at the International Society of Music Educators (ISME), Ontario Music Educators Association (OMEA), New Brunswick Music Educators Association (NBMEA) and the Nova Scotia Music Educators Association (NSMEA), as well as presenting music teaching workshops for teachers in Saskatchewan, Ontario and New Brunswick. Her passion for music making is very evident in her life pursuits, her substantial output of songs, and her active involvement in performing, recording and publishing.

Donna received the NSMEA Musica Viva Award in 2009 for her contribution to music education.

www.donnarhodenizer.com

Teachers enjoy Donna's music.

A long time music teacher said

Donna, you have an amazing gift of writing memorable music. I always knew that, as the primary or junior choir students heard your songs for the first time on the accompanying CD, they'd almost instantly fall in love with them. The lyrics and melodies ... always staying in their mind and voice. As a result, the young people have always performed them well and because the topics or themes touched their hearts, it also touched the ears/hearts of the listeners. You have a wonderful gift! Your materials were always a treasure trove to find and use. I was always grateful to find new materials for the ... school students.

Another successful concert

At our recent *Grade 3-6 Christmas Concert* we performed your song "Raise Up Your Voices" as our closing number with all 200 students singing. I was inspired to do this after attending your session at the NSMEA conference. All 200 students were in the Gym. The grade 6 and Grade 4 classes [around 100 students] were up on the stage which is raised and the grade 5 and grade 3 classes [again around 100] on the floor, visually below the other classes. The call and response went from the group on the floor to the group on the stage. As soon as the choreography started you could feel the audience really getting into it. As the last note sounded and everyone's hand shot up into the air the audience spontaneously rose as one into an extended standing ovation. What an amazing feeling that was for the kids. I just wanted to share this with you and wish you the best of the season.

From a music professional about one of Donna's Reading sessions.

What appealed to me about this particular reading session was the quality of lyrics, melodic contours, and vocal harmonies! Donna writes for a range of levels and choral ensembles - from elementary unison choirs, middle school SSA choirs, to high school and community SATB ensembles. Whatever the level, one can be assured that the music is of the highest quality. As a writer, Donna imbues her texts with messages that are thought provoking, and inspiring. Singers and audience alike are challenged to reflect on the message. Donna's playful side gives birth to hilarious and affectionate songs that children continue to sing long after the concert is over.