

# Can't Wait To Celebrate!

## 20 Years of Music Play

Presented by: Jim Gill

I released my first recording of music play, *Jim Gill Sings The Sneezing Song and Other Contagious Tunes*, twenty years ago. Since that time, early childhood professionals all across the country have recognized, in my collection of CDs and books, the invitation to children –of all abilities – to play.

That *invitation to play* is what makes my songs unique. I don't write the songs in the same manner as a typical songwriter might. My songs are games, created through the experience of leading weekly playgroups for agencies providing therapy and support for families with young children with special needs. I spent twenty years leading this play-based programming and developed a style of crafting songs filled with word play and rhymes all in the context of *active* movement and *active* play. I pay special attention to providing opportunities for young children to *regulate* their movement based on the elements involved in music play – language, tempo, pitch, etc.

In addition to this hands-on experience, my graduate studies in child development helped me to understand *why* play is the ideal context for young children to learn and for adults to guide that learning. My songs and books are also created with these studies in mind.

The field of early childhood education keeps evolving, but I'm happy to find that the lessons I learned years ago about the developmental opportunities in play continue to provide the foundation for the best practices in early childhood education for *all* children.

I hope that you will leave this session inspired to share a new repertoire of songs and games with children in the classroom. Even more, I hope that you will recognize the power of play to inspire, in children, agility in thought and a love of learning.

### Biography

Jim Gill is a musician and author with unique credentials among children's artists. Jim is a child development specialist, completing his graduate studies in child development at the Erikson Institute of Chicago with a special emphasis on the study of play. For this reason, each of Jim's recordings and books is created as an opportunity for playful interactions between a child and a caring adult.

Jim has released six award-winning CDs of music play for young children that are favorites in family rooms, classrooms and playrooms. Jim is also the author of two children's books. His latest, *A Soup Opera*, is a sing-along opera inspired by concerts that Jim performs with symphony orchestras. The book received an **American Library Association** award in 2010. More information about his work, music and books is available online at [www.jimgill.com](http://www.jimgill.com).

# Music Play With Purpose

Presented by: Jim Gill

Twenty-seven years ago I created a weekly program in music play for an agency providing programs and support for families with young children with special needs. Initially the agency professionals and families attending all looked at the program as an opportunity to gather for simple fun. After a number of weeks, however, everyone began pointing out the **abilities** that the special needs children were demonstrating through this play. It wasn't long before some of the therapists were singing my songs in their sessions. Parents also noted that singing the songs with their children at home was a joyous way to continue to work, more or less, therapeutically on their own.

In other words, it was play....but **play with purpose**.

I spent twenty years leading this "play" programming and continue to be influenced by what I observed.....while playing.

My graduate studies in child development helped me to understand **why** play is the ideal context for young children to learn and for adults to guide that learning. Many years of singing and book making with children has convinced me that we need to consider early literacy in the context of play as well. Concepts that we know are important to early literacy such as auditory acuity and phonemic and phonological awareness are best developed through active engagement in word play and rhyming games. Young children become more engaged in these early literacy "building blocks" when the word play is combined with an opportunity for physical movement and active play.

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# JIM GILL'S SONG LYRICS

## THE TEMPO MARCHES ON

*Adapted from the traditional melody by Jim Gill.*

*From Jim Gill Sings Do Re Mi...*

We are marching to the rhythm,  
We are marching to the beat.  
We are lifting up our knees  
and we are stamping down our feet.  
But the song keeps getting faster  
with each verse that we complete.  
The tempo marches on.

CHORUS:

Faster, faster, faster, faster.  
Faster, faster, faster, faster.  
Faster, faster, faster, faster.  
The tempo marches on.

## TOE LEG KNEE

*Point to each body part as you sing the words up and down like a musical scale or "DO RE MI."*

*From Jim Gill Sings Do Re Mi...*

Toe, leg, knee, arm, elbow, jaw teeth, nose  
Nose, teeth, jaw, elbow, arm, knee leg, toe.

## CAN'T WAIT TO CELEBRATE

*Clap, stamp, wave and bounce along. Just be ready to stop and waaaaaaaaaait!*  
*From Jim Gill's Irrational Anthem...*

We clap our hands when we get together.  
Clap our hands to celebrate.  
We clap our hands when we get together.  
My friends and I an hardly wait...  
To stamp our feet.....  
To wave hello.....  
To bounce up and down...  
To clap our hands...

## THE SNEEZING SONG

*Traditional*  
*From Jim Gill Sings The Sneezing Song...*

Please don't feed me black-eyed peas  
You know what they will do  
For if you feed me black-eyed peas  
I'll have to sneeze... Ah... Ah... Ah Choo!  
Please don't feed me macaroni and cheese...  
Please don't feed me chocolate chip cookies...

## TOY BOAT

*From Jim Gill's Irrational Anthem...*

Toy Boat.

REPEAT

*(These are the only lyrics for this tongue twister).*

## LIST OF DANCES

*From Jim Gill Makes it Noisy in Boise....*

I made a list of all the dances in this song.  
I made a list so that I'd never sing them wrong.  
'Cause it's hard to remember  
and easy to forget  
a list that is sixteen dances long.

(You do)  
The tall  
The small  
The hop  
The stop  
The slow  
The tiptoe  
The curl  
The twirl  
The hide  
The slide  
The sleep  
The creep  
The slump  
The jump  
The sway  
The stay

We've done dances like the tiptoe and the hop.  
We've done them but it's still not time to stop.  
'Cause though we danced it one time  
the list would seem brand new  
if we read it from the bottom to the top.

## THE IRRATIONAL ANTHEM

*Did you know that the melody to "The Star Spangle Banner" is an old English tavern song? Francis Scott Key's poem was sung to the tune of "Anacreon in Heaven" and it caught on. It took until 1931, however, for the song to officially become our national anthem. My own "Irrational Anthem" uses the same melody to create a game hat begins simply, but builds to irrational expectations.*

*From Jim Gill's Irrational Anthem...*

Oh say can you see me slap on my knee?  
If you'll do the same, we'll begin this new game.  
Oh but say I have plans to add clapping hands.  
And this we'll repeat 'til the song is complete.  
Oh say just suppose that we tried tapping toes  
And attempted all three simultaneously.  
Oh say have you tried to sway side to side?  
Lean left, then reverse ... on this, the fourth verse.  
Oh say I'll advise that you now close your eyes.  
And let me remark ... it's more fun in the dark.  
Oh say one more thing. Do you think you could  
sing? La la la la la la la la la la la la la la.....

## OH HEY OH HI HELLO

*From Jim Gill Makes it Noisy in Boise...*

In the great state of Ohio  
From Cincinnati to Toledo  
they never simply say hello...  
they sing "Oh hey Oh hi Hello."

CHORUS:

Oh hey Oh hi Hello  
Oh hey Oh hi Hello  
Oh hey Oh hi Oh hey Oh hi Hello

When they're in the library  
They sing it very quietly.

Outside in a great big crowd  
They sing together very loud.

When they're sad and teary-eyed  
they sing it even as they cry.

Sure they'll sing it when they're sad,  
but they'll even sing it when they're mad.

Under water in the swimming pool  
it sounds very unusual.

Whenever there's a big full moon  
They tend to sing it out of tune.

## JUMPING AND COUNTING

*From Jim Gill's Irrational Anthem...*

Jump Jump Jump Jump  
Jumping high are we.  
But we'll stop jumping  
While we count to three.

Jump Jump Jump Jump  
Jumping even more.  
But we'll stop jumping  
While we count to four.

Jump Jump Jump Jump  
Just like pogo sticks.  
But let's stop jumping  
While we count to six.

Jump Jump Jump Jump  
Jumping then we wait.  
We stop our jumping  
While we count to eight.

Jump Jump Jump Jump  
Jumping once again.  
But we'll be finished  
Once we count to ten.

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## **ALABAMA, MISSISSIPPI**

*From Jim Gill Sings The Sneezing Song...*

Alabama, Mississippi  
Alabama, New Orleans  
Alabama, Mississippi  
Shake it on down to New Orleans  
Shake, Shake, Shake  
Shake it baby  
Shake, Shake, Shake  
Shake it baby  
Shake, Shake, Shake  
Shake it baby  
Shake it on down to New Orleans

## **FAMILY GOODBYES**

*From Jim Gill Sings Moving Rhymes...*

In my family you just stay put  
‘Til we’ve all waved goodbye with a foot.  
And no one gets up from a chair  
“Til we’ve all waved goodbye with our hair.  
And departure time hasn’t come  
‘Til we’ve all waved goodbye with a thumb.  
And my mother says no one goes  
‘Til she’s waved goodbye with her nose.  
And in my family you never go  
‘Til we’ve all waved goodbye with a toe.  
And no one takes any trips  
‘Til we’ve all waved goodbye with our lips.  
And no one can be dismissed  
‘Til we’ve all waved goodbye with our wrist.  
And still mother says no one goes  
‘Til she’s waved goodbye with her nose.  
And in my family you cannot flee  
‘Til we’ve all waved goodbye with a knee.  
And dismissals cannot begin  
‘Til we’ve all waved goodbye with the chin.  
And no family member is sprung  
‘Til we’ve all waved goodbye with the tongue.  
And no one can disappear  
‘Til we’ve all waved goodbye with an ear.  
And leaving we cannot allow  
‘Til we’ve all waved goodbye with a brow.

## **MAY THERE**

### **ALWAYS BE SUNSHINE**

*From Jim Gill Sings The Sneezing Song...  
and Jim Gill's Irrational Anthem...*

May there always be sunshine  
May there always be blue skies  
May there always be mama  
May there always be me

## **JIM GILL'S LULLABY**

*From Jim Gill Makes it Noisy in Boise...*

A glass of warm milk and counting sheep,  
These are some things that put me to sleep...  
WAKE UP!  
Bedtime stories and lullabies,  
Always make me close my eyes...  
WAKE UP!  
When it's late and I turn out the light,  
Then it's time to say goodnight....  
WAKE UP!

## **FACE THE FACTS**

*From Jim Gill Sings Moving Rhymes...*

Oh....I must face the fact.  
My swimming arms are back.  
Oh we must face the fact.  
Our swimming arms are back.  
They are splashing, flapping, stretching, lapping  
one full mile exact.  
We must face the fact.  
Our swimming arms are back.  
Oh.....I must face the fact.  
My scissor legs are back.  
Oh we must face the fact.  
Our scissor legs are back.  
They are cutting, clipping, slicing, snipping,  
trimming the rick rack.  
We must face the fact.  
Our scissor legs are back.  
Oh.....I must face the fact.  
My driving hands are back.  
Oh we must face the fact.  
Our driving hands are back.  
They are guiding, steering, turning, veering  
my air Cadillac.  
We must face the fact.  
Our driving hands are back.  
Oh.....I must face the fact.  
My binocular eyes are back.  
Oh we must face the fact.  
Our binocular eyes are back.  
They are peering, peeking, scanning, seeking  
needles in haystacks.  
We must face the fact.  
Our binocular eyes are back.  
Oh.....I must face the fact.  
My jumping jacks are back.  
We must face the fact.  
Our jumping jacks are back.  
They are bounding, flapping, jumping, clapping,  
picking up the slack.  
We must face the fact.  
Our jumping jacks are back.

## **POISON IVY**

*From Jim Gill Sings The Sneezing Song...*

Poison ivy under bushes...  
Poison ivy under trees...  
Poison ivy in the forest...  
Poison ivy on my knees!  
CHORUS:  
Poison ivy makes me  
Scratch scratch scratch  
Itch and scratch my knees  
Poison ivy by the daisy...  
Poison ivy by the rose...  
Poison ivy by the flower that I smelled  
with my nose!  
Poison ivy on the prairie...  
Poison ivy on the farm...  
Poison ivy in the pasture...  
Poison ivy on my arm!  
Poison ivy over there...  
Poison ivy over here...  
Poison ivy all around where I sat  
upon my rear!  
Poison ivy's green like grass...  
Poison ivy looks like clover...  
And maybe that is why I am itching all over!

## **JUMP UP, TURN AROUND**

*From Jim Gill Sings Moving Rhymes...*

Simple motions and a simply rhyme.  
Say it as you play it and repeat two times.  
Jump up  
Turn around  
Clap your hands  
Stamp the ground  
REPEAT  
Let's play it again, but this time try  
To say it as you play and stretch your arms  
Up high.  
Let me suggest that this time you might  
Say it as you play it with your eyes  
closed tight.  
Get ready my friends to take a deep breath  
Because I challenge you to play it as you hold  
Your breath!

## **SPIN AGAIN...AGAIN**

*Children can, of course, take turns spinning while  
their name is inserted into the song.  
From Jim Gill Sings Do Re Mi...*

There was a girl named Lucy Finnegan.  
She would spin and spin and spin again.  
When the song was over she'd beg to begin again.  
Poor Lucy Finnegan.

## **BEETHOVEN'S FIVE FINGER PLAY**

*From Jim Gill...Folks of All Stripes*

The time has come...show me your thumb.  
Next thing to do...pointers out too.  
Middles extend...as they unbend.  
Ring fingers next...flex them outstretched.  
No time to wait...pinkies out straight.  
Here are the plans.  
Please clap those hands.

## **STICK TO THE GLUE**

*From Jim Gill Makes it Noisy in Boise...*

Clapping hands one and two.  
Clapping hands one and two.  
But if one hand is covered with glue...  
you stick to the glue my darling.

CHORUS:

Glue, glue, stick to the glue  
Glue, glue, stick to the glue  
Glue, glue, stick to the glue  
Stick to the glue my darling.

Stamping feet one and two...  
Shaking hands one and two...  
Hugging friends one and two...  
Brushing teeth one and two...

## **HAVE YOU SEEN THE TRAMPOLINE?**

*From Jim Gill...Folks of All Stripes*

Have you seen the trampoline?  
Please look around. Look what we found!  
Have you seen the trampoline?  
Please look some more. It's on the floor!  
Have you seen the trampoline?  
It's gone and then it's back again!  
Have you seen the trampoline?  
It's hard to lose. It's in our shoes!

## **SILLY DANCE CONTEST**

*From Jim Gill Sings The Sneezing Song...*

Dance any way you want to  
Dance any way you please  
Dance any way you want to  
But stop when I say freeze.  
Jump as high as you want to...  
Dance as fast as you want to...  
Dance as slow as you want to...

## **TEA FOR TWO**

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AND VINCENT YOUMANS  
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*From Jim Gill...Folks of All Stripes*

Tea for two  
and two for tea.  
Another friend comes and that makes three.

Three for tea  
and tea for three.  
Add one more and that makes four.

Four for tea  
and tea for four.  
Should another friend arrive, that makes five.

Tea for five  
and five for tea.  
Everyone's welcome! It's a tea party!

## **TEAPOT VARIATIONS**

*From Jim Gill Sings The Sneezing Song....*

I'm a little teapot short and stout.  
Here is my handle. Here is my spout.  
When I get all steamed up then I shout.  
Tip me over and pour me out.

I'm a dishwasher, four square sides.  
My arms are the door that folds open wide.  
Put your dirty dishes in my big washtub.  
Pour in soap and watch me scrub.

Now I am a blender tall and round.  
My legs are the motor, the lid is my crown.  
Take juice and ice and pour it in.  
Turn me on and watch me spin!

Now I am a toaster with chrome and style.  
One hand is the lever. The other is a dial.  
When you push the lever down the toast will drop.  
Wait a moment.....and watch it pop!

It's fun to play you're a teapot tippin'.  
But there's plenty to pretend in a modern kitchen.

## **SLIDING, ROLLING, AND JUMPING**

*From Jim Gill Sings Moving Rhymes...*

I woke up in the morning and I **slid**  
right out of bed.  
I **slid** into the bathroom  
and the comb **slid** across my head.  
I **slid** into the kitchen  
and I **slid** into a chair.  
And when I finished breakfast,  
I **slid** right out of there.  
I **slid** into my coat  
and I **slid** my way to work and then  
I was **slid** from task to task  
and **slid** back home again.  
I **slid** into the kitchen and when I was well fed  
I **slid** into my pajamas and I **slid** back into bed.  
(Repeat for **Rolled** and **Jump**)

## **BANANAS**

*From Jim Gill...Folks of All Stripes*

Bananas unite!  
Bananas split!  
You've got to grow bananas. Grow grow bananas.  
You've got to pick bananas. Pick pick bananas.  
You've got to peel bananas. Peel peel bananas.  
You've got to eat bananas. Eat eat bananas.  
You've got to go bananas! Go go bananas!  
REPEAT THE ENTIRE GAME

## **MY UPS AND DOWNS**

*From Jim Gill Sings Do Re Mi...*

As I ascend my arms extend  
And I intend to stretch my body straight—  
As I elevate.  
The music falls I'm getting small  
I finally sprawl 'til I can move no more—  
On the floor.  
My body grows and grows until I pose on tiptoes  
I am way up high—  
Near the sky.  
Soon I sink my size will shrink I'm on the brink  
Of bruising my kneecaps—  
As I collapse.  
One last time I think I'll climb  
This pantomime has surely been fantastic—  
Like elastic.  
My knees bend as I descend  
This song must end as I am sitting down—  
On the ground.

*All songs copyright Jim Gill, Inc.*