



Creative Music Factory director Linda Jane is excited by the potential in music therapy instruments like this Spinner created by Freenotes. Rob Newell photo

## A sense of play

### Linda Jane puts the fun back into music lessons with her Creative Music Factory

Leslie Dickson  
FRIDAY! Magazine

When Linda Jane set out to find students for her new music school a year and a half ago, she shunned advertisements in favour of a more interactive approach.

In the summer of 2005, she carried a purple suitcase packed full of drums, miniature guitars, pennywhistles and harmonicas to parks around Abbotsford, spread the instruments on the grass and waited.

Curious children, their parents in tow, soon wandered over to Jane, and impromptu concerts started up as aspiring musi-

cians of all ages grabbed instruments and began to experiment. Many of these park performers now learn piano and music appreciation at Linda Jane's Creative Music Factory.

Jane brings the same unconventional approach to her lessons. While she teaches from the Royal Conservatory of Music syllabus for piano, she teases the talent out of her pupils through creative exercises.

By encouraging students as young as five to create their own compositions, Jane teaches musical notation. She teaches rhythm by having students tap the left- and right-hand parts of a piano arrangement on their legs. Jane also teaches chord structure by helping students transpose songs by their favourite bands to the piano.

And if students can't quite capture the mood of a Baroque composer like Johann Sebastian Bach, Jane's been known to don a historical costume to create the appropriate atmosphere in her studio.

In her music appreciation classes for children aged three to nine, Jane sometimes

leaves the studio behind entirely and leads her merry band, Pied Piper-like to the lake behind her house to get inspiration from nature to create music on portable instruments.

For Jane, teaching creatively is just a means to greater music appreciation and technique.

"It allows them to experience music in all realms and have fun and laughter."

"Sometimes they need to get away from the piano - it's about lessons off the bench."

The former nurse also believes in the healing power of music, and she tries to bring harmony to people in palliative care, mothers in labour, as well as children living with autism.

It is particularly for hospice patients that Jane uses one of her adapted instruments called the Spinner, which is made of bars from a xylophone assembled in a vertical form similar to wind chimes. By twirling the instrument while hitting it with soft mallets, Jane says she's able to help patients in their journey at life's end.

And for all her students, whether they're at the beginning or end of life, Jane also uses the listening and observation skills honed during 30 years in medicine to tailor the way she delivers music to each.

"Recognizing the needs of others is huge. You can't have one thing for everyone."

For information about Jane's music lessons, visit: [www.creativemusicfactory.ca](http://www.creativemusicfactory.ca).

#### Here's how...

To contribute business news to FRIDAY! Magazine's In Business, e-mail [leslie@fridaymag.com](mailto:leslie@fridaymag.com).

Include relevant business news, along with contact info.

Friday!  
NEWS MAGAZINE

## We Make Students Proud of Their Report Cards!

### With One-On-One Tutoring in Your Home

- All Subjects • Pre-K - Adult • Study Skills
- Affordable Rates • Qualified Teachers



604-556-2529  
[www.clubztutoring.com](http://www.clubztutoring.com)

**\$25 OFF  
TUTORING**

\*1 Coupon per family. Call for details.

