



Monty Harper

Biography

Engage your brain! It's time for a Monty Harper show!

Monty Harper writes award-winning children's songs about science, reading, and creativity. His audiences laugh, clap, sing, wiggle, shout, roar, giggle, jump, hoot, pop, snap, and most of all... think!

Harper's interest in performing for kids began with a clever song or two around 1989, the same year he entered the Master's program in mathematics at Oklahoma State University. By the time he completed the degree in 1992 he was fielding a slew of requests for appearances at schools and libraries.

Harper was inspired by a pile of Barry Louis Polisar records discovered at his local library, showing him there was a market for smart, funny, independent music for kids. In 1993 he discarded the idea of teaching college algebra for a living and launched his own children's music career instead.

Two decades of summer library programs have lent meaning to Harper's work. "It's so important for kids to love reading," says Harper. "I try to convey my own exuberance for books and libraries through the songs."

Harper visits 40-50 libraries each year. His ReadingSongs.com website lists several dozen songs he has penned for various reading themes since 1990. Harper's latest CD, *Let's Get Creative* (recorded with kids' rock guru Mr. Billy), was inspired by the 2009 summer reading program theme. This summer he will present "Wacky Witty Wet-n-Wild Songs" at libraries in Oklahoma, Kansas, and North Dakota.

In 2007, Harper brought another life-long interest into his work: science. "I want to inspire kids by letting them see beyond their science textbooks," says Harper. "Science is more than a body of facts. It's an exciting process of discovery, happening all the time, and done by real people." Harper launched *Born to Do Science* (www.BornToDoScience.com), a monthly program in Stillwater that brings kids into face-to-face conversations with real scientists about their current research. Harper writes a new song based on each scientist's work. These form the basis of his new elementary school assembly program entitled *Songs From the Science Frontier*.

Harper has been on the Oklahoma Arts Council Touring Roster since 1995. His songs and recordings have won many honors from groups including Parents' Choice, iParenting, NAPPA, Children's Music Web, Kids Radio Mania, and Unisong International. He has released seven titles on CD, available through CDBaby.com, Amazon.com, and iTunes Music Store.

Harper is currently booking an elementary school program developed through the Oklahoma Arts Council's Performing Arts Corps grant. *Say It in a Song* includes a K-5 assembly plus workshops in which Harper teaches songwriting to 4th and 5th grade students.

Harper will perform on the National Mall for the USA Science and Engineering Festival this October. He is planning an accompanying coast-to-coast tour of schools and museums featuring his *Songs From the Science Frontier*.

Harper resides in Stillwater, Oklahoma, with his wife, Lisa, and their daughter, Evalyn. More information is at www.montyharper.com.



Monty Harper Productions