



Monty Harper

Biography

Monty Harper is a multi-award-winning singer/songwriter. His songs tackle topics ranging from the scientific (dinosaur behavior, planetary motion) to the terrific (pet dragons run amuck, book-gobbling monsters, singing bugs) and everything in between. His audiences can be observed to laugh, clap, sing, wiggle, shout, roar, giggle, jump, hoot, pop, snap, and even cry.

Don't worry, it's all part of the show! Harper is one of a growing number of musicians who take their goofy kid's music very seriously. Children are our future, after all, and Harper aims not only to entertain them, but to engage and challenge them as well. In his programs children are focusing, thinking and participating. They are inspired to read, to write, to imagine, and to create.

Harper's interest in performing for kids began with writing a silly 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, libraries, and birthday parties.

At the time no children's record labels were looking for new artists. Still, a pile of Barry Louis Polisar records discovered at the library helped convince Harper not only that there was a market for smart, funny, gross, entertaining kid's songs, but also that one could succeed in that market as an independent. So in 1993 he discarded the idea of teaching college algebra for a living and launched his own children's music business instead.

Harper's recordings and songs have won many honors and awards from groups including Parents' Choice, iParenting Media Awards, NAPPA, Children's Music Web, Kids Radio Mania, and Unisong International. His CDs are available through CDBaby.com, Amazon.com, and iTunes Music Store.

Harper performs for elementary schools, libraries, and festivals throughout the Midwest and often leads children in the creation of their own musical masterpieces. He has been a popular act on the Oklahoma Arts Council touring artist since 1995. He is a songwriter-for-hire, and he dispenses songwriting advice for young people via his weblog and podcast.

Currently Harper is touring Oklahoma and Kansas libraries. His latest CD, recorded with fellow children's musician Mr. Billy, is called *Let's Get Creative*. It was commissioned by the Kansas libraries, to be used with their 2009 summer reading theme, "Be Creative at Your Library."

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



Monty Harper Productions

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