

DANA COHENOUR 2025

Dana is widely recognized as one of the pioneers of independent children's music. For over three decades, she has toured the nation, entertaining young families with her upbeat songs and bubbly personality. Dana's previous seven albums for children have won 45 national awards and wide acclaim from critics, educators and parents alike. CHILD Magazine called her energy and enthusiasm "contagious" and named her as one of the "Top Five Kids' Singers You Should Know." In addition to her recordings and live shows, Dana has engaged thousands of young viewers and listeners with her ***Dana's Music Playground*** video series and podcast/radio show.

Dana's new album, ***Wonder FULL*** was released on August 15, 2025. Already, the album has won the coveted NAPPA Award, while singles and videos from the recording have received numerous awards including "Best Music for Children" from Creative Child Magazine, Intercontinental Music Awards, Clouzine International Music Awards and the Global Music Awards in addition to nominations for the Hollywood Independent Music Awards and U.S.A. Songwriting Awards.

Wonder FULL celebrates the myriad questions and endless curiosity that fill the minds of young children. Each song title is a question word, covering topics that kids wonder about with humor and heartwarming messages. Featuring numerous musical styles ranging from rock to bluegrass, bossa nova and the blues, Dana's new songs will inspire children to find magic in the mysteries of life.

In June 2020, Dana released her seventh album for children, ***A Place to Call Home***. The recording includes eleven original songs that explore the different places animals make their homes. Featuring a wide variety of musical genres, the songs are designed to educate and entertain children while planting seeds of care for the planet we all call home. The album received 5 national awards, including the coveted NAPPA Award, the Creative Child Magazine CD of 2020, the Family Choice and Hot Diggity Awards, as well as the KIDS FIRST Endorsement of 2020.

Recent single releases of note are the bouncy, fun celebration of summer from Dana's 2023 release, ***Bring On Summer*** which came with a joyful live action video and two beautiful songs that Dana recorded especially for the ***Arise Together*** charity album projects benefitting children with special needs in Ukraine and around the world. Writing the multi-award winning, ***I Am Brave*** (2023) and ***Hold on to Hope*** (2024) were moving experiences for Dana, and she was very honored to be of this meaningful effort launched by the One Little Finger Foundation.

Dana grew up in Lakewood, Colorado, where she started piano, dance and tumbling lessons at an early age. This foundation, along with the "oversized ham bone" which she inherited from her grandfather, sparked an early desire to make a career upon the stage.

After earning a bachelor's degree in music and theater from the University of Northern Colorado, Dana began her career starring in Broadway musicals in regional and stock productions around the country. A gifted pianist and songwriter, she entertained for many years on the New York City and European cabaret scenes before embarking on her family music career.

Inspired by the birth of her first nephew, Dana began to focus her songwriting and performance skills exclusively on the young audiences with whom she has always felt a special connection. "I wrote and recorded a few lullabies as a gift for my new nephew, and through the process, realized that I loved writing for young children. Envisioning little smiles and open imaginations filled me with inspiration. I felt I had truly found my niche, especially once I started performing for live audiences of children. To me, hearing children's laughter and watching them literally jump into your music is a reward beyond measure." Encouraged by the success of her debut album, ***Gather Your Dreams*** (1994), Dana made a commitment to bring high quality, educational and fun music to children and families while introducing kids to numerous musical genres.

As Dana moved from singing in toy stores to performing at larger venues, she learned the importance of engaging her young audiences with movement and participation. High-energy, interactive songs became the emphasis of Dana's next two recordings, *Dana's Best Sing & Play-A-Long Tunes* (1995) and *Dana's Best Travelin' Tunes* (1996). Drawing on her piano-bar days and her love of composers such as Duke Ellington, Cole Porter and the Gershwins, Dana decided next to focus on making jazz accessible and fun for children. Combining classic jazz and cool original songs, *Dana's Best Sing & Swing-A-Long Tunes* (1997) became an instant hit with kids and their parents.

Dana's Best Rock & Roll Fairy Tales (1999) came along soon after. "I wanted to kindle a love of literature and reading in children. In setting classic fairy tales to rock and roll beats and re-working them to soften some of the scary elements, I hoped to bring out the humor and morals in the tales and bring them new life. Plus, I just love rhyming and doing crazy character voices!"

After taking a hiatus from recording to raise her son, Jack, Dana literally jumped back into the children's music scene in 2017 with *Dana's Best Jump & Jam Tunes*. Designed to get kids up, moving and away from their screens, the album is a musical party that promotes healthy habits, exercise, and of course, a lot of jumping!

Inspired by many years of leading story times at her local library, Dana created her original *Dana's Music Playground* video series in 2019. Through animated characters, music, rhyme, sign language and movement, the interactive episodes introduce children to early childhood learning concepts. "There are many children who do not have the opportunity to attend a weekly class or story time, and I wanted to give young ones everywhere a chance to have the kind of enriching experience that was so valuable to my own child." says Dana. Young families can find these programs on Dana's YouTube channel and the streaming platform, SENSICAL.

In 2021, Dana created her *Dana's Music Playground* radio show, which streams world-wide on the children's radio stations JUMP105.3 and KIDS.RADIO. The podcast is available any time on Dana's website. Along with her magic music box character, "Jingle", Dana hosts a magical hour of music and themed fun. Young listeners love guessing the "words of the day" and learning about everything from colors and senses to dinosaurs and days of the week. The show has twice been honored by Creative Child Magazine with the "Media of the Year" award in 2021 and 2022, and has received the award for "Best Podcast" from both the NAPPA Awards (2021) and the Hot Diggity Awards (2022).

To reach out to children in her own community, Dana developed her **Music Playground** program for youngsters from ages 1 to 4. Celebrating 6 successful years, these fun and engaging music and movement classes have become a mainstay for families in Bellingham, WA near where Dana and her family now live.

Visit www.danamusicplayground.com for the latest news about upcoming releases, videos and concerts.

Dana's Discography

- **Gather Your Dreams 1994 (Now available as Dana's Best Lullabies & Morning Songs)**
 - Dana's Best Play-a-Long Tunes 1995
 - Dana's Best Travelin' Tunes 1996
- **Dana's Best Sing & Swing-a-Long Tunes (Classic & Cool Jazz for Kids) 1997**
 - Dana's Best Rock & Roll Fairy Tales 1999
 - Dana's Best Jump & Jam Tunes 2017
 - A Place to Call Home 2020
- **I Am Brave 2022 (Single featured on the compilation album, Arise Together)**
 - Bring On Summer (Single) 2023
 - HOW (Can I Make Someone's Day) (Single) 2024

- **WHY WHAT WHERE WHO (30th Anniversary Version) (Single) 2025**
 - **WHAT (Can We Do) (Single) 2025**
 - **WHICH (One Will I Choose) (Single) 2025**
 - **Wonder FULL 2025**

Awards For Dana's Music:

NAPPA Awards (National Parenting Publications Awards) (X9)

Intercontinental Music Awards Winner 2025 Best Children's Music

Global Music Awards 4X Winner

Clouzine International Music Awards 4X Winner

U.S.A. Songwriting Competition Finalist 2025

HIMA (Hollywood Independent Music Awards) Nomination: Best Song for Children 2025

HIMA (Hollywood Independent Music Awards) Nomination: Best Song for Children 2023

Creative Child Magazine Media of the Year 2020 and 2025

Hollywood Music in Media Awards Nominee (HMMA) 2021 Best Song for Children

PARENTS' CHOICE: Silver Award 1997 & 1999, Approval 2017

Family Choice Award 2017 & 2020

KIDS FIRST Endorsement 2017 & 2020

International Songwriting Competition (3rd Place)

Hot Diggity Award 2020 Best Children's Music

Early Childhood News: Directors' Choice Award

**Children's Music Web Awards:
Best Music for Young Children (X2)
Best Song for Young Children**

Dr. Toy's Best Vacation Product (X3)

CHILD Magazine: Best Children's Music of the Year (X2)

CHILD Magazine: Top 5 Kids' Singers You Should Know

Numerous finalist designations in several songwriting awards programs

Awards For Dana's Radio Show/Podcast:

Creative Child Magazine- Media of the Year 2021 and 2022

Hot Diggity Dog Awards- Best Educational Podcast for Children 2022

NAPPA Award- Best Children's Podcast 2021