

Gary Dulabaum: Teaching Through The Magic of Song, Poetry and Rhythm

GREETINGS FROM AMBER CIRCLE MUSIC,

"The Lesson that is not enjoyed is not learned" and "Music, and music as a whole, must be given to the child. In 'Pursuit of music' the child must be allowed to listen, express and create", are two of **Gary Dulabaum's** favorite quotes about learning, teaching and passion.

Gary Dulabaum, a former preschool/ kindergarten teacher, has been called a "teachers' teacher" and an "innovative educator" who knows how to "put the arts back into the language arts." He offers hands-on, interactive programs: motivating workshops featuring research-based strategies, and up-lifting concerts with a message for students and teachers that connect reading, writing and song; that use music, movement, poetry and rhythm to enhance fluency and comprehension skills; that explore the creative side of writing; that focus on the oral performance of prose, poetry, and music to bridge the gap between "spoken" and "written" English, and that inspire students and teachers to connect with their own personal creativity.

Gary Dulabaum is also a nationally touring motivational speaker, author, songwriter, poet, professional musician, college guest lecturer, stand-up comedian, and recording artist of children's and adult music. As an entertainer /educator/author, he has appeared on educational radio and TV shows such as **"Street Signs"** in Burlington, Vermont, and **"Book Talk"** in Tampa, Florida. His recent episode on **"Book Talk"** won a Bronze Telly Award of Excellence in children's programming, and was named "Best Children's Single Program" at the Southern Sunshine Video Festival. The award winning episode featured Gary discussing and demonstrating songwriting techniques where He took passages from books and everyday life events and turned them into songs.

As a well-traveled professional musician/educator, Gary knows that music is a universal language, and most if not all students love music. He found early on the importance of using music in the classroom: music is a free way to express feelings, a means of emotional expression, a co-ordination of the mind, body and imagination, the interaction of cognitive and affective growth, an outlet for creativity and self-expression, and music may be used to improve creative/expository writing and reading skills. Music can also be used across the curriculum as an excellent teaching tool as suggested in this quote by Will Durant in "The Story of Philosophy", summarizing Plato's Republic on Education:

"Nor is music to be merely music; it must be used to provide attractive forms for the sometimes unappetizing contents of mathematics, history and science; there is no reason why for the young these difficult studies should not be smoothed into verse and beautified with song."

Gary is much inspired by the work of Howard Gardner, Elliot Eisner, Eric Jensen, Mimi Brodsky Chenfeld, Merryl Goldberg and others who have been writing about exciting ways to create curriculum that involves more than the traditional approach to learning. He likes to think of it as "widening the circle of learning with the creation of stimulating environments that will enhance the thinking of students by providing practical ideas for integrating literacy and the arts (music, rhythm, movement) for all students (in all areas of the curriculum), whether native English speakers or not, whether gifted or at risk."

Through the years Gary has seen, first hand, how children's creativity, self-esteem and imaginations come to life and blossom through music, song, performance poetry, rhythm and movement in the classroom. By integrating song, movement, drama, humor, and rhythm with all other curriculum areas, Gary has found a way to actively involve students in their own creative learning process, to help students connect with their own creativity, to help students enhance their power of critical thinking, and to offer all students a day on center stage when they are ready. "Teachers know students (children) learn best when they are actively engaged and excited by the learning process."

As a writer, educator, musician and artist-in-residence in schools, Gary offers hands-on student and teacher workshops and student concerts that enhance literacy development through: inspiring, creative song- writing sessions where students/teachers work with Gary on several writing processes to create original verses (poem and song) on areas of their learning

Amber Circle Music * 69805 Camino Pacifico, Rancho Mirage, California 92270
802.598.3588 phone/text 760.464.0875 fax garydamberc@att.net
www.garydulabaum.com

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In other inspiring sessions Gary leads energetic hip hop poetry gatherings where the students use the oral performance of poetry as a powerful ingredient to help them develop voice as writers; and motivating assemblies where students actively take center stage with Gary in songs, poems and movement about reading, and Harley motorcycle-riding teachers (who do know how to teach).

Gary's programs for students and teachers celebrate the power of oral and written language and Gary knows the ability to write with voice, to read with fluency, and to speak with power all flourish in an atmosphere oxygenated with the sound of language. For more on Gary's School programs for students and teachers follow this [link](#).

Gary is a regular presenter, speaker and entertainer at many local, state, regional and national conferences and conventions. He has shared his love of reading, writing and song with teachers throughout the United States and beyond in hands-on, participatory sessions where participants experience the techniques of performance that create a full-power language classroom. Through the years he has presented at International Literacy Association National, regional, state and local events as well. He has been a featured speaker, workshop presenter, Poetry Olio performer and he has composed special songs for conference themes and award ceremonies.

For 12 years Gary was a Graduate lecturer in the Department of Teacher Education at the University of Nebraska at Kearney teaching classes on enhancing literacy development in the classroom: an integration of the arts throughout the curriculum.

Gary has released 6 recordings, and one book titled ***My Teacher Rides A Harley*** (Maupin House Press). The book is part memoir and part instructional resource and has been featured on ***Morning Edition on National Public Radio***. The book outlines the tools and processes teachers need to expose their students to the writing process and encourage their personal creativity. The book comes with a CD that has 16 sing-along songs with classroom activities for each song. With songs like ***The Homework Blues*** and ***My Teacher Thinks He's Elvis***, Gary's music – like his approach to teaching – captures the imagination and spirit of school life.

To learn more about Gary Dulabaum's concerts and workshops or to book a program, please call 802.598.3588 or e-mail us at garydamperc@att.net . Program info is available on Gary's School Programs page. Thank you for reading!!