

EARLY CHILDHOOD
MUSIC & MOVEMENT
ASSOCIATION



Saturday, October 1, 2011, 10:00am-Noon
National-Louis University, Skokie Campus, Room 353

Celebrate Cultural Diversity through Music

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

10:00-10:15	Registration and Breakfast
10:15-10:30	Welcome: Culturally Responsive Music Education – Rekha Rajan
10:30-Noon	Workshop: A Ram Sam Sam– Brigid Finucane

Workshop Description – A Ram Sam Sam

This interactive workshop expands the typical classroom dances and singing games and fosters a sense of community and cultural diversity. Participants will learn a wide variety of dances, seasonal movement activities and musical games and extensions that can be immediately put to use.

No special materials are needed – only voices to sing with, bodies to move, and a place to dance. It is hoped that by sharing these happy and pleasurable musical activities, drawn from American heritage, immigrant, folk, and African American traditions, you will be encouraged to adapt them to your individual sites and make them your own.

Brigid Finucane, presenter (Merit School of Music, Chicago, IL) Brigid Finucane, has worked as an early childhood music teacher since 1995 while continuing her life long research into cross-cultural music and stories. Since 2000, she has taught early childhood family/child classes at Merit School of Music in Chicago. She has developed a curriculum where she teaches English through music for Merit's Bridges (off-site) program. The inclusion of books, literacy activities, musical games and dances are important components. Brigid's primary objective is to share the joy of singing and music making and to help students, families, and teachers become confident and creative musical beings.

She is an active member in the Children's Music Network (CMN), a national organization of singers, songwriters, educators and librarians who believe in empowering children through music. She has presented music and literacy workshops for the Erikson Institute, Hugabook, Chicago City Colleges, and the CMN National Gathering. She has presented extensively on singing games and dances, including CAEYC, GOAEC, Concordia University, Chicago, and CMN Regional and National Gatherings.

Rekha S. Rajan, Ed.D., President and Founder of the Greater Chicago Area Chapter of the Early Childhood Music and Movement Association is an assistant professor and the director of graduate programs in early childhood education at the National College of Education, National-Louis University, in Chicago, IL. She received her Ed.D. in music education from Teachers College, Columbia University in New York City, where she also received an Ed.M. in music education. Additionally, she holds an M.A. in Early Childhood Professions from Roosevelt University. She has taught and developed several courses in early childhood education, music education, and elementary education.

Her research interests focus on the impact of the performing arts in the lives of young children, specifically, children's experiences in musical theater. She has presented her work at national and international conferences and has published in various journals. Rekha is a senior research associate with the Center for Arts Education Research at Teachers College, Columbia University where she collaborates on evaluations and assessments of arts-based partnerships. She is also the author of two forthcoming books, *Integrating the Performing Arts in Grades K-5* (Corwin Press) and *Children's Experiences in Musical Theater* (Rowman & Littlefield Education).

Monica Crowe Corbett, Vice President of the Greater Chicago Area Chapter of the Early Childhood Music and Movement Association is the creator and founder of B-Sharp Music for Children. After participating in many early childhood music programs with her own four children, Monica decided to combine years of music study, piano teaching and music composition to create her own company. Since 2003 Monica has developed a multi-sensory, engaging music education program for young children ages 1-8. Her years of playing and teaching the piano, organ and clarinet provided a wealth of experience in developing B-Sharp's Piano for Kids program. Monica and her staff teach in preschools and park districts in Chicago's western suburbs, reaching over 350 young musicians every month.

Monica holds a BA in Music and Communication from the University of Michigan and is a past management fellow with the League of American Orchestras. She was recently recognized as the *Spring 2011 Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp Featured Alumna*. She is also chair of her 2,000-member church Worship, Music and Fine Arts Committee.

Linda Lee Giammanco, Secretary/Treasurer of the Greater Chicago Area Chapter of the Early Childhood Music and Movement Association is thrilled to be part of an organization whose purpose is to promote music and movement in early childhood. Linda is currently a graduate student in early childhood education at National-Louis University. She received her bachelor's degree in ECE from Purdue University and has been actively involved in the education of young children through community task force groups and volunteer organizations. She was the reading intervention instructor in Community Consolidated School District 181 and helped to design and implement the district's Reading Tutor Handbook using various programs to assist struggling readers achieve success.

Linda co-founded and created The Elm School Respect and Responsibility Program for her elementary school. The goal of the program was for parents, students and teachers to work cooperatively to create an environment of mutual respect conducive to learning. A committee of teachers, administrators, social workers, and parents worked together to communicate with the school community to create programs to help students learn friendship skills, break bullying habits and victim attitudes. Together, we were able to make a difference in our school climate and the well-being of our children.