

State TheatreNJ.org
Keynotes

Tom Chapin & Friends: *Around the World & Back Again*



Welcome to Tom Chapin and Friends in *Around the World & Back Again*, a musical celebration of the remarkable diversity of life on our planet. The concert showcases musical styles from around the world, performed by Tom and his good friends Michael Mark and Jon Cobert. There's lots of audience participation to go along with the engaging, toe-tapping music.

These *Keynotes* provide information and activities that will help you prepare your students for the performance and then reflect on what they've seen and heard in the show. With younger students, we encourage you to read the information to them and facilitate the activities. You will find lyrics and activities for five of the songs from the show, as well as links where you can listen to the songs with your students.

CONTENTS

Welcome!	2
Meet the Band!	3
Tom's Musical Roots.....	4
The Instruments	5
The Songs:	
"Family Tree"	6
"The Picnic of the World"	7
"A Forest in the Rain"	8
"What Is a Didjeridoo?"	9
"Dinner Soon"	10
What's My Job at the Show?	11
Resources.....	12




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State TheatreNJ.org Keynotes

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The State Theatre, a premier nonprofit venue for the performing arts and entertainment.

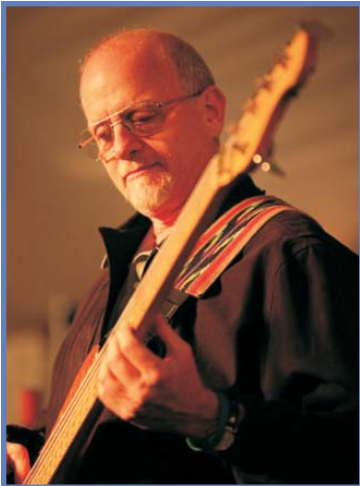


Tom Chapin is a Grammy Award-winning musician, singer-songwriter, guitarist, actor, and storyteller. For more than thirty years and through nineteen albums, he has entertained and enlightened audiences of all ages with life-affirming original songs in a wide array of musical styles. His music spans generations and genres: adult albums and kids' albums, rock, folk, Latin, blues, pop, and even classical. Tom performs in all kinds of places: on Broadway, on television, and at outdoor festivals, schools, symphony concerts, and coffeehouses.

His songs and stories deal with the issues that are most important to him: caring for our planet and caring for each other. Tom practices what he teaches, working to end hunger and homelessness and to protect the environment. (He recently performed at a benefit concert to raise money for the victims of the earthquake in Haiti). In 2009, he received the Magic Penny Award, given to artists who have dedicated their lives to empowering children through music. "If there's an underlying message to my music and my existence," he says, "I think it has to do with empowerment ... the idea that you matter ... you can make an enormous difference."

Tom comes from a famous musical family that spans several generations. He is the son of jazz drummer Jim Chapin and the brother of the late singer-songwriter Harry

Chapin and singer, arranger, and songwriter Steve Chapin. Tom's daughters and stepdaughter are the musical trio the Chapin Sisters. The whole family occasionally performs together in concerts paying tribute to Harry Chapin.



Michael Mark

is perhaps best known for writing the theme for TV's *Entertainment Tonight*. He received a Drama Desk Award for best supporting actor in the role of Stanley in the original Broadway cast of *I Love My Wife*. In 1981, Michael was cast in the original production of *Cotton Patch Gospel* by Harry Chapin. It was there

that Michael met Tom Chapin. Michael and Tom have collaborated on music for the children's musical *The Magic Fishbone*.

For more information on Michael, visit his website, www.myfamilymusic.com.



Jon Cobert

a native of Brooklyn, plays piano, organ, accordion, synthesizer, guitar, bass, and drums, and also sings. He grew up listening to classic rock and Motown, at the same time studying classical masters. Jon collaborated with John Lennon on several projects, and toured with Phyllis Hyman, Laura Branigan,

Klaus Nomi, Jimmy Webb, and Sugarbeats, among others. He has written the *ESPN Baseball Tonight* theme, the *ESPN College Football Game Day* theme, and many commercial jingles.

Visit Jon's website at <http://www.cobertoperations.com>.

Both Michael and Jon have collaborated with Tom as featured musicians on his award-winning children's and adult recordings, and they appear in his live concert video. They have each earned 5 Grammy nominations for their work as producers on Tom Chapin's recordings.

“Mine is not a traditional music, but it comes from a tradition. My musical heroes are people like Pete Seeger and Woody Guthrie who wrote and sang real songs for real people; for everyone, old, young, and in between.”

—Tom Chapin

Tom Chapin comes from a family of musicians and has been listening to all kinds of music from the time he was very young. His music borrows from many different musical traditions: syncopated Latin rhythms, country music, blues, rock and roll, bluegrass, and more. Now and then he even sneaks in some classical music. (In “Picnic of the World,” the melody is the famous can-can from Jacques Offenbach’s *Orpheus in the Underworld*.)

More than any of these influences, Tom’s music is firmly rooted in the folk tradition. Folk music springs from the common people. Anyone can understand it, and everyone is welcome to participate. It can be sung and played by people who may not have any formal musical training, using the instruments available to them or—quite often—homemade instruments. In America, folk music encompasses many styles, including bluegrass, country music, gospel, jug bands, Appalachian music, blues, Cajun, and Native American. Originally, folk music was not written down, but handed down by oral tradition.

Folk songs can be about civil rights, poverty, war, work, and of course, love. They can be serious and sad, lighthearted or satirical. This type of music has a long tradition of being used for civil protest. Some of the greatest folksongs grew out of hard times and oppressive conditions such as slavery, war, the Great Depression, and unjust labor practices.

As times have changed, folk music has changed to reflect the times. In the 1960s, musicians such as Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, Harry Belafonte, and Joni Mitchell blended folk and mainstream music, creating popular music with a social conscience. Tom Chapin continues that tradition, writing and performing songs that encourage people to help make our world a better place for everyone.

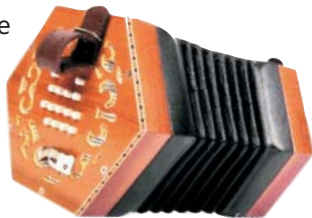


In the Classroom:

Ask your students to name some problems or concerns that are important to them. They can be big issues, such as the environment or homelessness, or something smaller, such as having to do chores. Have them brainstorm some good ways to resolve these problems.

Introduce students to some of the many instruments that Tom Chapin and his friends play during the show. Click on the links for videos demonstrating each instrument.

ACCORDION - This box-shaped instrument has a hollow chamber that fills with air when you pull out the sides of the instrument. Squeezing the sides together forces the air through strips of metal. The air makes the metal vibrate, producing the sound. One side of the accordion has keys like a piano, and the other side has buttons. The keys are used to play the melody, while the buttons are used to play the chords. A smaller instrument similar to the accordion is the **CONCERTINA**, which is held between the two hands and has buttons, but no keyboard.

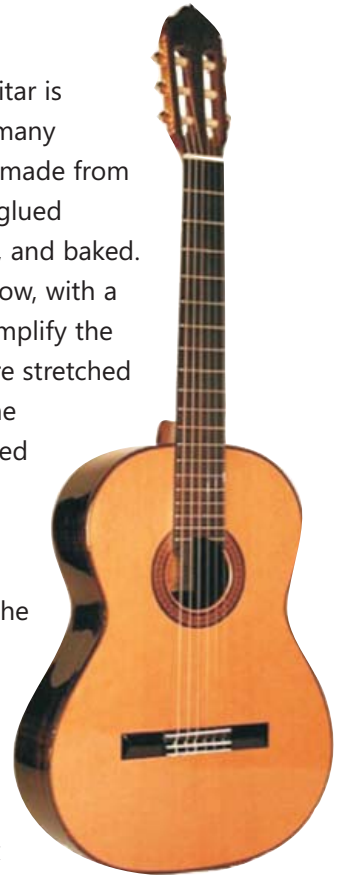


AUTOHARP - This folk instrument from Germany has been popular in the U.S. since the late 19th century. The autoharp is played by strumming the strings with one hand, using the fingers or a pick, called a plectrum. The other hand controls a system of dampers that mute the strings that are not being played. The autoharp has 15 to 20 strings and can be played held against the musician's chest or in the lap.



BANJO - The roots of the banjo reach back to Africa. Enslaved Africans brought this instrument to America, where it evolved into the modern banjo. Over time, the banjo became used in many different styles of folk music, including bluegrass, country, Dixieland, Celtic, and "old-time" music. The instrument is made from a drum head stretched over a round wooden hoop and a metal ring. They can have four, five, or six strings.

ACOUSTIC GUITAR - The guitar is played all over the world, in many different styles of music. It is made from thin pieces of wood that are glued together, coated with varnish, and baked. The body of the guitar is hollow, with a hole in the front that helps amplify the sound. Then the six strings are stretched almost the entire length of the instrument. The guitar is played by plucking the strings with the fingers of the right hand. With the fingers of the left hand, the guitarist presses the strings down against the fingerboard to make the different notes. A guitarist can play just one string at a time, or two, three, or even all six strings at once.



BASS GUITAR - The discovery of electricity led to all kinds of new musical instruments. The first electric guitars were made in the 1930s and are now used in almost every kind of popular music. Unlike acoustic guitars, electric guitars have a flat, solid body. While the electric guitar is used to play the melody, the bass guitar mostly plays the bass line: the low notes that help keep the rhythm.



“Family Tree”



Listen to
the song.

6

Before the days of Jello
Lived a prehistoric fellow,
Who loved a **maid** and **courted** her
Beneath the **banyan tree**.
And they had lots of children.
And their children all had children.
And they kept on having children
Until one of them had me!

We're a family and we're a tree.
Our roots go deep down in history
From my great-great-granddaddy reaching up to me,
We're a green and growing family tree.

My grandpa came from **Russia**;
My grandma came from **Prussia**;
They met in **Nova Scotia**,
Had my dad in **Tennessee**.
Then they moved to **Yokohama**
Where Daddy met my Mama.
Her dad's from **Alabama** and her mom's part **Cherokee**.

We're a family and we're a tree.
Our roots go deep down in history
From my great-great-granddaddy reaching up to me,
We're a green and growing family tree.

by John Forster & Tom Chapin

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maid: a young unmarried woman

courted: asked to marry

banyan tree: a fig tree from India

Teach your students the
words to “Family Tree” in
American Sign Language:
<http://64.23.8.93/img/ftsl.jpg>



In the Classroom:

- These are the first two verses of “Family Tree.” Explain to your students that Tom Chapin tracked his family tree back to his grandparents in Russia and Prussia. Have each student create their own family tree going back as far as they can. Have them ask parents, grandparents, and other relatives to help. Cut out leaf shapes and write the name and nationality of each ancestor on each leaf. Have them glue or tape their leaves to their own tree drawing, or have the entire class attach their leaves to one big tree.
- Review the vocabulary words (in orange) with your class.
- Help students find the cities, states, and countries mentioned in the song on a world map. Discuss the different characteristics of the cultures of each location.

“The Picnic of the World”



Listen to
the song.

7



All the nations sitting on a blanket
Having a picnic, the Picnic of the World.

There's Holland and there's Poland
And there's Iceland and there's Thailand.
There's England and there's Scotland and America (that's my
land).
There's Canada and Panama; there's Sweden and Aruba,
Korea, Tanzania, not to mention Greece and Cuba.

Mali, Bali, Mexico, and Martinique.
Hungary, Turkey, India, and Mozambique.
Haiti, Fiji, Israel, and Senegal.
Kenya, Ghana, Jordan, and Nepal.

All sitting on the same big blanket
With the same big basket

Full of sandwiches and deviled eggs.
We're all drinking from the same big thermos
At the same big picnic.
It's the Picnic of the World.

There's Pakistan, Afghanistan, Malaya, and Nigeria.
There's Luxembourg and Liechtenstein. Let's not forget Liberia.
There's Paraguay and Uruguay; there's Russia and there's Syria,
Sudan, Japan, Iraq, Iran, and what about Algeria?

Finland, Greenland, Switzerland, and Vietnam.
Denmark, Norway, Swaziland, and Suriname.
Chile, China, Guatemala, Trinidad.
Tonga, Togo, Portugal, and Chad.

All sitting on the same big blanket
With the same warm soda
As the ants crawl on our sandwiches.
We're all swatting at the same mosquitoes,
Eating burned up burgers
At the Picnic of the World.

There's Gambia and Zambia and Laos and Guyana.
There's Libya, Namibia, Andorra, and Botswana.
Then there's Singapore and Ecuador, El Salvador and Lebanon,
Albania, Rumania. There's Burma and Bhutan.

All sitting on the same big blanket
With the same big basket
Full of problems and annoyances,
But all knowing at the deep down heart of it
We're all a part of it,
The Picnic of the, Picnic of the, Picnic of the World.

by John Forster and Jacques Offenbach
© 1990 Limousine Music Co. (ASCAP)

In the Classroom:

- On a map of the world, point out to your students some of the different places named in his song. What continent is it a part of? How big is it? How many people live there? What language do the people there speak? What do they eat? What might they wear? How are these places similar to the United States? How are they different?
- Create a class book about the students and their cultures. Have students draw pictures of themselves. After everyone has completed an illustration, have students create a brief narrative about themselves including things they know about their cultural heritage. Punch holes in each page and use binder rings to keep the class book together.
- Invite students to bring in a food that represents their family heritage and have a class “picnic of the world.”

“A Forest in the Rain”



Listen to
the song.

8

It's hot in here, forest in the rain.
And wet in here, tropical domain.
Hot in here, wet in here,
Come on down and sweat in here, a
forest in the rain.

A million plants, forest in the rain.
A zillion ants, tropical domain.
Lots of plants, scads of ants,
Across the forest floor they dance, a
forest in the rain.

High up in the canopy, at the top of the tallest
tree,

The monkey and kinkajou are hiding from you.
They eat and they sleep and play and sit on the
branch all day.
They laugh at you on the ground and never, never
come down.

Every night, forest in the rain.
Bats take flight, tropical domain.
Every night bats take flight,
Then back to bed before daylight, a forest in the
rain.

Hummingbirds, forest in the rain.
Don't know the words, tropical domain.
Hummingbirds don't know the words
So they hum along with other birds, a forest in the
rain.

The green and the golden frog are having a
dialogue,
Look out for the crocodile, I don't like his smile.
To every tiny moth, to every three-toed sloth,
To the bee in the honeycomb, the rain forest is
home.

Every tree, forest in the rain.
Says to me, tropical domain.
Every tree says to me,
“Let us grow and let us be a forest in the rain.
Let us grow and let us be a forest in the rain.”
A forest in the rain.



In the Classroom:

- Ask students what they know about rainforests. Explain that rainforests are warm year-round and get a great deal of rainfall. They also contain more types of trees and more kinds of animals than any other place on the earth. Many products people use—such as medicines, nuts, and rubber—come from the rainforest. Tell students that the rainforests are disappearing because people are clearing the land for homes, farming, or lumber.
- Create a miniature rainforest (also known as a terrarium) with a plastic soda bottle, soil, plants, and water. Take the clear plastic of the bottle out of the colored bottom, and then cut off the spout (this will be used as the cover). Now fill the dark plastic bottom with soil and small plants. After watering the plants, invert the clear plastic over this small garden so the plants will be covered. The cover will insure that the moisture stays in and will help keep the plants alive.
- Ask students what kinds of animal wildlife are common to their area and list their answers on chart paper. Make a second list of animals that are common to a tropical rainforest. Discuss the similarities (need for food, shelter and climate) and the differences in the animals on the two lists. Students can play a guessing game by having one student pantomime the actions of one of the animals listed and letting the others guess which animal is being dramatized.

by Michael Mark & Tom Chapin

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“What Is a Didgeridoo?”



Listen to
the song.

9

What is a didgeridoo? What is a didgeridoo?
It comes from the land of the kangaroo.
But what does a didgeridoo do? What does a didgeridoo?

I learned all about the Bouzouki
From a Greek with a sweet tooth named Moukie
“I will strum something neat,
Or lovely and sweet
If you give me a chocolate chip cookie.”
But, what is a didgeridoo? What is a didgeridoo?
It comes from the land of the kangaroo.
It goes from your nose to the top of your shoe.
But what does a didgeridoo do? What does a didgeridoo?

In Hawaii I heard ukulele
From a young hula dancer named Haley.
She said, “I love to play while I practice my sway, So I ukulele
daily.”
But, what is a didgeridoo? What is a didgeridoo?
It comes from the land of the kangaroo.
It goes from your nose to the top of your shoe.
It’s a hollow stick that termites chew,
But what does a didgeridoo do? What does a didgeridoo?

[Watch and listen to a master didgeridoo player.](#)

I know ‘bout the balalaika.
From a Moscow musician named Micah
He said, “I’m the betsk from here to Plesetsk
‘Cause I play it while riding my bike-a.”
But, what is a didgeridoo? What is a didgeridoo?
It comes from the land of the kangaroo.
It goes from your nose to the top of your shoe.
It’s a hollow stick that termites chew,
Made of eucalyptus or bamboo,
But what does a didgeridoo do? What does a
didgeridoo?

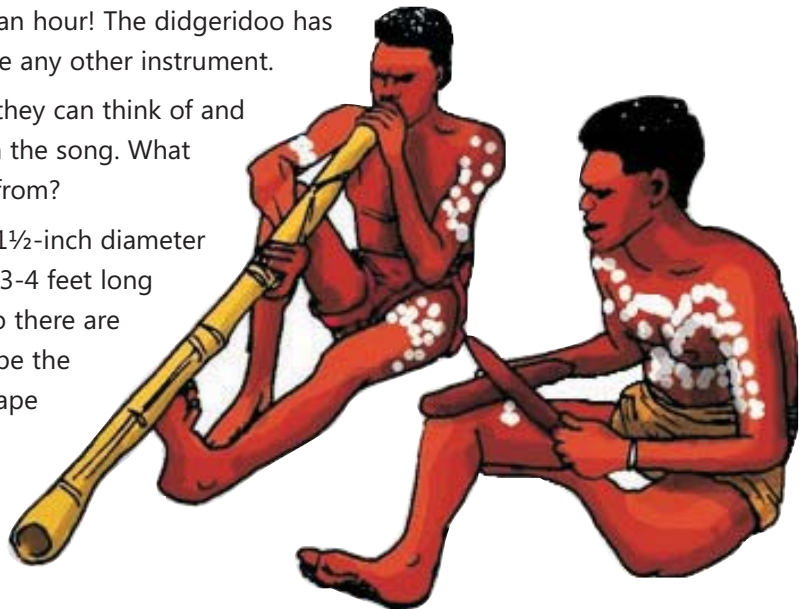
A Caribbean captain named Mongo
Played me sail-away songs on the bongo.
“I wish I could stay-o and play-o all DAY-O.
But my banana boat’s leaving, so long-o.”
But, what is a didgeridoo? What is a didgeridoo?
You pucker and blow and this sucker will buzz
And growl like it’s full of carpet fuzz.
It’s the coolest sound that ever was,
And that’s what a didgeridoo does, That’s what a
didjeri-does (do).

by Michael Mark & Tom Chapin
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In the Classroom:

- Explain to students that a didgeridoo is an instrument invented by the native people of Australia, who are called aborigines (a-bo-RIDGE-uh-nee-z). The didgeridoo is at least 1,500 years old. It is made out of a long, hollow wooden tube and played by buzzing the lips into the mouthpiece. Didgeridoo players have a special way of breathing that lets them hold a note for nearly an hour! The didgeridoo has an eerie sound that doesn’t sound like any other instrument.
- Ask students how many instruments they can think of and include the instruments mentioned in the song. What country does each instrument come from?
- Make a didgeridoo out of a piece of 1½-inch diameter PVC pipe. Cut a length of pipe about 3-4 feet long and carefully sand or buff the ends so there are no rough edges. Choose one end to be the mouthpiece. Build up layers of duct tape around the rim of the mouthpiece to protect your lips when you blow into it. Decorate the outside of the instrument with stickers, permanent markers, colored tape. etc.





It's gonna be dinner soon. It's gonna be dinner soon.
I've been waiting all afternoon, it's gonna be dinner soon.

Take a plate, fill your belly, ravioli, vermicelli,
Pizza pie is always cool,
Some spaghetti sauce and a pasta fahzool.
Grab your chopsticks, drop that fork,
Have some egg rolls and moo shoo pork
Hot and sour soup is nice and a bowl of chicken fried
rice.

It's gonna be dinner soon. It's gonna be dinner soon.
I've been waiting all afternoon, It's gonna be dinner soon.
From Albuquerque to Cameroon it's gonna be dinner soon.
I'm holding onto my fork and spoon, It's gonna be dinner
soon.

Shrimp tempura, teriyaki, ebi, uni, tekamaki
Yellowtail is so delish,
Did you know sushi is a piece of raw fish?
Chili peppers, hot tamale
Can make your tummy melancholy.
But guacamole, salsa, tortilla chips just make me smack my
lips.

It's gonna be dinner soon. It's gonna be dinner soon.
I've been waiting all afternoon, It's gonna be dinner soon.
For dessert we'll have a macaroon. It 's gonna be dinner
soon.
Holding onto my fork and spoon, It's gonna be dinner soon.

What's that rumbling, grumbling noise?
A hungry herd of girls and boys.



Step up to the world's buffet;
It's a smorgasbord and it's simply gourmet!
Pick a country. Make a wish.
You're sure to get your favorite dish.
Grab a napkin. Take a seat. Pass the catsup and let's eat!
It's gonna be dinner soon. It's gonna be dinner soon.
I've been waiting all afternoon, It's gonna be dinner soon.
Even couples on their honeymoon are thinking 'bout dinner
soon.
Holding onto my fork and spoon, It's gonna be dinner soon.
Bon appétit!

by Michael Mark & Tom Chapin
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In the Classroom:

- Play a fun language game by having students name toppings they like on their pizzas. Have the first child begin by saying "I'm going to make a pizza with . . ." Have the second child repeat what the first child said and add the name of his/her favorite topping to the end of the sentence. Continue until every child has had a chance to add a topping name to the list. Use age and ability to determine when to start the sentence over with the name of one topping.
- Have students draw their favorite foods (or cut out pictures from magazines). Have them assemble their pictures into a collage and glue them to a piece of cardboard or construction paper.



What's My Job at the Show?

Going to see a play at a theater is not the same as watching TV. When you are sitting in audience at the State Theatre, the actors will be in the same room as you. They will be able to hear and see everything that goes on in the audience. Use the key to find out what your job is at the performance.



watch



listen





performance




audience



applaud

When I go to a , I am part of the . This is a very

important job. I have to  and  carefully.

If I talk or move around, the actors and the  will have a

hard time paying attention to the . When the



is over, I can



to show that I liked it.

On the Internet

Tom Chapin sings *Picnic of the World*, from *This Pretty Planet*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WVrKPaiTmk>

Tom Chapin and company sing *This Pretty Planet* and *Walk the World*.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hOTCM4eFjRE>

Tom recommends these sites that help make a difference:

The Hunger Site

www.thehungersite.com

The Child Health Site

www.thechildhealthsite.com

The Literacy Site

www.theliteracysite.com

The Animal Rescue Site

www.theanimalrescuesite.com

The Rainforest Site

www.therainforestsite.com

Music

Tom Chapin: *Around the World and Back Again*. Sony Wonder, 1996.

Tom Chapin: *This Pretty Planet*. Sony Wonder, 2000.

Tom Chapin: *Billy the Squid Gadfly*, 1992.

Tom Chapin: *Mother Earth*. Gadfly, 1989.

Various artists: *A Child's Celebration of Folk Music*. Music for Little People, 1996. Artists range from Pete Seeger and Woody Guthrie to Michelle Shocked and Sweet Honey in the Rock.

Picnic Playground. Putumayo World Music, 2009. Artists from around the world perform songs about food, cooking, and healthy eating in a global gumbo of musical styles and languages.

Books

Tom Chapin: Around the World and Back Again, by Tom Chapin. Cherry Lane Music, 1998. Illustrations, teacher's guide, and lyrics to accompany the album.

The Best of Tom Chapin: Family Favorites, by Tom Chapin. Cherry Lane Music, 2006. Teacher's guide, lyrics, and sheet music to accompany a variety of Tom Chapin's most popular songs.

Sing a Whale Song, by Tom Chapin and John Forster, illustrated by Jerry Smath. Random House, 1993. Story-songbook about a young boy's journey of environmental awareness.

Children Around the World, by Donata Montanari. Kids Can Press, 2004. This picture book takes young children on a journey around the globe, where they meet children from twelve different countries. Grades Pre-K-2.

The Everything Green Classroom Book: From recycling to conservation, all you need to create an eco-friendly learning environment (Everything Series), by Tessa Hill. Adams Media, 2009.

The Kids' Multicultural Cookbook: Food & Fun Around the World, by Deanna F. Cook. Williamson Publishing Company, 1995. Grades 3-6.

Rain Forest, by Helen Cowcher. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1990. Grades K-2.

Ty's One-Man Band, by Mildred Pitts Walter. Scholastic, 1984. A young boy meets a man who creates music out of the simplest materials. Grades Pre-K-2.

