

The Non-Toxic Band

Music for every kind of kid...



The Non-Toxic Band presents lively, original, musical concerts for young audiences. The music is upbeat, engaging and educational, is presented in a variety of styles, incorporates multicultural and environmental themes and addresses questions about who we are, how we feel, where we live and how things work. Why do honeybees dance? How does the cycle of the rain work? What is a piñata? Can you smile in Spanish? Is the wind that blows through Africa on Saturday the same wind that helps you fly your kite on Tuesday? If you had a tail, what kind would it be? If you throw something away, is it gone? Though the content of the music is directed toward kids, the shows are equally appealing to adults.

Creative partners since 1984, Joe Romano and Susan Elliott have fifty years experience collectively writing and performing for children. As music director for The Texas Theatre Foundation, Joe wrote three original musicals, which toured Texas and Louisiana; he has been a contributing songwriter for *Sesame Street* since 1978. Susan is an award-winning studio singer whose recordings for Silver Burdett and Ginn have been used in public school systems throughout the world. Together, they toured with the multiracial, bilingual, children's theatre company, *Nuestro Teatro*, in New York City, and directed the world premier of Joe's original, bilingual children's musical, *The Ghost of La Llorona*, co-written with Rodney Rincon and commissioned by Express Theatre of Houston for its 1995 touring season. They have written television scripts for an experimental science program, *WUFNIKS!* (NEON, Inc. New York), commissioned by the National Science Foundation and funded in part by the National Endowment For Children's Educational Television (NECET), and filmed two pilots for a pre-school television series entitled, *ddog's house*, featuring Joe's original compositions and developed by Emmy Award-winning producer, Al Hyslop (*Captain Kangaroo*, *Sesame Street*, *3-2-1 Contact*). Most recently, Susan and Joe were honored to write the 2010 Texas Reading Club Theme Song, *Catch The Reading Express!*, for the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

When the duo decided to produce an album of original music for kids in the fall of 1993, many of Houston's best musicians were eager to participate in the project; the result was the formation of The Non-Toxic Band and the release of their first independent recording, *It All Comes Together Right Here* (Monzo Music ASCAP). Recommended by Scholastic Books of New York as supplemental educational material for teachers, *It All Comes Together Right Here* received favorable national reviews in *USA Today*, *School Library Journal* and the American Library Association's *Booklist*. The Non-Toxic Band's long-awaited, second CD, *It's A Good Day*, was released November 2, 2012.

Both Susan and Joe teach private music lessons and are performing artists in residence at Writers in the Round, in Houston.

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