

Dr. Gwendolyn McGraw

Dr. McGraw is an artist-educator known for her expertise in research-based music curricula and audio-media, the development of children's singing voices, and early childhood music. Notable accomplishments include the development of a multi-national corporate early childhood music curriculum that has been successfully implemented in more than 60 countries world-wide, award-winning children's recordings, and numerous publications on singing voice (vocal development; working with pitch-inaccurate singers). She has presented two keynote addresses (Europe and U.S.) on the subject of music and language in addition to numerous research presentations and research-to-practice clinics in the US and abroad.

Recent research includes multi-modal music interventions with young children on the autism spectrum (research accepted for presentation at EBRAMUS - Europe, BRAin and MUSic [2013, University of Pavia, Italy] and Neuroscience & Music V – Cognitive Stimulation and Rehabilitation [2014; Dijon, France] – both conferences sponsored by The Mariani Foundation for Paediatric Neurology, Italy).

She has served on the faculties of the University of Southern California (Chair of the Dept. of Music Education), UCLA, Emory University, CSUS, and The University of Georgia. A choral conductor, pianist, vocalist, and composer, she directed the 100+ voice Women's Glee Club at The University of Georgia, as well as community, school, and church choirs. She has taught courses in a number of music fields, including graduate level research (design and statistics, quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods) and graduate early childhood music (co-acquisition of music and language in infancy, movement, perception and cognition, emotion, play, music-making).

Prior to her years in higher education, Dr. McGraw taught children aged 3-12 for two decades. She returned to K-3 music classrooms in 2011, working part-time for one year at the Point Dume Science Magnet School in Malibu, CA. In addition to teaching, she conducted research on singing voice development and topics related to developmental psychoacoustics.

McGraw earned her B.Mus. cum laude at Queens University (North Carolina) where she was a 4-year Dana Scholar. Her Masters and D.M.A. are from the University of Georgia where she was honored with university-wide Excellence in Teaching awards and named a University Fellow. There she studied with the late Gene Simons (pioneer in early childhood music), Harriet I. Hair (quantitative research in music), Richard Graham (music therapy), and Olin Parker (music psychology). She also did graduate work at The Florida State University where she was mentored by Jack A. Taylor (systematic musicology, journal Perception).

Recently retired, she enjoys playing with grandchildren, gardening and exercising, sailing, playing and composing music, reading research, and ongoing work on two books.