



# JULIE WYLIE

All my research, compositions and work with young children and their families including my own music classes and work with children with special needs at the Champion Centre Burwood Hospital Christchurch is because of my love for the Lord and the spiritual impact that music has had on my own life since early childhood. In my daily work experiences as a music specialist I have the honour to see music making a huge difference in children's lives and in the lives of their families. It is what inspired and motivated me to found the organization Musical Parenting, helping families to establish music making in their own homes and in their communities. I was drawn to do post-graduate study into how music works and why it is so important for the spiritual and emotional well-being of our children and their families.

When music is inspired by God it brings healing, hope, inspiration and love. I have seen children with profound special needs take their first steps when they are supported by a song, I have heard such children sing their first words. Music provides the means for communicating with the physiological system and to which it responds profoundly. The elements of music: rhythm, melody, harmony, dynamics (loud and soft), timbre (the individual quality of each voice or the sound of each instrument), texture and form are responded to intuitively by the human brain. Music unlike language needs no cognitive processing but can be responded to at an intuitive level. An unborn baby responds to the musical qualities of the mother's voice. Even a prematurely born baby can interact musically. Neuroscientists such as Trevarthen with Malloch, and biological engineer Schneck working with Berger a music therapist are doing major research on the impact of music, what music is, how it is processed and how it affects the body and soul.



I would like to quote from my book *“Music, Learning and Your Child”* Canterbury University Press 1996, page 11: *“Music has the power to delight, to transform and to motivate. It can touch the soul and bring peace and healing to the listener”*. Music is an intuitive language of the emotions. Music regulates stressed systems and is one of the most powerful means of relaxing the body.

Having just returned from Lithuania, Korea and Japan where I had been invited to present seminars and music workshops, I experienced the power of music in the most glorious music interactions. We didn’t share the same languages, but in every case, the children, parents and I were part of a very special spiritual exchange of joy, love and peace through the language of music. We didn’t need words or language, the beat, rhythms, melodies and musical form united us and held us in a way that nothing else can. I had prayed that the Lord would go before me and prepare the way. He truly did.



**JULIE WYLIE, AUTHOR OF  
*“MUSIC, LEARNING AND YOUR CHILD”***