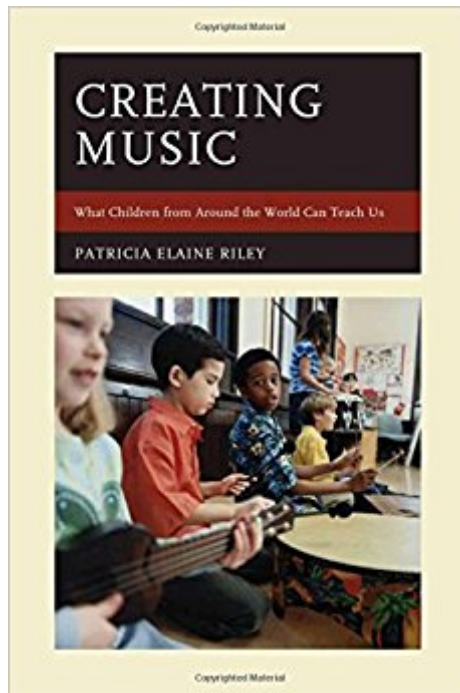




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# Creating Music: What Children From Around The World Can Teach Us



## Synopsis

Children create music in individually unique ways, but also using common processes. Each creating process component stated in the United Statesâ™ National Music Standards (imagine, plan and make, evaluate and refine, and present; NCCAS, 2014) is explored in this text using childrenâ™s creations from China, India, Ireland, Mexico, and the United States as examples. What can the characteristics of music created by children from five diverse locations teach us about creating music? How do the sounds surrounding children in their schools, homes, and communities affect the music they create and what can be learned from this? How do childrenâ™s similar creating processes inform how we teach music? These questions are investigated as the childrenâ™s music compositions and improvisations are shared and examined. As this narrative unfolds, readers will become acquainted with the children, their original music, and what the children say about their music and its creation. What we learn from this exploration leads to teaching strategies, projects, lesson plans, and mentoring recommendations that will help music educators benefit from these particular childrenâ™s creations.

## Book Information

Paperback: 312 pages

Publisher: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers (December 28, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1475830173

ISBN-13: 978-1475830170

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.9 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

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Best Sellers Rank: #1,983,749 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #79 inÂ Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Theory, Composition & Performance > Philosophy & Social Aspects #2008 inÂ Books > Education & Teaching > Schools & Teaching > Student Life #3835 inÂ Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Performing Arts > Music

## Customer Reviews

Riley is an experienced music teacher and professor, and the present book arose from her desire to help pre-service and in-service music educators understand and implement the revised standards for music composition. The focus of this fascinating project is articulated in the book's subtitle. The process of communication and collaboration a child uses to create music reflects his/her culture

and awareness of other cultures. The author divides the book into three sections: the first looks at applied research and the curriculum used in formulating the project; the second examines components of the creative process and describes the cultures of the five countries represented in the book; the last looks at educators' role as facilitators. The inclusion of lesson plans and examples of projects for teachers to encourage classroom music composition and improvisation makes this an extraordinarily valuable resource. The book is well written and abounds with illustrations, tables, figures, charts, interviews, and curriculum standards.

**Summing Up:** Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates; graduate students; professionals. (CHOICE)

Patricia Riley's *Creating Music: What Children From Around the World Can Teach Us* is not only a first-rate exploration of how children across the globe create with music, but it is an extremely valuable deep-dive on the composition and improvisation components of the new National Core Music Standards. As a member of the writing team of the High School Composition and Theory Standards, I am overjoyed that Riley has done such extensive research and put this text together in a cogent and useful manner. The chapter on process alone is worth the price of admission! (Rob Deemer, PhD, head of music composition, State University of New York at Fredonia and chair of the NYSSMA Composition & Improvisation Committee)

In her illuminating book, Dr. Patricia Riley helps teachers to understand and teach the "creating process" that is a key component of the National Core Music Standards. Anyone interested in music education will benefit from reading this book, but it is a gift to teachers who may be confused or intimidated by the composition component of the new standards. Riley accomplishes this with her deft presentation of the entire compositional process through the creative voices of children from China, India, Ireland, Mexico, and the United States. The children's conversations, colorful sketches, and compositions bring the theoretical principles down to earth with charming immediacy, and Riley's global perspective makes this book a unique contribution to music education literature. (Daniel Deutsch, founding chair of the National Association for Music Education's Council for Music Composition)

This book is timely and important. Teachers will address the new National Core Music Standards and embed them into existing curricula that are often weak in the Creating artistic process. Of special importance is the chapter on mentoring - abundant with children's examples, process guides, and narrative descriptions. As teachers move forward, mentoring is a key element in furthering children's composition, so well articulated here. (Sandi MacLeod, EdD, executive director, Music-COMP)

*Creating Music: What Children From Around the World Can Teach Us* is an excellent mix of carefully depicted observations and practical suggestions for including music composition in the education of children. Riley brings a teacher's eye and a researcher's mind to the world

of children creating music. The book includes many suggestions for mentoring young composers and highlights connections to the new US National Core Music Standards. (Janice Smith, professor of music education, Queens College CUNY) Riley has successfully connected multiple strands of research focusing on children's original music creations, including international perspectives and influences of cultural contexts, historical frameworks, national standards as guidelines, and an extensive literature review. Contributions to the field are found within the international insights that inform us about context and universalities, and children's musical understanding as represented through their original musical works. With these insights, Riley shares her strategies when guiding, facilitating and mentoring young composers and improvisers. (Betty Anne Younger, PhD, dean, professor of music education, Don Wright Faculty of Music, The University of Western Ontario)

Patricia Riley is an associate professor of music and the coordinator of the music education program at the University of Vermont in Burlington. Previously, she taught at the Crane School of Music, the State University of New York at Potsdam and Green Mountain College in Poultney; and instrumental, general, and choral music for twenty years in the public schools of New Jersey and Vermont.

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