

# New CD conjures up campfire memories

By Charmagne Eckert  
Special to the Pictorial

“Oh, give me a home where the buffalo roam...”

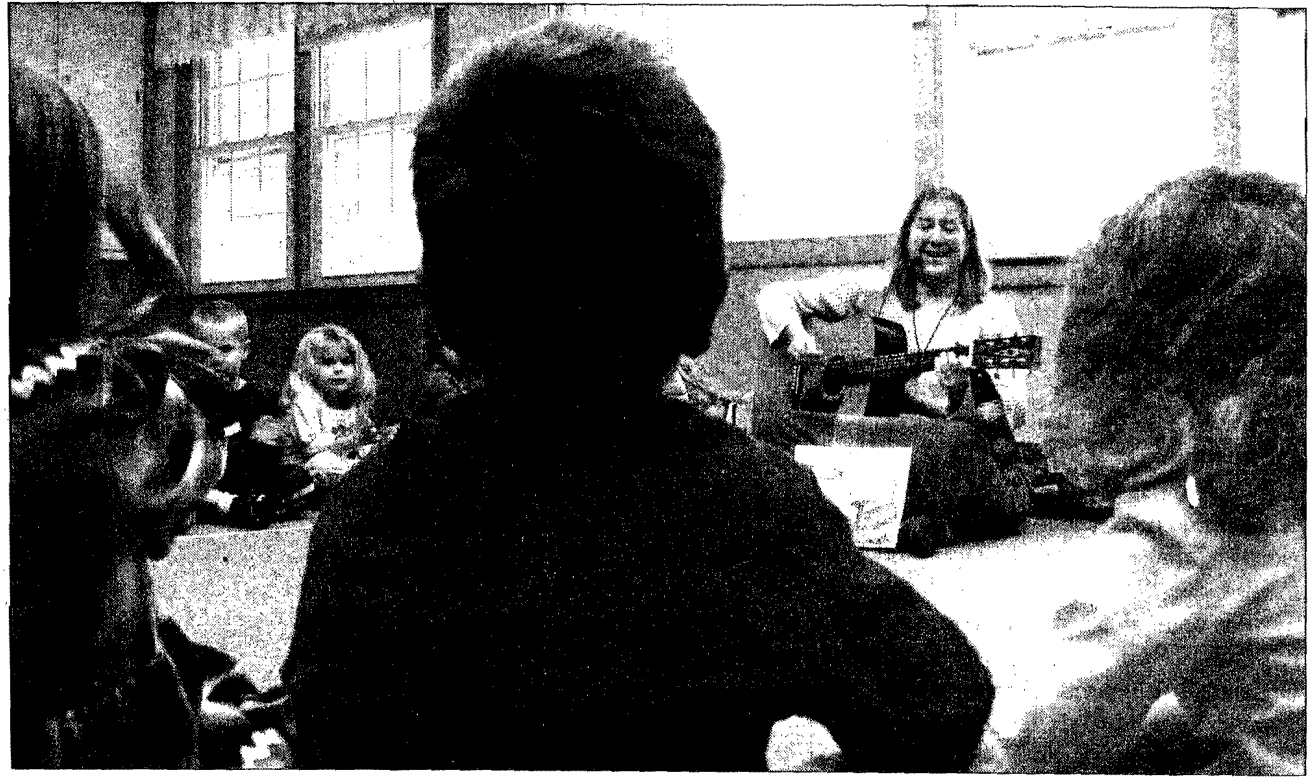
Ah, the acrid campfire smoke that brings tears to your eyes, the buzzing of the mosquitoes, the gooey film of dirt encrusted melted marshmallow that clings to your fingers. And more than anything, those rousing campfire tunes sung with gusto by friends and family of all ages. Bringing back those fleeting childhood moments and perpetuating the tradition of the good old family sing-along is what Margie Warner tackles with humor and grace on her new CD “Singin’ Round the Campfire.”

Maybe its because she is so experienced working with kids, or maybe it’s because there remains the sneaking suspicion that at heart she’s really a kid herself, that makes this collection of traditional and new campfire songs is simply so much darn fun. With original pieces composed by Warner such as, “Ear-Wiggie (The Anti-Bug song)” and “Sock Monster” joining classics “Polly Wolly Doodle” and “Down by the Bay,” there is a silly song to get just about anyone to open up and sing.

“Children are musical beings; they want to sing, get up and jump around, to express themselves,” said Warner. “These songs are made for kids to enjoy and to share with their friends and families, so they all have a repetitive chorus that is simple enough for everyone to pick up right away.”

The interactive elements of the songs make them particularly conducive to rollicking get-togethers like the ones Warner remembers from her own childhood. “We used to get together as a family every Sunday and sing,” Warner recalls, “There was nothing like it, and I think it is something that every family can enjoy and have fun with.”

Preserving and encouraging our oral tradition is important to Warner, particularly as society moves at an ever-increasing pace, and electronic gizmos steal valuable social time. “A lot of this is actually story telling,” maintains Warner, “It is a very powerful thing to sit down with a guitar or [other instrument] and just share a collective experience with others.” Ensuring that the experience is multi generational makes it even more powerful in



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Warner’s view.

Meg Gister teaches music at Chester Elementary School, and her six-year-old son sings on the CD with the other “Campfire Kids,” also sees value for people of all ages. “It is interesting, there are parents who don’t know some of these traditional sing-along songs, but the grandparents do. It’s like it skipped a generation. And now they have the opportunity to join in with their parents and their children. It is really meaningful for them,” Gister says.

Gister also finds the work done by Warner to be particularly effective in bringing music to families from all walks of life. “I think one thing that is very important that

Margie’s CD does, is to show people that music is for everyone. You don’t have to have a lot of money, or be formally trained in music. You don’t even have to play an instrument – you can use the CD to sing along with,” says Gister.

Singin’ Round the Campfire CDs are available locally at: Celebrations, Deep River, The Red Balloon, Essex, Stork Exchange and The Other Place, Old Saybrook, Kid’s Stuff Consignment, Haddam, Funky Monkey Toys, Killingworth, Belles and Beaus, Madison.

For further information: phone – 860-526-5794 or visit – [www.MusicWithMargie.com](http://www.MusicWithMargie.com)