

The Feierabend Approach to Music Education

What is the Feierabend Approach?

The Feierabend approach to music education is based on the philosophies of [John Feierabend](#), who believes all people are born with the potential to become musical. His teachings stem from the Kodaly method from Hungary and an extensive survey of research related to the development of singing and movement skills in young children. Feierabend teachers strive to provide a music program that's rich in the repertoire of traditional children's songs, rhymes, games and dances that develop young children's musical aptitude through regular musical workouts. In the early years of Feierabend music education, the learner emerges as a musical person by developing independence for thinking tunes, feeling rhythms and responding to the expressiveness in music. As the learner matures, independent musical thinking blossoms at every age with the help of a rich variety of traditional folk and classical literature and fun, musically thinking games guided by an easy to use 12 step plan. The ultimate goal of the Feierabend approach is to create fully engaged, independent musicians who can hear, understand, read, write, compose, and improvise music using the voice and body. Available as two curriculums used by more than 6000 music teachers worldwide, [First Steps in Music](#)® and [Conversational Solfege™](#) are a unique combination of research-based curriculum, quality literature, and practical experience.



[John Crever](#) is a driven educator with more than 25 years of music instructional, production, management and community organizing experience. His ability to connect with students and teachers of diverse socio-economic and cultural backgrounds has enabled him to successfully teach general music and choir in communities ranging from those ravaged by urban blight, to suburban private settings, to overseas in the international school system in the Arabian Gulf. Throughout, he has carried his love of Kodaly education from Westminster Choir College ('93, '96) to these diverse venues. John began his transition from a traditional American Kodaly and Music Learning Theory to a Feierabend inspired instructor in 2008; a move that brought joy and satisfaction to him and countless students in the inner city and beyond. In addition to his own classroom work, he leads workshops for teachers, bridging access to the Feierabend curricula, offering instructors quality techniques for imparting their own love of music through active learning in song and movement. John lives in Portland, Oregon.

Certification Courses offered by John Crever

The **First Steps in Music** curriculum is designed to build a child's musical potential by exercising their natural Tuneful, Beatful, and Artful abilities.

[First Steps in Music for Infants and Toddlers](#)

provides developmentally appropriate lessons that are well suited for children under three years old with their caregivers.

[First Steps in Music for Preschool and Beyond](#) provides lessons for children as young as three, but is appropriate for any aged child that needs to further develop their ability to think tunes, move with the beat and respond to the expressive qualities music. Traditional folk songs, rhymes and classical music are the primary source materials used to develop their musical minds. Created by Dr. John Feierabend, from his decades of research, this pedagogical approach is contained in two books and 8 CD's, packed with repertoire, activities and directions, performance indicators, assessment tracking and three years worth of example lesson plans for infants/toddlers or preschool through elementary. Significant class time will be spent on learning the techniques and activities necessary to get started while exploring the rich repertoire of Pitch Exploration activities, Fragment Songs, Simple Songs, SongTales, Expressive Creative Movement, Circle Games, Action Songs, Beat Motion activities and more. Participants who successfully complete this course will receive an official certificate of completion from the Feierabend Association for Music Education (FAME).



First Steps in Music

2 Graduate Credits available with 20 hr course



Conversational Solfege

2 Graduate Credits available

[Conversational Solfege™](#) is a music-reading curriculum that grows literacy by developing a deeper understanding of music reading through patterns, traditional folk songs, rhymes and classical music as the primary source material. CS is intended for music teachers who have completed [First Steps in Music](#) and learners who have already demonstrated they can think tunes, move with the beat and respond to the expressive qualities music. This course will show how to use the teacher's manual to introduce students to music literacy by an "ear-first" approach, similar to how we all learned language as a child. Music teachers will learn how to utilize Feierabend's 12 steps to build student's conversationally improvised musical ideas into original written compositions. Significant class time will be spent learning about each of the twelve steps, how to use the teacher's manual to plan measurable learning units, picking repertoire, practice Techniques to create lesson that intensify musical thinking for every student, and techniques to quickly assess student achievement. Participants who successfully complete this course will receive an official certificate of completion from the Feierabend Association for Music Education (FAME).

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