

**GOT A SWEET TOOTH FOR FUN, ENTERTAINING
AND EDUCATIONAL KIDS MUSIC?
CHICAGO BASED SINGER, SONGWRITER AND
PRE-SCHOOL MUSIC TEACHER JEANIE B
HAS YOUR 'SUGAR BUZZ' RIGHT HERE!**

There's only one way to explain the way Jeanie B! can keep up with her whirlwind schedule that includes teaching music to pre-schoolers at three schools and a crazy amount of gigs at venues throughout Chicago. This singer-songwriter's got a major *Sugar Buzz*! That's the name of her latest children's CD featuring an incredible 17 super-catchy tracks designed to delight and educate (a spoonful of music helps the learning go down is her motto) kids with snappy lyrics and musical styles ranging from rock and folk to classic country, blues, bluegrass and Bossa Nova/jazz.

Over the past ten years, Jeanie has developed a unique dual life, teaching music to literally thousands of pre-school and special needs kids at up to five schools at a time while performing regularly (in ensembles of varying sizes from solo to up to 6 pieces) at iconic venues and events like Grant Park, Millennium Park, Chicago Botanic Gardens, Taste of Chicago, Field Museum, Lincoln Park Zoo, Brookfield Zoo, Kohl's Children's Museum, Chicago March of Dimes Walk-A-Thon and Fitzgerald's. Yet if you ask the former film editor and devoted mom of two--who began performing her own songs at the age of 15—she'll say her life making music for children happened purely by accident.

Back in 2001, while focusing on raising her young family and developing a music career, Jeanie had been doing numerous gigs throughout Chicago, playing her “adult” songs that incorporated all of the styles she loved. As she finished one show at a local coffeehouse, a woman who ran a small private company called Happy Child asked her if she did children's music—because her multi-faceted vibe would be perfect for that genre. The woman had been looking for a teacher to run parent-child music classes for pre-schoolers. Jeanie began teaching several classes a week, entertaining up to 14 kids at a time and their parents in a small, intimate classroom environment. She has since devoted her creative life to recording and performing music for young children. The singer's catalog of independent releases prior to *Sugar Buzz* includes *I'm A Kid* (2005), *Mommy Knows Best* (2006) and *Joy* (2008).

“What appealed to me was the opportunity to write music for young minds that are so game, like an open book waiting to be filled with knowledge and fun,” says Jeanie. “Kids are open to anything you present as long as it's done in an engaging way, and the subject matter possibilities are endless. It's fun to explore music with them and get immediate feedback on the new material I'm working on. I think the new songs on *Sugar Buzz* reflect both the fun and thoughtful side of me. I try to write about subjects that are on kids' minds as well as have plenty of fun songs about things that they like to do and just plain silliness. I get a lot of inspiration from actual events or things kids I meet say or do.”

For instance, Jeanie wrote “Jammies All Day Long” for a little girl she knows who wore her “footy” jammies every day for years. When she outgrew them, she would put her arms in the sleeves over her regular clothes and let the legs dangle down her back. When the arms got too small, she tied them around her neck, but she was always with her jammies. Jeanie says, “I wrote the song to just say, ‘Go Girl’ and let her know it's cool to be her and we should all wear our jammies all day long!”

While “Sugar Buzz,” the title song, is all about eating too much sugar and having fun and rockin' out, Jeanie is also renowned for writing songs about topics no other children's music artist will tackle. The whimsical “Please Don't Pick Your Nose” was a request from the teachers of a classroom where Jeanie teaches; nose picking had become an epidemic in their class and she used the song to help them out while

also having a good chuckle. On the more inspirational side is “The Best Me,” which she wrote to empower kids, especially those with special needs, to embrace the idea that it’s okay to be different. Jeanie’s other favorites include “Dance Party Every Night”, “When You Open A Book, “Five Reasons to Ride my Bike” and “Hey Great Pumpkin”.

“My primary goal is having fun! I love writing and performing songs that are fun for the kids and adults as well,” says Jeanie. “It’s a lot of work, involving many hours of performing in various settings, but I enjoy what I do very much and find it immensely rewarding to make a difference in the lives of these kids and their families. One woman who came to a show recently was pregnant with twins and freaked out about her pregnancy. She said she heard my song ‘Tired Town’ and suddenly felt calm and assured that everything would ultimately be all right. The song changed her whole mindset about her pregnancy. That’s the kind of impact I love to make, writing a song for kids to enjoy that can also change the life of an adult. Every time I feel like giving up, something like this will happen and it confirms that I’m doing exactly what I’m supposed to be doing.”