

kindiependent

we are seattle's independent kids and family music scene
kindiependent.com

"Seattle: Ground Zero for Cool Kids' Music ... the Seattle kids' music scene is so interesting these days. Today's parents, who grew up listening to Nirvana, Pearl Jam, Soundgarden, the Presidents of the United State of America and other local wonders, might just be the unwitting witnesses to another Seattle music renaissance, this one in children's music."
– [Martha Brockenbrough, MSN.com](#)

Kindiependent is a collective of like-minded people who are passionate about cultivating a vibrant kids' and family music scene in the Pacific Northwest. Through creative collaborations and community events, Kindiependent's mission is to develop a network of family-friendly artists and organizations that supports cultural innovation. The collective is comprised of six diverse performers who play music for entire families: **Recess Monkey, The Not Its!, Caspar Babypants, Johnny Bregar, The Board of Education and The Harmonica Pocket.**

Says **Recess Monkey's Jack Forman**, "We're so lucky in Seattle to have a diverse and talented group of musicians who gear what they do toward entire families ... and we're all legitimate fans of each other! We actively play shows together, contribute to each others' albums, share ideas and support each other however we can: very much in the spirit of the energy that lives at the heart of music for kids and their families. Across the country, people are talking about Seattle's second scene: 'kindie' music. It's cause for celebration!"

Recess Monkey is a critically acclaimed, award-winning trio of Seattle schoolteachers, who bring their special brand of "undeniably hip, yet also kid-accessible" music and humor to their shows. *Time Magazine* said, "Their tight, smart, acclaimed original songs, on subjects like wearing a pair of snow boots, riding a bike and going on a field trip, draw from a host of styles and hint of the Beach Boys, the Beatles (one of their CDs is titled *Tabby Road*), rockabilly and seriously grooving funk." Their sixth album, ***The Final Funktier***, is filled with high-energy funk and new wave grooves presenting **Recess Monkey** in outer space and taking audiences on a stratospheric dance party that occasionally touches down on solid ground with moon boots, jet packs, sunglasses, satellites, and booster seats in hand!

The Not-Its!' debut album, *We Are The Not-Its!*, took the kindie rock scene by storm, receiving a Fids & Kamily Award as one of the best family music albums of 2009 – unprecedented for a freshman release. With the buzz already generated by their upcoming release, *Time Out to Rock*, it's clear the band is on a mission to make kids dance, with up-tempo, power-pop hits families love. Featuring the vocals of Sarah Shannon (of lauded '90s Sub Pop band Velocity Girl), **The Not-Its!** combine crunchy guitars with smooth, four-part harmonies, all nestled within "fantastic danceable pop gems about gettin' fancy, birthday parties, bath time and intergalactic play dates."



Caspar Babypants is also known as **Chris Ballew**, the lead singer and songwriter for the four times platinum, twice GRAMMY®-nominated rock and roll band The Presidents of the United States of America. As **Caspar Babypants**, Ballew makes high quality, thoughtful, simple, acoustic sing-along songs for parents and kids of all ages to enjoy together. Caspar says: "Having young children is a joyous and unforgettable experience. However, the homes of new parents can also be stressful, sleepless, nervous environments. So I make music that's a positive helping component in the home and car, as well as in concert. I want to help new parents sing to and with their children and provide real, organic, musical relief. I specifically want to make music for the very young because I admire their associative, inventive imaginations, and, as an adult, I nurture that same creativity in myself. I am also involved with non-profits that focus on parent education and outreach to abused, homeless, and neglected kids."

Johnny Bregar is known for his engaging concerts that delight kids and parents alike. His original songs and arrangements of familiar children's songs have a rootsy, jazzy, bluesy sound. He has recorded three CDs in his Ballard studio and is heard on two Putumayo compilations, *Picnic Playground* and *A Family Christmas*. Children's music authority Stefan Shepherd (Zoogobble.com) noted, "They Might Be Giants, Elizabeth Mitchell, maybe Laurie Berkner ... that's an all-star list of kids' musicians right there... So it means something to me when I say that with the release of his third album, *Dragonfly*, I'd add Seattle's Johnny Bregar to that list."

The Board of Education plays kids music just like you remember it. Inspired by *Schoolhouse Rock*, early *Sesame Street* and the *Electric Company*, they create music that is simultaneously intelligent, witty, and musically ridiculous. As premier children's music website *Zoogobble.com* puts it, the Board of Education's debut record is "like nothing else you'll hear in the kids music world." The Kids Music that Rocks Blog said, "Seattle powerpop band Central Services combine their love of melody and hooks with classroom subjects that might otherwise be yawned at by Fourth Graders, to create the ridiculously catchy, funny, and intelligent CD *Central Services Presents: The Board of Education!*"

When **The Harmonica Pocket** takes the stage, audiences don't just sit back to be entertained. The show delivers highly-interactive experiences that get children (and their grownups) singing and moving in their seats. With swinging story-songs, hula hoops, and a suitcase of props, The Harmonica Pocket mixes up Music, Dance, and Imagination Games into a gigglish jambalaya. Audiences are invited to become a tree on a windy day, flex creative writing skills by dreaming up lyrics to songs, and make hilarious sounds as they toss around an imaginary "Ball of Nothing." Themed shows include "Get Loose With Dr. Seuss," "Singing Thanksgiving," and "Ladybug One," and contain gentle ecological and pro-literacy messages. The Harmonica Pocket has performed for busloads of children and adults in theaters, classrooms, libraries, and festivals nationally and internationally. Harmonica Pocket's second children's album titled *Ladybug One* is the winner of a Parents' Choice Recommended Award.