



February 2013

Teacher Feature

**Mandy Stinchcomb** hails from Severna Park, where she now teaches Music Together. She also teaches MT Preschool at the Magothy Cooperative Preschool in Pasadena, another community in which she has ties from her youth.

She relates an early experience with an elementary music teacher who told her she could not sing. Fortunately she did not let that discourage her, and in Middle School she was vindicated when she was accepted into All County Choir. Mandy has been singing ever since and uses her gifts to share the wonderful gift of music with those who are fortunate enough to be in one of her classes.

Mandy attended Chesapeake High School where she became interested in theater, specifically in the technical side. She worked the spotlight for her first show, but her leadership skills led her to become the stage manager for the school productions and also a student business manager for the theater itself. Her drama teacher at the high school arranged for her to work in films, which she did throughout high school, spending summers working behind the scenes in movies such as "*Species II*", "*Hollowman*" and in "*Washington Square*", in which she also had a small walk-on role.

It was her passion for the theater which took her to Goucher College where Mandy earned her BA in Theatre with an emphasis in Stage Managing and a minor in Peace Studies. She joined the Baltimore Stagehand Union where she worked various shows and concerts. Mandy met her husband, Russ through a co-worker while she served as Technical Coordinator for Kaiser Permanente's Educational Theater Program.

Music Together came to her attention through a friend's recommendation when Mandy's daughter Hailey was around one year old. Mandy attended class in Severna Park and appreciated the quality of the music and the time she was able to spend making music with her daughter. Hailey was later joined by little brother Dylan in class and it was when Dylan was around two that Mandy started teaching in 2008. She has enjoyed her own musical journey in transitioning from a MT parent to a teacher, and loves sharing that joy of music with the families in her classes.

Now a mother of three, Mandy is grateful to be able to teach with her youngest daughter, Willow who was born last September. She is delighted that her baby can experience music as a normal part of her human development, and it is a reminder to Mandy to be attentive to the needs of our families with infants. Mandy has always sung to her children, and it is such a joy for her to see them initiating songs and musical activities and hearing Hailey and Dylan singing to their baby sister.