

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Barbara Martin Brings Fun for the Family with From Ragtime to Rock and Roll Show**

Singer, songwriter and guitarist, **Barbara Martin**, will perform “**From Ragtime to Rock and Roll**”, a children’s program tracing the roots of American music on:

Barbara Martin brings her musical versatility and enthusiasm into play as she leads children through two centuries of American music by singing and playing spirituals, blues, jazz and folk music and bringing it all together with early examples of rock and country music. The program reflects the unique melting pot of American music and the many different cultural influences it represents from the infectious rhythms brought over from Africa that were incorporated into spirituals, blues and jazz to the Irish and English folk music that became old time music. Children attending the program learn the European and African origins of the rock and country music they hear on the radio today through singing traditional American songs and clapping the distinctive rhythms that form the basis for blues, swing, country and rock.

Martin has performed the program at libraries, schools and festivals throughout Virginia. She has been performing professionally at festivals and concert venues along the Eastern seaboard for over ten years. Martin began performing during her high school days in Iowa in local coffeehouses and continued in Boston where she earned a Master’s degree in music therapy and was involved in the lively New England music scene. In 1986 she switched gears and moved to the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia where she began to explore the blues and jazz roots of American music. She has released four recordings, which have received critical acclaim from national and regional publications, including her children’s recording **From Ragtime to Rock and Roll**, which was the received the **2000 Silver Honor Parents Choice Award**.