

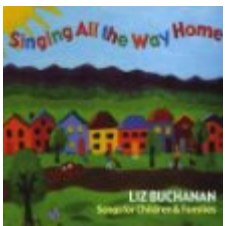
# Must-Hear Music

by AMBER on MAY 4, 2010

in CD REVIEWS

We've been listening to lots of new—and some not so new—music that's super cool. Local favorite [Liz Buchanan](#) recently released a new CD and so did [Princess Katie & Racer Steve](#). And did you know that the ever-awesome [Recess Monkey](#) have a new CD coming out in June?

Here are some highlights from our new collection of favorites:



Liz's new CD is simply a sweet collection of kids' songs with a very folksy and traditional feel. These songs are great for little kids and toddlers. Liz has a rich singing voice that's both beautiful and friendly that really attracts kids, especially shy ones. Her shows are very interactive and kids just seem to feel free to dance and be themselves with her.

I love the song [Hey, Dr. Knickerbocker](#) for its perfect guitar arrangement and sing-along-to lyrics and Ivan just adores [The Hand-Clapping Rap](#) where you clap the syllables of food words. Such a simple idea gets him so excited!

Liz is planning a CD release party at the [Regent](#) in October. Her concert will kick off their Family Fun Series this fall!



[Princess Katie and Racer Steve](#) may have been around making kids' music for a while, but we've only just discovered their music and we're quickly becoming huge fans! Their new CD, [Tiny Cool](#), is like a cartoon rock party in a box. Just add some dance moves and you're all set!

The songs are interspersed with little skits spoken by Katie and Steve and they're just hilarious (ever hear a princess *really* try to get her enchanted forest animals to sing with her? It doesn't work out so well!), but the real fun is in the songs. Just listen to clips from [Clelia's Party](#) and [Tiny Cool](#) and you'll see what I mean. It's like a book you can't put down—in music form!



The guys from [Recess Monkey](#) have been busy preparing for their next project: A trip into outer space! That's right, the funky cool kids' band from Seattle is releasing a *new CD* in



June and it's all about space and what you'll find there. I guess you could say that [The Final Funktier](#) is technically a concept album focusing entirely on one theme, but instead of becoming dry or forced, this really works! From songs about satellite brothers who never leave you alone to beat-box robots every song on this CD is a keeper.

Along side the silly songs is *Galax Sea*, a questing song asking listeners to think about what might be on the other side of the galaxy. It's almost epic in its scope and really quite lovely to listen to, plus the guest vocals on this song are amazing. *The Final Funktier* includes vocals from two of my all-time favorite artists, Morgan Taylor and Rachel Loshak (from [Gustafer Yellowgold](#)), as well as Caspar Babypants, The Not-Its, and other big time children's rockers. Very cool!

[The Final Funktier](#) will be available for sale in June but you can pre-order your copy now!



Another band we've just discovered even though they've been around for a while is [The Okee Dokee Brothers](#). These guys play a mean guitar and banjo plus they're simply hilarious. They kind of remind me of [Flight of the Conchords](#) for kids, especially with songs like [Robot](#). Did you know that robots can't sing? Neither did I!

The Okee Dokee Brothers definitely cater their music to both kids and adults alike by including jokes or references in their songs that the parents can appreciate, like when their song [Wash Your Face](#) spoofs George Michael's [Faith](#) with lines like "Well, I guess it would be nice if you would wash your face I don't know any face that could replace you." Give them a listen and see what you think. They're new album, [Take It Outside](#), is available for pre-release on their site now.



Last, but certainly not least, you might want to check out the new album from [Gina Sing](#) titled [Together](#). Gina's another vocalist with such a beautifully rich voice and I love the kids she has singing with her on her album. Gina sings many traditional songs like [Tingalayo](#) or [I Love the Mountains](#) but she always adds her own fresh spin to the song. [Head n' Shoulders, Baby](#) is a great example. It's not just "head, shoulders, kness, and toes"—oh no—Gina has you jumping and bopping to a whole new take on this classic. She's a lot of fun!

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**joAnn Moynihan** May 20, 2010 at 9:56 am 1

Steve Mayone will be performing free Friday May 21 from 5-6:15 at Henry Bears Park in Porter Square. Steve sings enviromental themed songs as well as old favorites. He will bring Puppets, and maybe Barbara Herson too! We will also be making recycled instruments to play along with him. Refreshments and fun, tomorrow night May 21 at 5. Henry Bears Park toy store is at 17 White St. Cambridge, Porter Square. 617 547 8424

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**Jackie Romano** May 24, 2010 at 10:15 am 2

Thank you for this new music post. We are totally thrilled with Tiny Cool (download off itunes). My sons love race cars and such and we hadn't heard their music before so we are new fans now.

**Amber** May 24, 2010 at 11:16 am 3

We just *love* the new Tiny Cool album. I'm so glad you're enjoying it too!

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