

# Special Needs in Music: Treasure on the Web

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In April, 2008, I was invited by Roberta Feldheusen to give a workshop jointly sponsored by NYC/UFT and MEANYC to New York City music teachers. The workshop was entitled, "Classroom Music and the Special Learner: Music for Milestones."

Among the many dedicated and gifted educators who attended this workshop was an inspired teacher by the name of Kaila Rochelle from PS 721K The Roy Campanella Occupational Training Center in Brooklyn. She asked if I would mind her sitting on the floor since she has a physical disability and could better manage her spinal condition that way. To me, it was extraordinary that she asked this simple request! Through subsequent conversation and correspondences, I later realized that extraordinary doesn't begin to describe this immensely talented music professional.

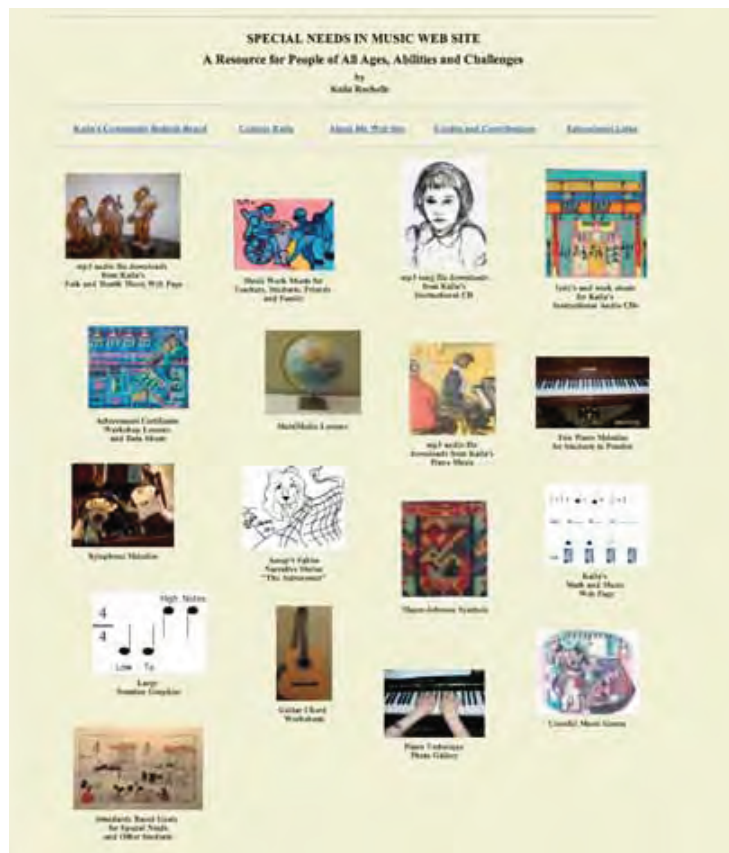
As a "labor of love and rehabilitation," Kaila Rochelle has created a Web site that is a true gift to teachers and parents of students with special needs. Rochelle is employed by the New York City Department of Education's District 75 and is beginning her 25th year working with students with developmental disabilities, age 14-21, at PS 721K-The Roy Campanella Occupational Training Center.

Her administration (Wendy Weiss, Principal; Edmund Kinder, Rosemary DeMastri and Charles Leone, Assistant Principals) is supportive and proud of their special education music coverage program. Through the universal language of music and its unique ability to focus on what students "can do," not what they "can't do," the administration notes that technology enhanced instruction engages their students in lessons, improving their skills in critical thinking, problem solving, information literacy, and transferring functional skills across the curriculum.

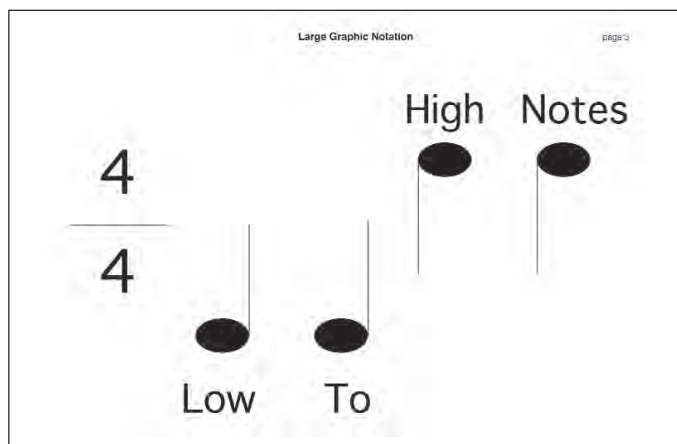
Administrators also see from Rochelle's students unbridled excitement and joy for their specific musical achievements. Kaila Rochelle's Web site (her own project), <http://www.specialneedsinmusic.com>, is recommended on the school's library resource portal. It can also be accessed from the District 75 Web site through "Sites for Teachers."

## Useful and available

Now, after carefully watching its growth and development and testing the lessons in my own diverse classroom settings (one of her conceptual songs will be seen and heard on the upcoming NYSSMA



SPECIAL NEEDS IN MUSIC WEB SITE Homepage



Large Notation Graphics

two-DVD set Music Views Across the State-Standards Based Instruction ), I heartily want to share the this Web site's usefulness and availability to our readership.

In Rochelle's own words: "This site is a resource for both the special education community and the music education community. I offer lesson plans, work sheets, workshop lessons and suggested goals for classroom activities and home study. There are audio recordings (mp3 files) available for download and information about vocal and piano techniques, Web pages, and links for music appreciation and theory lessons, multi media lessons, data sheets, and Web connections to academic learning. Beautiful music achievement certificates encompassing keyboard, vocal, percussion, and conducting accomplishments are available as well. I also offer suggestions for assembly programs and activities that include gesturing, miming, and movement to music."

(<http://specialneedsinmusic.com/about.html>).

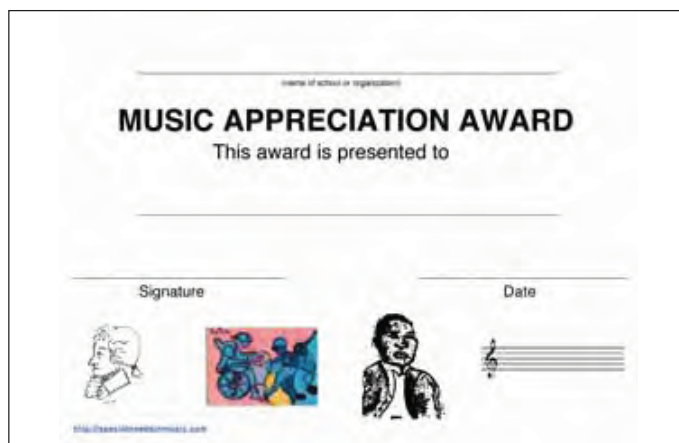
The Web site materials are for educational use and are free of charge. The site design presents a very user-friendly interface with easy navigation and clear, easy-to-see visuals. There are more than 125 audio downloads designed to engage special learners in various music activities in inclusive classrooms as well. There are an equal number of accompanying music education worksheets.

Kaila Rochelle is a concert pianist, a singer, an artist and above all an intrepid explorer of music! Together with her project manager and Web designer, Kenneth Babb, one can hear her creative performance adventures. Her notation graphics, instructional CDs, folk and narrative stories, science media lessons, baroque and classical composer historical profiles, and conceptual songs are a delight!

Materials enhance school-wide curriculum themes, all levels. In line with expectations from the NYCDOE Blueprint for Teaching and Learning in Music, Grades PreK-12 and The New York State and National Standards for the Arts. The special needs in music Web site offers downloadable data sheets to track student progress to use for quality review and rubric data analysis sheets for pitched instrument skills, percussion skills, vocal skills, piano/keyboard skills. (See sample graphics of the home page.)

Rochelle has added her biography to the site so that others can be inspired by her personal story. As the school year progresses, I hope that you will frequently check on this expanding site to add interesting materials to your special education, inclusion music classrooms, and performance programs.

It is an honor for me to introduce the quality work of this extraordinary special education music teacher to the NYSSMA community! I know that you will agree that this helpful resource is, indeed, a great treasure on the Web.



**Music Appreciation Achievement Certificate**

Music Work Sheet \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_  
Student \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**12 Bar Blues Worksheet**

Circle each measure that you play. Remember, each measure has four beats.

Measure 1 1 dom 7th Chord C E G Bb	Measure 2 1 dom 7th Chord C E G Bb	Measure 3 1 dom 7th Chord C E G Bb	Measure 4 1 dom 7th Chord C E G Bb
Measure 5 4 dom 7th Chord F A C Eb	Measure 6 4 dom 7th Chord F A C Eb	Measure 7 1 dom 7th Chord C E G Bb	Measure 8 1 dom 7th Chord C E G Bb
Measure 9 5 dom 7th Chord G B D F	Measure 10 4 dom 7th Chord F A C Eb	Measure 11 1 dom 7th Chord C E G Bb	Measure 12 1 dom 7th Chord C E G Bb

Today my work was  
great \_\_\_\_\_ good \_\_\_\_\_ could be better \_\_\_\_\_

**Music Worksheet**



**Colorful Music Games**



**MP3 audio file downloads from  
Kaila's Piano Music**