



Our Founder: Joanne Haroutounian, PhD.

Executive Director, Joanne Haroutounian, Ph.D., conceived and developed MusicLink based on the research of potential musical talent identification she completed in 1992.

Where did you get the idea of MusicLink?

My inspiration to create the program arose from a single idea found in one of the pile of books I had accumulated concerning musical potential and its development. To develop the talent of a student showing musical potential, it advised to simply “match the student with a private teacher and leave the two of them to their own devices.” I literally exclaimed out loud – “Eureka - I can do that!”

“I don’t know of a single music teacher who would not agree to teach a single student who showed potential and eagerness to learn for a reduced rate or even for full scholarship. The vital link between this teacher and student provides the secret to MusicLink’s success. We do not pay the teachers, but do provide them with discounts on music and materials, with free music for their MusicLink students. They agree to be part of MusicLink because they want to make a difference in the life of a child through music. These students become quite special to them, and they thank us for the opportunity to be part of MusicLink. “

Dr. Haroutounian is the author of *Kindling the Spark: Recognizing and Developing Musical Talent* published by Oxford University Press, recognized as a leading resource for teachers, parents, and specialists in the fields of music and gifted education. She consults internationally on musical talent identification and development and is on the piano faculty at George Mason University. She has over 20 publications available through the Neil A. Kjos Music Co., including a recently released text on piano pedagogy titled *Fourth Finger on B Flat: Effective Strategies for Teaching Piano*.

She oversees the MusicLink Foundation by working closely with her assistant director, Director of Regional Coordinators, and regional coordinators in each section of the country. These key personnel work with over 100 local and state coordinators who network with teachers and businesses nationally to provide lessons and opportunities for MusicLink students.