

# Bring the Power of Music Into Your Library: a guest post by Guitar Notes author Mary Amato for Music in Our Schools Month (March)

MARCH 18, 2013 BY KAREN JENSEN, TLT 3 COMMENTS



*Although March is many things, like National Craft Month and Women's History Month, it is also Music in Our Schools Month. As school budgets get cut, music and education are some of the first to go, especially with today's emphasis on [STEM education](#). But there are those who advocate [STEAM](#): Science, Technology, Engineering, **Art** and Math. By adding the arts, you increase creativity and innovation, along with innovation, problem solving and more. Today, in support of music in our schools, **Guitar Notes** author Mary Amato writes a guest post about The Power of Music. And for more information on how you can help [Save the Music, stop by the VH1 website](#).*

Listening to a song I love can turn around a bad day or make a great day even better. I love music, and about five years ago I made a promise to myself to actually learn how to play the guitar. Along the way, I kept imagining the powerful connection that two characters could make if they really started to share music together. That's how Guitar Notes was born.



songwriting resources on the thrumsociety website to help—songwriting tip videos, a songwriting lesson plan for teachers and media specialists, blank guitar chord templates, and much more.

I would love it if teen media specialists would consider creating a “Songwriting Studio.” This could be simple: a carrel labeled For Songwriter’s with a copy of *Guitar Notes* and some blank songwriting journals (note to whoever puts this up...here’s the link for the blank songwriting journals). Or you could go crazy and devote a study room that contains: copies of novels that are about music, like **Guitar Notes**, books on songwriting, earphones, and a computer with garageband.

### **Take 5: More Teen Titles About Music**

**The Lucy Variations** by Sara Zarr (review tomorrow)

**Notes from Ghost Town** by Kate Elliott

**If I Stay** by Gayle Forman

**Lemonade Mouth** by Mark Peter Hughes

**Somebody Everybody Listens To** by Suzanne Supplee

**More on Music at TLT:**

[The Power of Music, a guest post by Melissa Darnell](#)

[The Soundtrack of Your Books](#)

[Steph’s Take: Top 10 Titles Inspired by Music](#)

*Does your school still have a music program? What are your favorite music themed YA titles to share with teens? And what do you think about Mary’s ideas for encouraging musical pursuits in public libraries? What ideas would you add?*

Mary Amato is an award-winning children’s book author, poet, playwright, and songwriter. Her books have been translated into foreign languages, optioned for television, produced onstage, and have won the children’s choice awards in several states. Her book, [Guitar Notes](#), was published by Egmont USA in July of 2012. ISBN: 978160684124