

for the music lover

By Val Haller

MAKE IT BETTER READER: **CATHY GLICKMAN**, KINDERMUSIK INSTRUCTOR, VERNON HILLS

Cathy Glickman has been passionate about music her whole life—and as one of the North Shore's most popular Kindermusik educators, she's sharing her passion with new generations. In addition to teaching music, she sings! In church choirs, with the **Music Institute of Chicago**, in a rock band, on a children's CD and in numerous musical theater productions. Cathy listens to everything from Bach to Billy Joel and enjoys discovering what her teenage children are listening to now.



1. THEIR LOVE OF MUSIC This brand new book by Chicago photographer Stephen Azzato, with a forward from Lester Holt, is a beautiful pictorial. Featuring many revered music icons, the book shows simple portraits with a quote from each artist. **\$65, quietlightpublishing.com**



2. GIFT A PLAYLIST FROM VALSLIST.COM Help family and friends fill their iPods with these playlists from Valslist.com:

Flowers & Custom CD
A bouquet for your hosts is lovely, and including a custom CD lets the gift keep on giving long after the last petal has dropped. **\$40 and up, FTD.com; valslist.com**

Dinner In a Bag and Custom CD
Are you a houseguest for the holidays? Offer to bring a meal by Gourmet In a Day, and add a custom CD. **\$40 and up; gourmetinaday.com; valslist.com**

Golden Years Playlist Series
For the grandparents, this is a perfect mix of classics, covers, and new artists. From Sinatra to Adele, it's "traditional with a twist." Perfect for a 50th Anniversary or 75th birthday. Download a playlist or burn a CD. **\$15-20; valslist.com**



UPCOMING CONCERTS For the latest musical happenings, visit our Events Calendar. makeitbetter.net/events

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3. PORTABLE USB TURNTABLE

For the boomer whose record collection is stored away, this turntable converts vinyl albums to CDs. The USB record player plugs right into your computer. As the vinyl record plays on the turntable, the audio information is being tracked, controlled, and sometimes edited to allow for better sound quality. **\$140, urbanoutfitters.com or \$200 and up for a higher end version, numark.com**

4. VERSATILE SPEAKER SYSTEM FOR HOME OR DORM

"Detachable wireless speakers are key to the most practical sound system I've ever seen, and it's gotten great reviews," Val says. The Griffin "Evolve" system allows you to pop in your iPod and detach the wireless speakers to move them anywhere you want—facing out the window for a backyard BBQ, onto the patio, or in different rooms of the house for your party. **\$227, avtoybox.com**

5. RECORD ALBUM FRAMES

Need art? Make your own. Affordable 12x12 inch frames are created specifically for your old album covers. "My office is filled with these!" Val says. **\$10, target.com**

6. AN IPOD HOW-TO CLASS

Kids, give mom and dad an hour of quality time by teaching them what you know best: how to download a song and sync an iPod. **Price: It's free!**

7. "MORNINGS WITH MISS CATHY" - CHILDREN'S CD

A passionate advocate of children's music, Cathy's energetic style comes through in this well-loved collection. **\$15, misscathymusic.com or kindermusiknorthshore.com**

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8. RECYCLED ALBUMS For teens too young to know what a 45 is, here's a cool way to wear old records. A bracelet made from an actual record album. History and jewelry. **\$50, uncommongoods.com** For a slightly older music fan, who still rocks but worries about keeping the furniture free of drips and rings, these coasters are made out of the middle of an old 33 rpm record. **\$18, uncommongoods.com**

9. TICKET STUB DIARY If you're a packrat or overly sentimental or something in between, this is the perfect "music scrapbook" for you! Save your stubs from every concert and jot some notes about the show. You'll be able to look back 20 years from now and say, "Yup, I saw them before they were big." **\$10, Uncommongoods.com**

10. CONCERT TICKETS And to put in the ticket stub diary? Both Cathy and Val love the idea of surprising your spouse or teen with a series of concerts. Need inspiration? Valslist.com's "Concert Page" has filtered the list for you, including venue descriptions and a link to listen to the artists. And for kids, check out the Kids' Concert Series at Schubas and SPACE—great Saturday afternoon shows created for your little rockers. **Price varies, valslist.com, evanstonSPACE.com, schubas.com**

11. BEATS BY DR. DRE IN-EAR HEADPHONES When one of the world's premiere music producers (and an infamous perfectionist) endorses audio equipment, you should probably pay attention. The Beats are sleek in design and come with all of the quality manufacturing we've come to expect from Monster. **\$119, bestbuy.com or target.com**

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