



While Philadelphia born, Tom grew up in Honolulu and remembers always having a love for music. He fondly remembers the diversity in Hawaii and the easy accessibility to nature on the island. Shortly after moving to Washington D.C. Tom started high school where he continued playing cello for a brief time, then joined choir in his senior year, which he pursued throughout college. Tom met his future wife Amy through folk music circles in “Philly” while both were pursuing degrees.

“I really value being able to have a high level of interaction with my kids and to be around them a lot”, says Tom of being an at-home Dad. When asked what led their family to make the choice for Tom to be home with the kids he adds, “We want home to be solid and consistent and we both want to be very present in their lives.”

Tom had so much fun attending Music Together as a parent and was excited for the opportunity to teach, and finds teaching is also a good fit for his role as primary caregiver. “The experience of teaching Music Together dovetails with being a parent and caregiver,” he comments, “and I try to apply the experience from parenting to Music Together and vice versa”.

In all of the opportunities Tom has to participate in music, whether the 333 Coffeehouse concert series, playing in a band or folk music circle, or teaching a Music Together class, he believes; “Music provides a shared experience that can strengthen the bonds among those who share that experience.” Particularly in Music Together classes, “Families learn the value of these shared experiences and with the help of the teacher are able to provide the children the skills to make the most of those experiences”.

While he readily admits that he does not have much spare time due to parenting, teaching and other musical pursuits, Tom enjoys hiking and avidly plays “designer” strategy games such as Catan, Pandemic and Dominion for the intellectual challenge.