

Fred Newman

Concert Host

Fred Newman has always loved looking at the sky and listening. He is a writer, actor, musician, sound collector and storyteller. And, he honks for a living. Born and raised in LaGrange, Georgia, he built tree houses, drank water out of the garden hose, mostly did his homework, and, twice, blew up his basement. And every night, around the supper table, Fred's family told stories, for which he is very grateful.

He graduated the University of Georgia and then went overseas, working as a street musician, a blacksmith, and carpet salesman. He went to Harvard Business School and worked for *Newsweek* magazine in New York, where he enjoyed xeroxing his face and realized that he was not his best in office situations. He began doing a little stand-up comedy and writing on the side.

Fred worked with Jim Henson, as a writer and so-so puppeteer, and went on to work with Nickelodeon and Disney (one show being the *New Mickey Mouse Club* – the one with Britney, Justin, Christina and others). He created music, voices and sound effects for film and television, including the cartoon series "DOUG," and movies like *Who Framed Roger Rabbit?*, *Gremlins*, *Harry and the Hendersons*, *Cocoon* and *Wolf*.

You can hear Fred as tap-dancing cats, pterodactyls, singing ducks, and door slams on Garrison Keillor's *A Prairie Home Companion*, a live, Saturday-evening show on public radio. And, you can see him, everyday, on public television's reading show *Between the Lions*, and, soon, on a new music show for kids called "Lomax" on PBS. His book and CD/CD-ROM *MouthSounds* and website "mouthsounds.info" are around, as well.

Fred lives in the noisiest city in the world New York City with his wife and two children, a cat, two surly parakeets and a turtle. They are all loud, except for the turtle.