

# Musical Memories

Music is a mood changer - that's why it makes such a popular gift. But there are more ways to give music than choosing a CD, downloading an album, or making the trip to the Apple store for the latest iPod. The key is to create something original by making the gift an experience to remember.

## HERE IS WHAT I MEAN:

**Sift through old toy boxes**, closets or even pawnshops for icons of music to be the base of your gift. Personalize your find with an invitation to see music together. Here's what I mean:

**Paint a pair of drumsticks** a solid bright color or splatter them with many different colors of paint. Attach an invitation to go listen to jazz together. Whether it's a hot jazz club, or your living room doesn't matter. Either way, you've elevated the experience.

**If C&W is your flavor**, tie an invitation to take line-dancing lessons together around an old harmonica and present it in a pair of old cowboy boots filled with peanuts in the shell.

**For a trip around the world without using your frequent flyer miles**, cover an old violin case with travel stickers and postcards, then fill the case with your favorite world music, plus an invitation to dinner at your place where the exotic cuisine will match the music.

**Know someone who's dying to play music but won't take the extra step?** Find a toy piano - one made for a toddler, or for a dollhouse is perfect. Attach a gift certificate for piano lessons made from sheet music, and for extra credit, include a box of black and white cookies from a local bakery.

