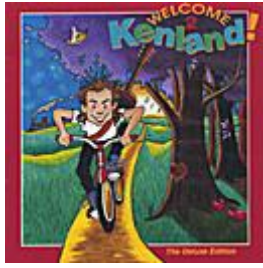


## Mp3 Ken Lonquist - Welcome 2 Kenland



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Kens most popular recording: a happy, comic and cosmic blend of folk, pop and musical-theater styles, spiced with clever lyrics and rich vocabulary. You'll laugh, think and sing along. 32 MP3 Songs

KIDS/FAMILY: Children's Pop, FOLK: Folk Pop Details: WELCOME 2 KENLAND Wow What a treat!

Welcome 2 Kenland features 32 songs (over 73 minutes of music) and most of them are outstanding.

Lonquist's music is some of the freshest and most creative children's music I've heard in a long time.

"Fred Koch, Chicago Parent Magazine Ken Lonquist: The Fifth Beatle Music Review by Sally Russell

Minnesota Parent Magazine Ken Lonquist is the most astounding thing to happen to children's

music since... well, since forever. There is no way to adequately describe the music he

creates or capture the charm of his live performances, no one to whom he can be compared. Except

perhaps John, Paul, George and Ringo. I cannot imagine what our lives would be like without his music in

our home, our car, as a part of our family language. And the scary thing is, I only stumbled onto him by

accident. Six months pregnant and unwilling to sit another moment watching my ankles swell at the

playground, five-year-old Malcolm and I sauntered down the street a muggy summer day in search of

respite. The Wild Rumpus bookstore was cool and welcoming. Part library, part animal sanctuary, part

retail space, all fun; it's the sort of bookstore where children come first in an entirely uncontrived way.

Apparently, many knew of Ken Lonquist's performance that day, and the excitement was palpable. When

this exuberant character stepped forward with a guitar and microphone, everything I knew and believed

about music aimed at children flew out the charming children's store's front door. Ken hunkered down with

the kids and sang songs that resonated with them about one-speed bikes, X-ray specs, elephants, and

enormous cats. He stood tall, winked at parents, and spun stories of foolish children who neglect please

and thank you then are whisked away by fairies to dark and mysterious fates. For an all-too-brief

afternoon, filled with equal amounts of joy and fun, he held our hearts with his music. Music has always been a huge part of our lives, all sorts: Eric Clapton, Glenn Miller, Beethoven, Cole Porter, The Doors, Patsy Cline, Mozart, Billy Holiday, those aforementioned guys from Liverpool... suffice to say our tastes are eclectic. My children also enjoy many fine geared-to-children tapes, CDs and yes, records. From Burl Ives to the Roches; I can listen to them in managed amounts. But grown-ups dont play those childrens collections alone and there are firm guidelines regarding how many times certain music can be listened to in a twenty-four hour period. Dont talk to me about Raffi (who is perfectly fine) or Sharon, Lois and Bram (also quite pleasant) and try to draw comparisons. They are The Monkees; Ken is The Beatles. My husband and I were stunned when we started listening to our first acquisition. Where did this guy come from? Why hadnt we heard about him before? Theres a change that comes over someone, as the transformation from passive to attentive listener occurs. What is this? Who is this? Did you hear that lyric? Its really funny! Much of the fun of Lonquist is the discovery. His songs contain brilliant pieces of humor, allowing children to revel and adults to reminisce about the precious and perilous aspects of childhood. And Ive been told that the children in my home have an especially fine ability to relate to the song, My Mothers Snoring. There are story songs inspired by fairy tales, environmental ditties that speak to everything from Garbage to Rainforests, songs that praise vegetables and breakfast-food. Weve only begun our Lonquist collection, with Circus Kenlando, Earthy Songs For Kids, Kengos Bongos, Welcome 2 Kenland and The Lost Songs of Kenland; theres not a lemon in the bunch. Some of his more mellow efforts can move me to tears, or bring a small soul to my side for an extra kiss. Besides appearing around the country, he also composes for the Childrens Theater of Madison and has written ten full-scale musical theater productions. He has received "among other awards and distinctions" the Entertainer of the Year by the Wisconsin Area Music Industry, Parents Choice, American Library Association, and an Environmentalist of the Year from the Madison Audubon Society. Hes composed thousands of songs and recorded more than three hundred of them. The successes of his song-writing workshops, residencies for schools, universities, teacher, and environmental conferences are evident in the liner notes, for many of the recordings come from work with the children. Although he has some loyal and committed followers, he still hasnt made tremendous headway into the Minnesota market. Fortunately, family connections bring him to this neighborhood with some regularity. Certainly, the crowds are getting larger every time he appears at Wild Rumpus, and word of mouth seems to be spreading the news gradually. But I cant help

feeling as if I'm keeping a delicious secret from the rest of the world. I pondered the question of Ken Lonquist as I listened to Junestruck: Luminous Songs and Tails. I wondered what his grown up music would be like, if it would appeal to me as much as his other work. It does, very much. And in the first song, I think he answers my Why isn't he better known? Why isn't he bigger? question: I don't wanna be a star, just wanna pay all my dues / I don't wanna travel far, just wanna wear out my shoes / And if you think you can / Maybe you could follow to where I am / Dreamin takes you into a distant land... Ahhh, Ken-land. I get it now. Ever since that chance meeting, this music has been a part of our family and so, naturally, has Ken. What if we hadn't walked into the store that day? There are no accidents, only collisions of fate. Ken Lonquist is among my happiest karmic fender benders. "Sally Russell is a frequent contributor to Minnesota Parent.

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