

Valerie Leonhart Smalkin

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Experience

Silly Goose & Val

1990 to Present

Val has entertained and educated children across the US and Europe with ventriloquism, comedy, music, and puppetry at festivals, schools, and civic events.

Composer/Author

1987 to Present

Composed, performed, and produced 3 award-winning CDs: **A Gentle Halloween Sing! Sing! Sing!...and Dance!**, and **Love Bug!**. Wrote the book **Springtime Dance**, published in 2014, that took Gold in the Moonbeam Children's Book Awards. Earlier in her career Val wrote and performed the music version of Priscilla Cummings' award winning **Chadwick the Crab** and developed **The Early Childhood Music Curriculum** with Karen Rupprecht. Most recently she co-wrote and produced **Life Beyond Sight** with blind teens at the Maryland School for the Blind.

The Children's Music Network – Co-President

2017 to 2022

Songs for Teaching

2015 to present

Write educational songs for www.songsforteaching.com.

St. James Academy Performing Arts Coordinator

1995 to 2015

Taught elementary and middle school general music and band, as well as coordinating performing arts programs both in-school and after-school.

Television Producer/Writer/Performer

1995 to 2000

Val was a leading writer, producer, puppeteer, and performer with John "Kirderman" Taylor's local Emmy award-winning **It's Kindertime** on ABC affiliate WMAR-TV 2, in Baltimore.

Website

www.sillygooseandval.com

Awards

Music Awards

ASCAP PLUS Award	2023, 2024
International Song Writing Competition - Semi-Finalist	2019
Great American Song Contest – Outstanding Achievement	2019
Parents' Choice Awards (Fun Stuff & Recommended)	2015, 2016

Maryland State Arts Council Awards

<u>Individual Artist</u>	2015, 2016
<u>Solo Theatrical Performance</u>	2019

Moonbeam Children's Book Award

<u>2014 Gold Medal – Books with Music – Springtime Dance</u>	2014
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Education

Juris Doctor, U of MD School of Law, Cum Laude, Baltimore, MD	1977
Berklee College of Music, Boston, MA	1972
BA, Goucher College, Cum Laude, Baltimore, MD	1971