

## *Neah's Voice*

Marsha Whaley had two dreams in life; to be a mother and a composer. In order to fulfill one of those dreams she attended Howard Payne University where she majored in Music Education. As a music student, she quickly learned she had many bad habits to break and lots of hours of practice ahead of her. Four years of learning how to practice took her skills to a whole new level. With her first dream in sight, Marsha and her husband Alan worked on the next dream, ultimately becoming a mother to 13 children. Five were biological and eight were adopted. Marsha was a hands-on mother who home-schooled all her children, and she made sure there was always music in the home. Neah was her last child. She was adopted and had special needs, but Neah begged Marsha to let her take fiddle lessons, so Marsha took what she learned and applied it to helping Neah learn how to learn. With lots of hard work, thinking outside the box, plenty of patience and love, and a rock star fiddle teacher, Marsha was able, not only to give her daughter the opportunity to learn the fiddle, but by believing in Neah and the power of music she altered the course of Neah's life. Music gave Neah opportunity, goals, and friends, but it also gave her a voice, and she had plenty to say.

'Neah's Voice' was born out of seeing the impact music had on her daughter, and the belief that people with different learning styles and abilities should have music in their day-to-day activities to help improve their well-being. Music is colorblind and inclusive. It fosters a love for learning and provides an opportunity for acceptance. In honor of Neah, Marsha would like to give others the opportunity to find their own voice through music.

Neah's Voice is a specialized practice plan through visual support, rhythm and melody exercises. Its main focus is on learning the violin / fiddle, but it is applicable to all music and instruments. If you, or someone you know needs a practice coach or needs direction, Marsha would love the opportunity to talk with you.

'Neah's Voice' is a work in progress, if you'd like to receive an occasional email update please send us your email address with the subject line *Neah's Voice*.

Help support 'Neah's Voice' with a tax deductible donation [here](#).



Neah's last birthday