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Hey, Young Music Fans, Are You Ready to Rock?

By Christina Barron

If your preschooler hasn't heard of SteveSongs, it won't be long. PBS recently discovered the funny, quirky kids' musical act and tapped singer-songwriter Steve Roslonek for a

Steve "SteveSongs"

series of mini singalongs between popular shows such as "Clifford" and "Curious George."



Roslonek, center, has a growing fan base of children and parents.

The exposure will probably bring Roslonek a national fan base, but area kids have been attending his shows for several years. He's marking his third summer at Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods at Wolf Trap in Vienna. He will also appear at the Rams Head Tavern in Annapolis and at Arlington's Lubber Run Amphitheatre.

Roslonek, 36, who listened to songs from "Schoolhouse Rock!" as a child, says he didn't know much about the kids' music business when he began writing and performing.

"When we started doing this 10 years ago, there were all sorts of questions: 'Can we use electric guitar? Can we put a bridge in a kids' song?' " Roslonek says by phone during a break in taping for PBS. He says he and his co-songwriter, Anand Nayak, realized they could "craft songs that were more than a little jingle."

Five CDs later, Roslonek has developed a following among kids and parents with his danceable songs about gravity, flying guitars and opposites. "I try to teach something but at the same time not take myself too seriously," Roslonek says.

With SteveSongs' and other "kindie rock" successes, area venues have begun to focus on pint-size patrons. Below are some of their summer offerings.