



Mama Doni, a.k.a. Doni Zasloff Thomas, is a mom, music teacher, songwriter, and lead singer in The Mama Doni Band, her “wacky, Jewish indie-rock band for kids.” The band won the 2008 Simcha Award for “Inspiring Joy Through Music,” in competition with more than 100 bands from 15 different countries at the International Jewish Music Festival in Amsterdam.

Immersed in Jewish life and music since childhood, Doni went to Jewish day schools and then to Brandeis University and NYU, where she earned a degree in Educational Theatre and Performing Arts. Pursuing a career in children's media and marketing, Doni was creative director for an award winning, pioneering children's media company for more than seven years.

When Doni's children's preschool asked her to take a position as music teacher in early 2007, she readily agreed, and the creative juices started flowing. Wanting to share her love of Jewish culture with kids in a fun and cool way, Doni soon began writing and recording her own songs. Mama Doni Productions was born! Doni's first album, *I Love Herring (& Other Fish Shticks for Kids)*, was released to immediate acclaim in May 2008. A 4-song EP for Chanukah, *I Love Chanukah!*, and an EP for Purim, *I Love Purim!*, followed. November 2009 will bring a new, full-length album, *Chanukah Fever*. Quirky, funny, and always unpredictable, Doni's music brings a fun new twist to Chanukah in this CD, as it ventures through dance beats, Latin pop, "Jewgrass" hoe-downs, and dazzling disco ditties to make latkes, dreidels and Yiddish expressions cooler than ever.

According to Carrie Stetler in *The Star-Ledger*, Doni Zasloff Thomas “is proud to have a schtick. And that schtick, she says, is to ‘Jewify’ all forms of music – from country to reggae to holiday songs.” Kids’ media authority Amy Kraft, of *Media Macaroni*, enthused, “We were all laughing out loud ... Listen as Mama Doni spreads around some challah-day spirit in her inimitable cross between Sheryl Crow and Tone Loc.”

Recognized in *The New York Times*, *New York Post*, *The Star-Ledger*, *The Record*, *Time Out New York Kids*, *New Jersey Jewish News*, *The Jewish Week*, *Jewish Woman International Magazine*, and more, The Mama Doni Band delights families throughout the country. In addition to producing funky, family-friendly CDs and videos, Mama Doni and her team present an array of live concerts and workshops. The band is excited to embark on its first national tour in fall 2009, with stops planned in Houston, Los Angeles, Cincinnati, Kansas City, and Washington, DC. At the special invitation of The International Jewish Music Festival, The Mama Doni Band will also return to Amsterdam for performances and workshops in October 2009. Band members, in addition to Doni Zasloff Thomas, include Justin Goldner, guitar; Alexander Tyshkov, bass; and Cliff Ramsay, drums.

