A Musical Holiday Gift

With the approaching holidays, I’ve been thinking about some of the gifts that Fred has given us over the years. His messages were about things that were important to young children, but they were also important to Fred personally -- appreciating others, connecting with family and friends, and enjoying music. And I remembered a Neighborhood program when those messages came together. It’s one of my favorites, and I wanted to offer it to you as kind of a holiday gift. I have a hunch it may have been one of Fred’s favorites, too, because it features his friend, the great cellist Yo-Yo Ma -- and his son.

There are lots of heartwarming moments in this video, as Fred remembers Yo-Yo Ma making music with his son, Nicholas, when his son was quite young and later as a teenager. I hope you enjoy the music, the father and son collaboration, and Fred’s thoughts at the end of the video, which feel like a warm holiday message for us all.
Everyone here at the Fred Rogers Center joins me in wishing you well for whatever holiday you’ll be celebrating in the coming weeks. And we all thank you for supporting the work of the Center – and for the many ways you’re carrying on Fred’s legacy in your work and in your life.

Thank you for being our neighbor,

Hedda Sharapan  
M.S. Child Development  
PNC Grow Up Great Senior Fellow

Timeless Wisdom from Fred Rogers
"I can still see the face of one young man who had just finished playing a movement of a Brahms cello sonata when Yo-Yo [leading a master class] said, “Nobody else can make the sound you make.” Of course, he meant it as a compliment to the young man; nevertheless, he meant that also for everyone in the class. Nobody else can make the sound you make. Nobody can choose to make that particular sound in that particular way. Nobody else can live the life you live. And even though no human being is perfect, we always have the chance to bring what’s unique about us to life."