

## Motherhood by Music, All Her Own

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come was positive, as Lily's tones, melodies and lyrics were 100 percent copyright approved. Lily said that it was the first musical compilation by an Indonesian artist to fully pass a check against 20 million songs from all over the world.

It took them three years, but James and the "secret songstress" finally completed "Bubbles of Love."

The album includes 14 tracks — two in Indonesian — and a fully illustrated book of rhymes and inspirations. Lily worked together with artist Sylvia Lukman on the illustrations.

"It thrives on its elemental simplicity, I suppose," Lily said. "It does not try to be anything that it is not."

Most of the songs draw their inspiration from simple interactions between mother and child. They have titles like "On Top of the Morning" and "Close Your Eyes." The book includes a set of fictional characters.

"This not only helps parents interact with their children, but it adds a dimension of a coherent, thematic plot into the book," she said.

What most excited James about the project, Lily said, was that children were the subject, not the object, of the material.

"Placing the kids at the forefront, acknowledging their behavior and responses, is really crucial as they become



**Bubbles of Love (the album)**  
14 original songs (12 in English and 2 in Indonesian and 2 Bonus Tracks)  
Music and lyrics by Lily Dawis  
Produced by James F. Sundah  
Distributed by Nagaswara

**Bubbles of Love (the book)**  
By Lily Dawis  
Published by Bhuana Ilmu Populer  
Gramedia Books  
Illustrated lyric book with additional bilingual translation  
40 pages

better able to relate to the songs," Lily said James told her.

Lily's motherly instincts gave the project a type of depth she never anticipated. "Although I never really intentionally put in aspects of developmental psychology into my lyrics, it just simply materialized

that way," she said. "I guess it's just my maternal filter at work."

Lily doesn't compose in the conventional way, she said. Instead of rummaging through her mind for ideas to put down on paper, she derives her inspiration from the flow of her daily life, come what may.

"It just comes to me naturally, as a product of my love for my children," she said. "It's as simple as saying 'I love you,' but instead I make songs for them."

James and Lily's persistence and hard work have paid off. Four preschools and many other learning institutions now include "Bubbles of Love" in their curriculums.

"On hearing the news, I felt incredibly blessed," Lily said. "I never honestly thought it would go this far; I never thought it would go anywhere at all. I am truly humbled by the success of 'Bubbles of Love' and promise to continue helping parents with my music."

More than anything else, Lily said, the greatest reward from the project has been the opportunity to create something beautiful for her family.

"'Bubbles of Love' has been an integral part of my household," she said. "And even though my children have personally started to outgrow these songs, I know they are aware that my music is a product of my love for them. I'm more than confident that they will cherish these songs for many years to come."