

**The Music Center
Performing Artists
in Schools and
Neighborhoods**

**Exciting
Dance
Music
Theatre
Storytelling
Performances
Come To You**

SUZANNA GUZMÁN / LOS ANGELES OPERA

**Don't Be Afraid:
It's Just Opera!**

Let's Get Started!

Enclosed is a packet of information about the scheduled program. Please review all of the documents carefully, as they are the materials you will need to host a successful program.

THE DAILY SCHEDULE

It is important that the daily schedule be maintained as specified on the confirmation document. If special circumstances occur, notify The Music Center staff as soon as possible. Changes may be accommodated pending artist availability (which can be limited). We request that all participants be seated in the performance area and ready to begin at the scheduled times.

YOUR FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

After the performance, you'll receive an invoice via email. You have 30 days to pay upon receipt of the invoice. We do ask that you wait until you receive the invoice before sending payment.

ARTIST INTRODUCTION & STAGING REQUIREMENTS

Please introduce the artist with the enclosed introduction. There is also specific information you will need to prepare for the arrival of each artist. Please give the tech sheet to the personnel in charge of setting up the performance area well in advance of the scheduled dates. Be sure to have ready any equipment which may be required.

PRESS RELEASE AND POSTER

A template press release is included should you wish to publicize the event. If you wish to use it, simply copy the text into a word document and fill in the blanks with the appropriate information. A premade poster is also included to let your community know about the upcoming event.

CURRICULUM CONNECTION FOR CLASSROOM TEACHERS

These pre- and post-event classroom activities are designed to deepen the understanding and engagement of the program. Please duplicate this preparation material and distribute to all teachers whose students will be attending the event to allow them to fully prepare the students.

STUDENT SUPERVISION AT SCHOOL SITES

In accordance with California law, The Music Center requires that a classroom teacher be present with students at all times. It is expected that teachers will attend events with their class and actively participate in the learning experience.

We applaud your commitment to arts education and look forward to working with you. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call us at 213-972-4310.

"I would like to introduce today's performance, which is presented by The Music Center of Los Angeles County and The Los Angeles Opera. Suzanna Guzmán (pronounced goo-ZMAHN) is a native of Los Angeles, California. She is an internationally renowned opera singer who has sung all around the world, including such places as Carnegie Hall, The Metropolitan Opera and The Kennedy Center. She has won many awards, is a radio talk host, a TV host and even received a Grammy nomination for "Best Classical Album."

Now, opera is very serious, very sophisticated, and very "ooo—la —la." Let's give our best serious attention to mezzo—soprano, Suzanna Guzmán! in her show, *Don't Be Afraid: It's Just Opera.*"



Feel free to encourage the adult members of your audience to share the experience on social media!

Tag us on X, Instagram, Facebook, and TikTok at @MusicCenterLA and we might repost your photos!

SPACE

- Auditorium or raised stage preferred
- Portable stages must be sturdy and securely lashed, with steps leading up to the stage
- Students must be able to get onstage
 - Stage should have full lighting
 - NO OUTDOOR PERFORMANCES

AUDIENCE SEATING

- Create a center aisle in the student seating area.

SURFACE

- Freshly mopped (not waxed)
- Irregularities covered with tape
- Extraneous clutter removed

DRESSING AREA

- A private area near the stage is needed

EQUIPMENT

- Piano, tuned and playable
 - Microphone

ARRIVAL

- 10-15 minutes prior to the scheduled start time to prepare and set up

PARKING

- Two spaces

ASSISTANCE

- Please have a representative ready to welcome the performers and assist as needed

START TIME

- Please prepare to start the program on time
- Audiences should be in the venue, seated and ready to begin at the listed times

SUZANNA GUZMÁN/LOS ANGELES OPERA

ART FORM: Music

STYLE: Classical

CULTURE: Western European

MEET THE ARTIST:

Suzanna Guzman is a native, third generation Angelena, born and raised in East LA and Pasadena. For over three decades, you could easily have bumped into her backstage in theatres and opera houses across the globe: Europe, Asia, Mexico, Canada, and across the US from Anchorage to Houston to Miami, Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, and of course, The Music Center. It was at The Music Center where she was an Associate Artist appearing as a principal artist in over 400 performances. This led to international appearances side by side with opera greats Plácido Domingo, James Conlon, Marilyn Horn, James Levine, Jake Heggie, Daniél Catán, Franco Zeffirelli, Giancarlo Menotti, and others. Known for her portrayal of the title role of Carmen, TIME magazine called her a “fire-breathing, singing actress.” In 2016 critic Mark Swed called her “irresistible” for her performance in the mobile opera “Hopscotch”. She’s premiered countless new roles in opera, received a Grammy nod for her performance with Southwest Chamber Music, hosted the radio show “Sunday Evening Opera” for over a decade, and hosted more than 52 episodes of the weekly television show “Open Call” for KCET.

Since 1985, her award-winning show, “Don’t Be Afraid: It’s Just Opera!” has been performed for over 200,000 students nationwide and the 2017 -18 season marked her 15-year anniversary performance in the title role of the pageant, “La Virgen de Tepeyac: Dios Inantzin,” with the Latino Theatre Company.

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE:

Internationally acclaimed mezzo-soprano Suzanna Guzmán performs her award-winning show and reveals the universal appeal of opera for all ages. With this friendly diva as a guide, the audience will discover just how entertaining and moving this beautiful music can be. Guzmán breaks through stereo-types and pre-conceptions in a funny, accessible and hands-on performance. High-energy, informative, multi-lingual and interactive, she performs excerpts from some of operas greatest works: Rossini, Bizet, and a dash of Mozart. Students learn basic music dynamics, vocal production, interplay of language, rhythm and music. With the help of student volunteers, Guzmán tells an “opera story” or “aria” with picture titles (rather than ‘supertitles’.) and ends the performance with everyone participating in the Grand Finale.

PREPARING FOR THE EXPERIENCE:

In the simplest terms, opera is a story set to music, with orchestral accompaniment. Opera, in the Western Classical tradition, is the result of the efforts of a group of freethinking scholars known as the *Florentine Camerata*. In the course of researching Greek drama (which they were trying to recreate), they decided that the ‘choruses’ of these works had been sung. They incorporated this idea into what would become opera. The emotional high-points in the story became *arias*, solo songs that highlight a singer’s skills. For the dialogue and to move the story along, they devised a rapid form of chant-like singing called *recitative*, which is minimally accompanied. The first extant opera was composed by Jacopo Peri around 1600 and entitled “Euridice.” Seven years later Claudio Monteverdi composed and presented “L’Orfeo,” at the court of Mantua. It is considered the first great opera. Both “Euridice” and “L’Orfeo” are based on the Greek myth of Orpheus and his quest to retrieve his beloved Euridice from the underworld. By 1637, the first public opera houses appeared in Venice. Theaters sold tickets by touting popular singers, who were the rock-stars of their times. They also incorporated spectacular stage effects such as live animals, explosions, water tanks and complex machinery.

Opera remains popular all over the world. The singers are still the stars and the staging is as lavish as ever. Some of the most well-known composers of opera include, Giuseppe Verdi, Giacchino Rossini, Giacomo Puccini and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

The operatic voice requires intense training as well as strong natural ability. Singers must train their voices for tone quality, vocal range and the ability to project over an orchestra without amplification. There are several different categories of vocal range that depend on gender. The basic female ranges are called *soprano*, *mezzo-soprano* (or medium soprano) and *alto*. The basic male ranges are *tenor*, *baritone* and *bass*. In operatic voice-typing, these terms are further

broken down according to *timbre* (tone quality) and *projection* (strength). This helps in casting so that the voice matches the role appropriately.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Name and describe the exaggerated things that Ms. Guzmán did to show the way people usually think of opera and its stars.
- What most impressed you about Ms. Guzmán and what she taught you about opera?
- What did you observe about the partnership between the singer and her accompanist? What skills did they use to communicate with each other?
- Which piece did you most enjoy (“In My Own Little Corner” from Rogers and Hammerstein’s *Cinderella*; Mozart’s “Variations on Twinkle Twinkle Little Star; “Una Voce Poco Fa,” from Rossini’s *Barber of Seville*; “Habanera,” from Bizet’s *Carmen*)? Give reasons for your choice.
- Opera singers must have talent, but they must also spend years developing that talent through training and practice. What other professions can you think of that require both a natural talent and years of discipline and practice?

FRAMEWORK FOCUS—LANGUAGE ARTS:

Operas are written in many different languages, including Spanish, German, French, Czech, English, Russian and (especially) Italian. However, when you listen to opera you don’t need to understand every word to know what is happening because the music and the singers will give you clues as to their character, mood and intention. Even so, when you attend an opera there are now *Super Titles* telling you the action in English. Ms. Guzman took you through the story of an opera and helped you understand the words of the song by using “Picture Titles.”

Create “Picture Titles” for the different ideas in the story in order to get the main ideas across. Have one or more students narrate the story. The “Picture Titles” will serve as a storyboard for the action. Make up your own ending for the final scene.

ACTIVITIES TO ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE:

Pr Repeat the experience you had in singing “*Twinkle Twinkle Little Star*” and repeat it in your classroom. First, sing it with normal volume. Then, stand up sing it with gusto. Analyze the difference. Finally, divide into three groups. The first group sings the first two lines of the song *forte* (strong and loud); the middle group sings the second two lines *piano* (softly) and the third group sings the last two lines *fortissimo* (very loudly, without shouting). Hold the last note until the teacher gives a sign to end. Remember the meaning of *forte*, *piano*, and *fortissimo*. Rotate the groups so everyone has a chance to try all three parts. Discuss the experience you had.

Cr Opera is a story set to music. So, in an opera the actors sing their words to each other rather than talking. If they were to have a conversation, they would sing their phrases rather than speak them. Divide into partners. Number off #1 and #2, then sit or stand facing each other and have a short conversation. First, take turns saying the phrases to each other. E.g. #1 *Hi! How’s it going?* #2 *Fine with me. How about you?* #1 *I’ve been sick!* #2 *Hope you’re better soon.* #1 *See ya!* #2 *Later!* Next, try singing the same conversation, making up the tune as you go (improvisation).

SUGGESTED RESOURCES:

Forman, Denis. *A Night at the Opera: An Irreverent Guide to The Plots, The Singers, The Composers* Modern Library, 1998.

Husain, Shahnukh. *The Barebook Book of Stories from the Opera*. Barebook Books, 2015.

MacLean, Avery. *The World’s Very Best Opera for Kids . . . In English*. Alliance, 2003.

California Arts Standards: Artistic Processes

Cr	Creating
Pr	Performing/Producing/Presenting
Re	Responding
Cn	Connecting

Learn more at:

Contact Name: _____

Phone: _____

_____ AND THE MUSIC CENTER ANNOUNCE SUZANNA GUZMAN TO PERFORM ON _____

_____ and The Music Center today announced the upcoming performance of Suzanna Guzman. The performance is presented by The Music Center's education department, part of TMC Arts, which provides many offerings including live performances, classroom workshops, scholarship and training programs, online arts curriculum, on-campus events and professional development.

Internationally acclaimed mezzo-soprano Suzanna Guzmán performs her award-winning show and reveals the universal appeal of opera for all ages. With this friendly diva as a guide, the audience will discover just how entertaining and moving this beautiful music can be. Guzmán breaks through the pre-conceptions and stereo-types and in a funny, accessible and hands-on performance. High-energy, informative, multi-lingual and interactive, she performs excerpts from some of operas greatest works: Puccini, Rossini, Bizet, including a dash of Mozart. Students learn basic music dynamics, vocal production, interplay of language, rhythm and music. With the help of student volunteers, Guzmán tells an "opera story" or "aria" with picture titles (rather than 'supertitles'.) and ends the performance with everyone participating in the Grand Finale. Students leave the event literally clapping their hands and with a song in their lungs!

For more than 40 years, The Music Center Performing Artists in Schools and Neighborhoods have been the premier resource for high-quality educational performances, offering one of the most compelling and diverse artistic rosters. The Music Center's incredible artists bring the magic of live performance to audiences throughout Los Angeles County, with an emphasis on programs that are an excellent fit for educational and neighborhood settings. All Music Center Performing Artists in Schools and Neighborhoods performances include standards-based curriculum materials that feature background information on the artists and their performance, as well as related classroom activities with connections to multiple curricular disciplines. Schools can choose from more than 60 performances in music, dance, theatre and storytelling from an internationally acclaimed roster of artists seen across the globe in films, theaters, concert halls, television shows and museums.

About The Music Center

The Music Center convenes artists, communities and ideas with the goal of deepening the cultural lives of every resident in Los Angeles County. The \$70 million non-profit performing arts organization has two divisions: TMC Arts and TMC Ops. TMC Arts, The Music Center's programming engine, provides year-round programming inside The Music Center's four theatres, on Jerry Moss Plaza, outside at Grand Park—a 12-acre adjacent green space—in schools and other locations all over Los Angeles County and on a digital platform called The Music Center Offstage. TMC Arts presents world-class dance with Glorya Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center, free and low-cost public concerts and events, as well as live and digital K–12 arts education programs, workshops, performances, interactive experiences and special events. TMC Ops manages the theatres, the Plaza and Grand Park, which comprise \$2 billion in county assets, on behalf of the County of Los Angeles. The Music Center is also home to four renowned resident companies—Center Theatre Group, Los Angeles Master Chorale, LA Opera and LA Phil. For more information, visit musiccenter.org. Follow The Music Center on Facebook, Instagram and X @MusicCenterLA.

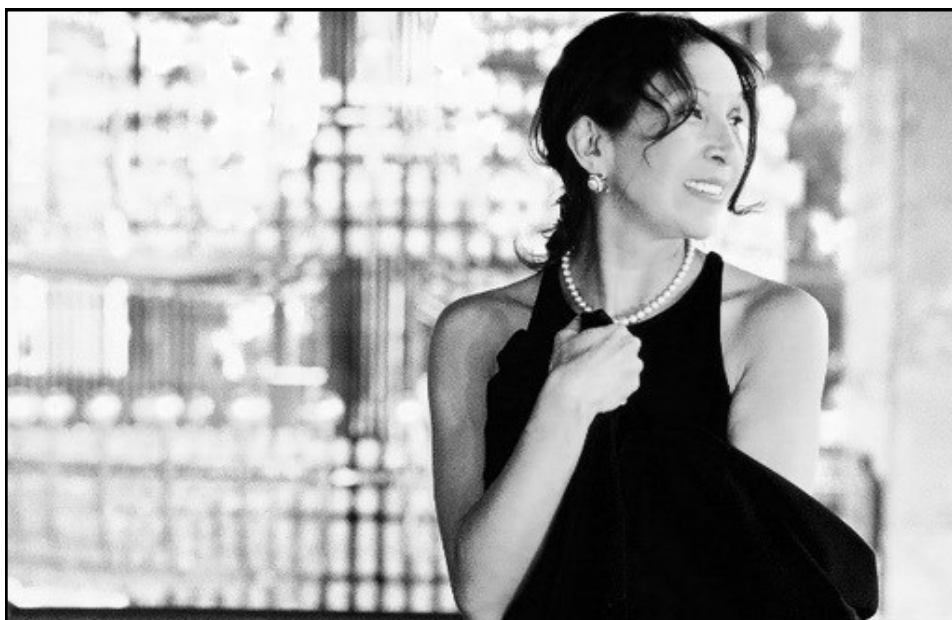
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For more information, please contact The Music Center at 213-972-3332. Members of the media are welcome to cover this performance. Please contact The Music Center prior to sending a reporter or photographer to the school.

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Exciting
Dance
Music
Theatre
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Performances
Come To You

SUZANNA GUZMÁN/ LOS ANGELES OPERA



DATE: _____

TIME: _____

LOCATION: _____



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@MusicCenterLA

THE
MUSIC
CENTER
A TMC Arts Program

ARTS INTEGRATION PARTNERSHIPS

Music Center teaching artists work in classrooms to empower student creativity and develop their artistic, workforce and life skills. The program deepens learning across the curriculum in collaboration with classroom teachers by combining dance, music, theatre, visual and media arts with content areas including English Language Arts, history, science and social emotional learning for students of all ages and abilities.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Music Center's professional development programs bring educators together to participate in an experiential and immersive approach to integrating dance, music, theatre, visual and media arts into their classrooms. The focus is on meeting educators where they are and building their capacity over time and in depth — both at school sites and at The Music Center. As but one example, each year The Music Center's Arts Integration Symposium engages participants in all grade levels, art forms and content areas.

DANCE LEARNING PROGRAMS

Glorya Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center offers Student Matinee performances during each season featuring world-class dance performances that celebrate the diversity of L.A. communities; invited rehearsals that provide young people with an inside look at the creative process of dance companies in residence; master classes focused on technique, choreography and dialogue with professional dancers; and creative residencies where local youth engage with visiting dance companies for multiple days, including the Ailey school residency program.

STUDENT FESTIVALS

The Very Special Arts Festival engages students of all abilities as artistic creators and contributors. At the Blue Ribbon Children's Festival, fifth graders across the county experience live performances and dance together as a community.

SPOTLIGHT YOUNG ARTISTS PROGRAM

A nationally acclaimed, free arts training and scholarship program that develops the creative capacity of high school performing artists in Southern California.

ARTS GROWN LA

A new platform for artistic expression already thriving in communities throughout Los Angeles County. From performances at parks, community centers, libraries, senior centers and civic events, to Hip Hop dance parties and youth lessons, Arts Grown L.A. collaborates with community partners and neighborhoods to uplift artists and creativity, complementing existing local programs.

ARTSOURCE®

The Music Center's Artsource® curriculum is designed to bring the expressive world of the arts into classrooms. The materials are available online free of cost.

OTHER ON-CAMPUS MUSIC CENTER OFFERINGS:

Glorya Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center, Grand Park, Dance DTLA, L.A. County Holiday Celebration, Plaza Concerts, and Symphonian Campus Tours, among other activities

For all our offerings, please visit us at www.musiccenter.org