

**THE
MUSIC
CENTER
ON
TOUR**

A TMC Arts Program

**EXCITING
DANCE
MUSIC
THEATRE
STORYTELLING
PERFORMANCES
COME TO YOU**

AMERICANA UNLIMITED

Lotta Crabtree

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.

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.

YOUR FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

About a week after the performance, you'll receive an invoice in the mail. 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 school 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.

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.

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 below text into a word document and fill in the blanks with the appropriate information. A premade poster is also included to let your school community know about the upcoming event.

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.

PERFORMANCE INTRODUCTION



"I would like to introduce today's performance which is presented by The Music Center of Los Angeles County. This performance features actress Judith Helton's portrayal of a woman named Lotta Crabtree. The California Gold Rush of 1848 changed many lives - this is the story of one of them. Americana Unlimited presents one of the most famous entertainers of her day, Miss Lotta Crabtree, who witnessed the Gold Rush firsthand. Lotta will present the story of her life. Keep in mind that every incident is based on historical fact. After the presentation, you will be able to question Lotta about her life and times. And now, Miss Lotta Crabtree and theater as it used to be."



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

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

SPACE

- 15' wide x 10' deep minimum
- Portable stages must be sturdy, level and securely lashed with steps leading up to the stage

SURFACE

- A clean and safe freshly mopped (not waxed) floor for performing
- Irregularities covered with tape
- Extraneous clutter removed

DRESSING AREA

- One private dressing area (not a bathroom) must be ready upon artist's arrival

ARRIVAL

- Artist will arrive 1 hour and 45 minutes prior to an assembly; 75 minutes prior to a visit where she is in one location; and 45 minutes prior to a visit where she visits more than one room

PARKING

- One space near the venue for loading and unloading

ASSISTANCE

- Please have a school representative ready to welcome the performers and to stay and help as needed; this representative should have access to any doors and lights and power in the performance area

START TIME

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

AMERICANA UNLIMITED—Lotta Crabtree

ART FORM: Storytelling/Historical Character

STYLE: Contemporary

CULTURE: North American

MEET THE ARTIST:

Actress Judith Helton literally steps into the past when she goes to work. Since 1976, she has brought history to life with her intriguing portrayals of women of accomplishment and artistic talent. Her versatile repertoire of one-woman shows consists of three from American history - First Lady Abigail Adams, Gold Rush entertainer Lotta Crabtree, pioneer author Laura Ingalls Wilder - and England's author/illustrator, Beatrix Potter. Each portrayal is meticulously researched from an historical perspective. Ms. Helton's professional theatre credits include work in resident acting companies in Baltimore, Milwaukee, Houston and San Diego. Internationally she has performed at the Edinburgh, Scotland "World Theatre Festival," and in Dublin and Cork, Ireland. Ms. Helton's commitment to authenticity in her performances has led her to master such specialized skills as spinning, weaving, banjo playing and antique costume construction. She so truly 'becomes' the women she plays, that it is little wonder when leaving her home she is asked by neighbors, "Who are you today?"

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE:

In *Lotta Crabtree: A Diamond in the Gold Rush*, Judith Helton portrays one of the outstanding entertainers of the 19th century. Using banjo, song and dance, this performance traces the beginnings of Lotta Crabtree's career as a Fairy Star (as child performers were called) traveling to towns and camps during the Gold Rush in California. Students have an opportunity to learn about the excitement, hardships and pursuit of dreams that was life in the early days of the Golden State as they experience the adventurous life of Lotta. An entertainer who was so beloved her fans called her "The California Diamond" or "San Francisco's Favorite," Ms. Crabtree as presented by Judith Helton shares social, political and historical information with students as part of the performance. Students should be encouraged to prepare for the discussion period that follows the presentation by studying the information provided in these pages.



PREPARING FOR THE EXPERIENCE:

An event took place on January 24, 1848 on John Sutter's land that forever altered life in California and began a movement that affected the entire United States of America. On that day James W. Marshall discovered gold at Sutter's Mill in the Sacramento Valley. Sutter tried to keep this information secret, but word spread that gold had been found on the American River, and nothing could keep thousands of people from flowing into California to seek their fortunes. During this reckless time, fortunes were made and lost; dreams were fulfilled and shattered. Life was often harsh in the gold camps. Prices for goods were high (eggs cost \$6.00 per dozen) and life was uncertain. Even when people got lucky and found gold, there was no guarantee of safety; there was always someone ready to take advantage of anyone else's good fortune in hitting "pay dirt." A hunger for entertainment grew out of this uncertain atmosphere, and performers began traveling to the settlements, presenting shows in tents, general stores and saloons. When a 7 year old girl named Lotta Crabtree joined in the trek to the camps, she began a career that would span over 37 years. Born on November 7, 1847 in New York City, Lotta Crabtree came to California with her mother in 1853. Her father had journeyed west two years before but had no luck in finding gold. Lotta and her family settled in Grass Valley, California, where her father ran a boarding house while continuing his fruitless attempt to strike it rich in the gold fields. Forced to earn their own living, Lotta and her mother turned to the theatre. Years of touring with shows in California and throughout the United States brought Lotta national fame and earned her the nickname "The California Diamond." At the height of her career (the 1870s and 1880s) she was the highest paid actress in America. She viewed her fortune as an instrument of good. "Lotta's Fountain," which still stands in San Francisco, was her gift to the city in her youth. She retired in 1891, but never retired from helping others. At her death she left her entire fortune of four million dollars to charity. She never forgot where her fortune had begun—when hopeful, dream-filled miners threw gold nuggets at her feet as a child during the California Gold Rush.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Think about the stories you heard in the performance. Which one was your favorite? Why?
- Did you know any of the songs that were sung by Lotta Crabtree? Which ones? What were the lyrics of the songs about? Did they give you an idea of what life was like during the Gold Rush?
- Discuss what conditions were like for many of the miners who lived in camps during the Gold Rush. What major problems did they have to overcome in their search for gold? (separation from family, lack of a secure income, high prices for goods, untrustworthy companions)
- Has anyone in your class ever panned for gold? If so, what was it like? Do you think that panning gold would be a good way to earn a living? What are the advantages and disadvantages?

FRAMEWORK FOCUS—SOCIAL SCIENCE:

Travelers who rushed to California during the Gold Rush were called 49ers because 1849 was the year that they headed for the Golden State. While many of the 49ers were from the eastern United States, many more came from around the world. Miners came from Mexico, China, Germany, France and Turkey. Each journey had its own set of difficulties to overcome, and its own story.

Imagine you will become a 49er. Select a country in the world from where you begin your journey. Make a list of things you will need. Be sure to think about how you will travel and what time of year you will be traveling. Plan your modes of transportation (horse, on foot, by train, ship or wagon) and draw a map of your planned route. What countries (or states) will you be crossing? Will you be traveling through snow, desert or over mountains? Will you be crossing oceans, rivers or streams? Estimate how long you think your journey will take.

Make a timeline of your journey, noting how many miles between stops, where you can purchase needed supplies, and where you will go when you get to California. Use a classroom map and colored strings to mark the different journeys planned by the class.

California Arts Standards: Artistic Processes

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

Learn more at:

<https://tinyurl.com/ArtsStandardsCA>

ACTIVITIES TO ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE:

Cn Discuss how the performance of *Lotta Crabtree's* life and adventures reflected the time and place in which she lived. Select one aspect of a story or song you remember and note what events, lyrics or melodies seemed to transport you to that time period.

Pr With a partner, imagine what it would be like to tell someone else that you are leaving (perhaps forever) for the gold fields in California. What would you say? What reasons would you give for going? What reasons might convince you to stay? Prepare and present a scene with your partner, alternating roles so each of you gets the chance to use every reason possible to convince your partner that you should go - or stay. Share with the class.

Cn Try panning for "gold" in your classroom. Take a plastic or metal tub and fill it 1/3 to 1/2 full of water, sediment and sand. Drop in a few small rocks or pebbles that have been painted gold. One or two at a time take pie plates and dig out a bit of the sediment, swirling it until the water and smaller bits of sand are gone. Continue taking turns until the "gold" is found.

Cn Research how inventions have changed the ways that Americans are entertained since *Lotta Crabtree's* days as a performer. Make a list of challenges and benefits that performers from both eras would face.

Cn Do research to compare *Lotta Crabtree's* California to the California of today, noting the differences of the following:

- Travel, in towns and between towns
- Population (size, demographics, lifestyle)
- Prices and availability of goods
- Clothing and dress styles
- Law and order
- Employment opportunities

SUGGESTED RESOURCES:

Holliday, J.S. *The World Rushed In*. University of Oklahoma Press, 2002.

Rau, Margaret. *The Wells Fargo Book of the Gold Rush*. Atheneum, 2001.

"Gold Rush! California's Untold Stories, Oakland Museum of California." *Art of the Gold Rush at Oakland Museum of California*, Oakland Museum of California, explore.museumca.org/goldrush/

School Contact Name: _____

Phone: _____

_____ AND THE MUSIC CENTER ANNOUNCE AMERICANA UNLIMITED TO PERFORM ON _____

_____ and The Music Center today announced the upcoming performance of Americana Unlimited on campus. As part of the school's continuing efforts to supplement its curriculum and its students' educational experience through a live performance, the school will host a special presentation from The Music Center on Tour roster. 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.

Actress Judith Helton literally steps into the past when she goes to work. Since 1976, she has brought history to life with her intriguing portrayals of women of accomplishment and artistic talent. Her versatile repertoire of one-woman shows consists of three from American history -- First Lady Abigail Adams, Gold Rush entertainer Lotta Crabtree, pioneer author Laura Ingalls Wilder -- and England's author/illustrator, Beatrix Potter. Each portrayal is meticulously researched from an historical perspective. Ms. Helton's professional theatre credits include work in resident acting companies in Baltimore, Milwaukee, Houston and San Diego. Internationally she has performed at the Edinburgh, Scotland "World Theatre Festival," and in Dublin and Cork, Ireland. Ms. Helton's commitment to authenticity in her performances has led her to master such specialized skills as spinning, weaving, banjo playing and antique costume construction.

The Music Center on Tour is a program of TMC Arts, The Music Center's programming engine, which provides relevant, engaging arts experiences that deepen the cultural lives of all in Los Angeles County. For more than 40 years, The Music Center on Tour has 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 settings. All Music Center on Tour 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 75 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 non-profit performing arts organization has two divisions: The Music Center Arts (TMC Arts) and The Music Center Operations (TMC Ops). TMC Arts, The Music Center's programming engine, provides year-round programming inside The Music Center's four theatres, on The Music Center Plaza, outside at Grand Park—a 12-acre adjacent green space—and in schools and other locations all over Los Angeles County. 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 K–12 arts education programs. TMC Ops manages the theatres, the plaza and Grand Park 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 Twitter @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
STORYTELLING
PERFORMANCES
COME TO YOU

THE MUSIC CENTER PRESENTS

AMERICANA UNLIMITED



DATE: _____

TIME: _____

SCHOOL: _____



musiccenter.org/ontour

THE
MUSIC
CENTER

OTHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS



ARTS INTEGRATION PARTNERSHIPS

The Music Center's teaching artists work in the classroom to empower student creativity and develop their artistic, workforce and life skills. Arts Integration Partnerships deepen learning across the curriculum in collaboration with classroom teachers by combining dance, music, theatre and visual 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 and visual 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 Summer Arts Studio for Educators engages participants in all grade levels, art forms and content areas.

STUDENT MATINEE PERFORMANCES

Each year, *Glorya Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center* offers free student matinee dance performances where young people experience world-class dance performances that celebrate the diversity of L.A. communities. All performances include a teacher orientation session and curriculum guide for students.

THE BLUE RIBBON CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

The Blue Ribbon Children's Festival, designed specifically for fifth grade students, is an annual admission-free program at The Music Center. Students from across L.A. County experience a live professional performance at a world-class performing arts center, then gather together to perform a short-choreographed piece inspired by the production, dancing together as a community.

VERY SPECIAL ARTS FESTIVAL

The Very Special Arts Festival is an annual admission-free event engaging students of all abilities as artistic creators and contributors. The festival features student and professional performances on a large stage, visual and performing arts workshops, and a student art exhibit created around a central theme.

SPOTLIGHT

Spotlight is a free education and scholarship program open to Southern California teens, offering arts training, experience/workforce development skills and awards more than \$100,000 in scholarships annually.

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, and Symphonian Campus Tours, among other activities

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

