

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

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

WE TELL STORIES

Earth Tales

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

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 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.

Performance Introduction

"I would like to introduce today's performance which is presented by the Music Center of Los Angeles County. This performance is entitled Earth Tales and features We Tell Stories. These actors are going to explore some folk tales with you from ancient cultures. These are stories from people who lived a long time ago who understood how important our Earth was to their survival and they told stories to remind them to take care of it. Please welcome We Tell Stories!



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 15' deep minimum
- Portable stages must be sturdy, level and securely lashed

SURFACE

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

OUTDOOR PERFORMANCE

- The area must be shaded, sheltered from wind, and away from distractions

DRESSING AREA

One dressing room (not a restroom) near the stage

EQUIPMENT

- Sound system with microphone input. If three lavaliers are available, please let the artists know when they arrive.

AUDIENCE SEATING

- Need at least one aisle in the audience, for access to and from the stage.

ARRIVAL

- 15-30 minutes prior to the scheduled start time to prepare and set up

PARKING

- Three spaces close to the venue for loading and unloading

ASSISTANCE

- Please have a representative ready to welcome the performers and to stay and help as needed.

START TIME

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

WE TELL STORIES—Earth Tales

ART FORM: Storytelling/Theater

STYLE: Contemporary

CULTURE: Multicultural

MEET THE ARTIST:

We Tell Stories is a diverse storytelling troupe founded by Artistic Director Carl Weintraub. The company has a three-fold purpose: to entertain and educate children through the literature, folklore, and mythology of all times and cultures; to expose them to the processes of language and acting as art forms; and to inspire them to plumb the depths and reach the heights of their own creativity. To this end, the group diligently seeks fresh material and performs it with an extemporaneous flavor, encouraging children to participate in their minds, from their seats and on the stage. In this way, the children see themselves as an integral part of the process, not only witnessing, but also experiencing the stories' morals, the art, and the fun. An old trunk filled with props and costumes is the solitary set, and it is the group's hope that the audiences go away saying to themselves, "I could do that!" And, perhaps they will!

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE:

The places we live (our homes, streets, neighborhoods, cities and countries) all inhabit the same planet: the Earth. "Earth Tales" tell about cultures who shared this planet long before our time, people who lived closely with Mother Earth. They listened to her voice, shared her rhythms and sang her songs. The stories which comprise this program are: "Who Owns the Land," which presents a myth from Norway about the Norse Goddess Freya, and how she settles an argument between two farmers who both claim to "own" the land. "The Invisible Hunters," a tale from the Miskito people of Nicaragua which tells of a group of hunters who are given the gift of invisibility as long as they keep a very special promise. "The Rainbow Bridge," a Chumash creation myth tells of the arrival of man in the land we now call California. All of these stories will help students think deeply about the wonder of our beautiful planet.



PREPARING FOR THE EXPERIENCE:

Every day, someone somewhere tells another person a story. It might be true. It might be fictional. It might be a story from long ago, or from today, or even about tomorrow.

Telling stories is the way people recall important events, imagine the future, or share thoughts, beliefs and values. Telling a tale helps us learn in an enjoyable way; the lessons we hear delight us, excite us, and stay with us for a lifetime. The tales of ancient cultures help children imagine what life was like in different times. In Earth Tales, students will see and hear how important it is to cherish and care for this planet we all share.

A dominant theme in the performance is ecology. Ecology is the study of the relationship of plants and animals (including man) to their physical and biological environment. The word is drawn from the Greek term *oikos*, which means "household." Our household, the Earth, is made possible through an intricate system of relationships between the essential elements of our atmosphere: light, heat (solar radiation), moisture, wind, oxygen, carbon dioxide, and nutrients in the soil, water and atmosphere. We are a part of this system, in that our actions can have a direct effect on our environment and on the others around us.

Practicing respect for our physical surroundings helps us learn to respect ourselves and others. No matter where we come from, we still all live on the same Earth, and need the same things to survive. Outside our homes is our second home, where we walk, play, work and live. This "home" is shared with many others. It is hoped that through these stories, students will learn a little bit more about "our" shared household.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Which of the stories did you like best? Why?
- In "Who Owns the Land," what lesson did the two farmers learn? Who does "own" the land?
- In "The Invisible Hunters," what happened when the hunters broke their promise?
- Why did the people in "The Rainbow Bridge" have to leave their land and cross the sea? The story tells why the *Chumash* people feel closely related to dolphins. Have you ever felt close to an animal? Why?
- Which characters in the stories did you like the best? Which ones would you most want to be like? Which ones didn't you like? Why?

FRAMEWORK FOCUS—HISTORY/SOCIAL STUDIES:

Everyone has a story to tell; everyone's life is interesting, special and worth hearing about. Ask your students to imagine that they are a character in a story. Help them make a list of "titles" for personal life stories, such as "My Horrible Shopping Trip," or "The Wonderful Birthday," "The Day I Was Late for School" or "My Hamster and Me." The titles should reflect actual events. (This activity may be adjusted for grade level; younger students can create a single class story about an event that they have shared or all experienced, such as going to the market, playing outside, taking a walk, or a class fire drill or field trip.) After students have selected titles, help them answer the following questions:

- What is your story about?
- Where does it take place?
- What is the most important event that happens?
- Who are the other important people in the story?
- What problems do your characters face?
- What lessons do your characters learn?

Place children in pairs or groups, or keep them together as a class, and ask them to begin "writing" their stories. A simple way to begin is "Once upon a time, there was a...." Students may create their stories verbally, or may use this as a writing assignment.

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 Use a globe to identify the countries or areas of origin for the various *Earth Tales*. Ask students to find southern California. How far away is it from the other locations?

Cn Using the globe or a world map, research locations for the settings in some of your core literature. Look at the topography of the areas. Are there lakes or rivers? Are there mountains? Are there oceans or deserts?

Cr Ask students to select a story from the performance or a core literature story and have them read about and research the location of the story. Then ask them to draw a picture from the story, making sure they include parts of the natural environment such as trees, plants and animals, or appropriate weather events, such as rain, snow or sunshine.

Cn Ask students to look around their own home and ask themselves what they and their family are doing to help protect their personal part of the Earth. Do they recycle? Do they take care of their parks and playgrounds? Do they volunteer to help with clean ups?

Cn Review the following vocabulary with students. How do these terms interrelate to the performance? What do these words mean? Why are they important to your students and to future generations?

Atmosphere

globe

biosphere

household

Earth

ozone

ecology

pollution

ecosystem

world

SUGGESTED RESOURCES:

Kessler, Colleen. *Hands on Ecology for Kids*. Prufrock Press, 2006.

Palmer, Michelle O'Brian. *How the Earth Works.: Fun Activities for Exploring Volcanos, Fossils, Earthquakes and More*. Chicago Review Press, 2002.

Contact Name: _____

Phone: _____

AND THE MUSIC CENTER ANNOUNCE

WE TELL STORIES TO PERFORM ON _____

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

We Tell Stories is a masterful group of theatre artists, founded in 1981 by children's theatre innovator Carl Weintraub. The group uses a unique blend of storytelling, audience participation and sometimes original music to bring folklore, literature and mythology from all cultures and times to life. An old trunk filled with homemade props and costumes serves as the vehicle through which sets and characters are created, with ordinary objects transforming to support extraordinary stories. Humor and fantasy enthrall as stories of honesty, friendship, self-esteem and more enlighten all audiences. The professional artists who make up the company of We Tell Stories handle audiences of all age ranges with ease, and consistently deliver first-rate, mad-cap performances with joy and enthusiasm. Whether the viewer is young or simply young at heart, We Tell Stories is sure to capture, entertain and educate.

_____ of the prestigious PASA Award for lifetime achievement by professional artists in schools.

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 Glorja 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 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
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WE TELL STORIES



DATE: _____

TIME: _____

LOCATION: _____



musiccenter.org/performingartists
@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, work-force 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