

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

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

WE TELL STORIES

Season of Giving

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 The Season of Giving and features We Tell Stories. These actors are going to explore stories with you from around the world that are all about this time of year and about the gifts that are the most important to be given and received. 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—The Season of Giving

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 Season of Giving celebrates holiday traditions across the globe and throughout time, using themes of Transformation, Enduring Values and the Human Family. The company will choose and perform three of the following four stories, depending on the maturity of the audience. "King Hilary and the Beggarman," a poem by A.A. Milne, tells how fortune brings rewards at Christmastime to an honest beggar and a generous king. "Persephone in Hades" is an ancient Greek myth that explains why the seasons change. "The Gift of the Magi," by O. Henry, is a turn-of-the-century tale about the true nature of gift giving, love and sacrifice. Finally, "One Chanukah in Chelm" is a folktale about a legendary town of generous fools who try not to be generous but fails. A trio of actors uses the troupe's signature trunk to set the stage and create the magic for each selection, encouraging students to read the materials presented in the performance, or seek out new stories on their own.

PREPARING FOR THE EXPERIENCE:

"The Season of Giving" uses a storytelling format to present folk tales to children. The purposes and values of storytelling are many.

- Telling a story is a gift - a shared experience that should bring people closer together.
- Storytelling introduces books and hopefully motivates the audience to read and explore literature.
- Storytelling can help teach language skills.
- Through storytelling, the audience can gain insight into motives and patterns of human behavior.
- Storytelling is a way to keep cultural heritage alive.
- Hearing stories gives the listeners practice in visualization, the basis of creative imagination.
- Storytelling brings dramatic joy to the teller and the listener alike.

Characteristics of a good story are:

- a single theme, clearly defined
 - a well-developed plot
 - style (vivid word pictures, pleasing sounds, rhythm)
 - believable characterizations
 - faithfulness to source material
 - dramatic appeal
 - appropriateness for the listener.
- A good story for telling is one that, like a good book, has something to say and says it in the best possible way.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Which part of the performance did you like the best? Why? Which story was your favorite?
- What countries, cities, towns, or countryside were the settings for the stories? What time periods or eras were represented?
- Were there customs or traditions that were familiar to you? Were there any that were new to you?
- The actors used costumes and props that were pulled from a trunk. Did they use items in creative and imaginative ways? Were you surprised by the ways they used some of the items?
- Did the stories have any shared themes or ideas? What were they?

FRAMEWORK FOCUS—LANGUAGE ARTS:

Find the stories in pictures through these exercises:

Collect a group of pictures of scenic beauty and urban and rural settings without any people in them. Divide the class into small groups of three or four and let each group select a picture to work from. The groups should devise a story specific to the picture they have chosen. Give each group 30 minutes to play and rehearse their stories and then share them with the class.

Draw one setting using most of the blackboard and ask the groups to create stories that would happen in that setting. For example, if you drew a picture of a deserted island with palm trees, the groups might develop stories of shipwrecks, diving expeditions, exotic vacations, etc. Share the stories with the class. Discuss how the same setting can suggest different stories.

Incorporate the following exercise with an art lesson. Ask students to draw, color or paint a setting from their imagination. Use a curricular theme if desired, but settings can be drawn from a scary or safe place, outer space, nature, fantasy, or their own back yard. When they have finished their pictures, have them exchange with someone and perform a short scene based on that artwork.

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:

Pr Share a favorite family holiday tale. If possible, interview a family member to be sure that all the details of the story are clear. Remember how the *We Tell Stories* actors used descriptive, active language, gestures, emotions and props or costumes to make their stories come to life, and try to use some of their techniques in your own storytelling.

Cr Divide the class into small groups and give each group three unrelated words to incorporate as an integral part of an original holiday scene. Give the groups 30 minutes to plan the scene, assign the roles, and rehearse the story improvising dialogue and action. Suggestions for word combinations:

mistletoe - horse - sleigh

gift - snow - door knob

frozen pond - lantern - bucket

candle - compass - deck of cards

hot chocolate - teddy bear - boots

Cn Focus attention on the map of the world in your classroom and have students research what parts of the world the stories came from. Identify their points of origin. Did the stories travel a great distance from their homeland countries to your classroom? How far? Are there students in your classroom from these countries? Discuss with students how the stories may have changed as they traveled around the world or across the oceans.

Cn Read two or three holiday stories from different cultures and several descriptions of holiday traditions around the world and then discuss them with your class. Story suggestions include:

The Fir Tree, by Hans Christian Andersen

The Night of Las Posadas, by Tomie dePaola

Zlateh the Goat, by Isaac Bashevis Singer

Holiday Traditions could include:

Diwali India

Las Posadas Latin America

Kwanzaa African American

Santa Lucia Scandinavia

SUGGESTED RESOURCES:

Dillon, Susan. *The Scholastic Big Book of Holidays Around the Year*. Scholastic Teaching Resources, 2003.

"Encyclopedia of Improv Games." *Improv Encyclopedia*, Moonworks & Improv Encyclopedia, improvcyclopedia.org/games/.

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