

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

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

# SAKAI FLAMENCO

# 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.

## Performance Introduction

"I would like to introduce today's performance which is presented by The Music Center of Los Angeles County. Through the exotic chords played on the guitar, the soul-stirring melodies of the Spanish Gypsies, and the fiery, powerhouse rhythms of the dancers' footwork, Sakai Flamenco will bring you an authentic and unforgettable experience of flamenco music and dance. Please welcome Sakai Flamenco!"



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

- 8' wide x 8' deep minimum
- Portable stages must be sturdy, level and securely lashed with no gaps

## SURFACE

- Freshly mopped (not waxed)
- Irregularities covered with tape
- Extraneous clutter removed
- A SMOOTH WOOD FLOOR IS REQUIRED

## DRESSING AREA

- One private, secured dressing area close to the stage

## EQUIPMENT

- 1 electrical outlet
- Three microphones on stands, plugged into sound system (two microphones minimum; please call The Music Center if two working microphones are not available).
  - Four chairs

## ARRIVAL

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

## PARKING

- Five spaces, one as close to the venue as possible 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 auditorium, seated and ready to begin at the listed times

## SAKAI FLAMENCO

**ART FORM:** Music and Dance

**STYLE:** Traditional

**CULTURE:** Southern Spain

### MEET THE ARTIST:

Sakai Flamenco is a dynamic and fiery performing ensemble dedicated to keeping the traditional music and dance of Southern Spain alive. The company is composed of talented musicians and dancers that are steeped in Spanish culture. The word “Sakai” is a Spanish gypsy word that refers to the eyes, which reflect the emotion of flamenco dancers. The eyes are said to transform when a dancer reaches his or her highest state of artistry, known in Spanish as *duende*. Sakai Flamenco’s Artistic Director, Mercedes Ibarra, first discovered Flamenco while at UCLA and a year later joined DeLiRitmo Flamenco Dance Company. After college, she joined the Gabriela Garza Flamenco Dance Company, and eventually moved to Spain to study at the Centro de Arte Flamenco, Amor de Dios, and performed at El Juglar, a traditional Flamenco venue. She returned to the US in 2008 and began studying and performing with Linda Andrade, the founder of Sakai Flamenco. She was accepted into UNESCO’s International Dance Council and has been on the faculty of the Orange County School of the Arts and is a resident teaching artist for various arts organizations, including The Music Center.

### ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE:

Sakai Flamenco’s thrilling performance begins with a demonstration of thunderous heel work, the haunting melody of flamenco guitar, and the poetry of flamenco’s passionate deep song. The audience is immediately drawn into this powerful experience, as they are taken on a rich cultural journey that traces the roots and history of flamenco. As they observe the dance gestures and listen to the music, they see, hear, feel and briefly discuss flamenco’s Asiatic, Middle Eastern and North African roots, drawing comparisons and making authentic connections to their own family histories and traditions. A specialized flamenco dance vocabulary is introduced, along with rhythmic clapping, which serves as the percussive base in flamenco. In addition rattling castanets and colorful props are presented. The performance culminates in an unforgettable, fun-filled and impromptu fiesta where members of the audience are selected and invited to the stage to demonstrate what they have learned.

### PREPARING FOR THE EXPERIENCE:

Flamenco was only defined and recognized as an independent genre at the beginning of the 20th century. There are two main theories as to how flamenco got its name. One is that it is a derivation of the word *flamingo*, a bird that exhibits exquisite posture and displays the pride and beauty of flamenco dancers. The other theory is that it comes from the word *Flemish*, which depicts a style of art that was prized at the time, for its colors and passion. Flamenco was created in Spain, but how did it develop? Spain is a country with its own people and traditions, but for centuries it was conquered and inhabited by many different peoples including Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Sephardic Jews and North African Berbers. Out of this blending of cultures, flamenco was born.

Gypsies from East India, considered to be the catalysts of flamenco, wandered through Asia, the Middle East, Europe and North Africa, arriving in Southern Spain. Under Moorish rule, there were cultural and religious differences, but people lived together in relative peace. Before the Inquisition, Spain was a cradle of humanity, science and the arts.

With the coming of the Inquisition, many peoples, including gypsies, were rounded up, persecuted and expelled. People were forbidden to follow their own beliefs and traditions. This grief, frustration and anguish, was expressed in song, music and dance and became known as flamenco.

As you listen to the music, you will hear and feel some of these intense emotions. As you view the dance, you will see a spectrum of emotions in the energy and movements.



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Prior to the performance, ask students to discuss the benefits of living in an ethnically diverse society where traditions are allowed to influence each other and are often blended or combined to create something new. Ask students to give examples of when this has happened.
- Ask students what most impressed them about the music, the dance and the voice as they watched the performance. Encourage them to give reasons.
- Discuss some of the different emotions that all people have (love, grief, anger, fear, etc.). What were some of the ones expressed by the dancers and musicians? What things about the way they danced, played or sang communicated specific feelings?
- How does Flamenco dance and music compare to other dance and music students have seen or heard?

## FRAMEWORK FOCUS—SOCIAL STUDIES/HISTORY:

During the Spanish Inquisition the gypsies, as well as others, were forced to comply with the beliefs and values of the dominant group or experience death, pain and trauma. Think what life would be like if you were forbidden from doing things that you now think of as normal (reading the books you want, listening to any type of music, eating a wide variety of foods, dressing the way you like). Then discuss the benefits and problems of being in a society like ours, where there is personal choice, as well as the freedom to borrow ideas from each other to form something new.

Become aware of the ethnic diversity in your own classroom. Find a special contribution that each culture can give to the group - color combinations, music, dance, dress style, architecture, etc. Experiment with ways that these ideas could be combined. Create a building or design a piece of clothing that combines the ideas of two different cultural influences.

### 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** Review vocabulary terms related to flamenco and this performance:

Gypsy	sakai (eyes)
Castanets	braceo (arm movement)
La guitarra (guitar)	flamenco
Palmas (hand clapping)	guitar
Taconeo (footwork)	rhythm
Maneo (hand movement)	el cante (song)
Jaleo (cries of encouragement)	emotions
Duende (true flamenco spirit)	
Improvisation (making something up on the spot)	

**Pr** Divide the room in half. One group claps a continuous slow, steady beat. The other half claps off the beat or in-between the beats. Start slowly and get increasingly faster, without losing the rhythm. Begin very softly and gradually build to the louder “palmas”.

**Pr** In the performance you observed a clapping, rhythmic conversation between the two dancers. Divide the class into partners and have them carry on a conversation in rhythm (clapping hands/palmas) using different patterns, varying loud and soft and alternating back and forth to express themselves. Share.

**Cr** In the performance, you observed strong emotions being expressed through dance, music, and song. Select a strong emotion you have experienced and write about it in a poem. Begin with a word web, where you write the emotion in the center and all the words you can think of that relate to the emotion are written around the edges. Use cinquain poetry or other poetry to explore this emotion.

## SUGGESTED RESOURCES:

Schreiner, Claus. *Flamenco*. Amadeus Press. Portland, Oregon, 2003.

Pohren, D. E. *The Art of Flamenco*, The Bold Strummer, Ltd., 2005.

Totton, Robin. *Song of the Outcasts, an Introduction to Flamenco*. Amadeus Press Portland, Oregon, 2003.

Garcia Lorca, Federico. *Poem of the Deep Song/Poema del Cante Jondo*. City Lights Books, San Francisco, 1987.

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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**AND THE MUSIC CENTER ANNOUNCE**

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**SAKAI FLAMENCO TO PERFORM ON \_\_\_\_\_**

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\_\_\_\_\_ and The Music Center today announced the upcoming performance of Sakai Flamenco on campus. 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.

Sakai Flamenco is a dynamic performing ensemble composed of some of the finest traditional flamenco dancers and musicians in the United States. This fiery, stirring performance of music, rhythm and dance is a powerhouse presentation of flamenco, a style of music and dance that is truly unique. Through the driving rhythms of the guitar, passionate song, hand-clapping, finger-snapping, sharp footwork and cries of encouragement, the artists inspire each other as they carry the audience straight into the soul of this explosive musical dance experience.

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](http://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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# SAKAI FLAMENCO



**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TIME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**LOCATION:** \_\_\_\_\_



[musiccenter.org/performingartists](https://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, 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](http://www.musiccenter.org)