

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

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

# **CARL WEINTRAUB**

Breadcrumbs Along the Trail

# 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 titled "Breadcrumbs Along the Trail" and features actor and storyteller Carl Weintraub. He is going to explore with you an assortment of his favorite stories, fables and fairy tales. Please welcome Carl Weintraub!"



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

- 6' wide x 6' 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 near the stage

## EQUIPMENT

- Sound system with microphone input. If a lavalier is available, please let the artist know when he arrives.

## ARRIVAL

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

## PARKING

- One space near 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

## CARL WEINTRAUB—Breadcrumbs Along the Trail

**ART FORM:** Storytelling

**STYLE:** Contemporary

**CULTURE:** Multicultural

### MEET THE ARTIST:

*Carl Weintraub*, a well-known in the storytelling community, is founder of the popular troupe *We Tell Stories*. This talented artist works as a producer, director, writer and actor, but thinks of himself first as "a father and storyteller." He has amassed a fascinating library of rare and antique children's books of folk tales, fables and fantasies from all over the world. His love of the art led him to perform several storytelling festivals for adult audiences. Later, he developed this program of stories for young audiences. A charismatic and versatile performer, Carl's stage credits include the Old Globe Theatre in San Diego, the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles, and many starring roles in prime-time television series and movies. He was one of the first artists to receive the prestigious Professional Artist in the Schools (PASA) Lifetime Achievement Award.

### ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE:

In "Breadcrumbs Along the Trail," Carl Weintraub chooses from his vast repertoire of fables, Russian folk tales, fairy tales, personal stories, and theatre games to entertain and enlighten his audience. In some ways, stories are like breadcrumbs scattered along the paths we choose in life. Along the roads, we accidentally stumble upon them. Breadcrumbs are there to help us find our way - our way home, and our way to new, unknown destinations. Stories, like breadcrumbs, are made up of grains: grains of ideas; words; wisdom; and insight. We know men, women, cultures and societies by the bread they bake, the paths they walk, and the stories they tell. Audiences will find kernels of knowledge, inspiration and nourishment as they listen to some of Carl Weintraub's favorite stories - tales which have shaped his character and guided him along life's journey.



### PREPARING FOR THE EXPERIENCE:

The storyteller of today is a link in the long chain of storytellers that stretches back to the past and into the future. Before the days of writing, when the spoken word was the only means of communication, stories were an essential and enjoyable part of life. Without written records, the history and laws of a people had to be remembered and passed on orally, often in the form of stories. From the early days, storytelling has had an importance and value for everyone in the community.

Stories can serve a variety of different purposes, including oral histories, entertainment, education and enlightenment. Two common types of stories in the early days of storytelling were the *Warning Example* and the *Embroidered Exploit*. *Warning Example* stories used dangerous or inappropriate behavior to show children and other members of a community how to stay safe or follow established rules. The *Embroidered Exploit* told of an actual event, such as a hunter's encounter with a wild animal, that became more and more exaggerated each time it was retold. The beast became wilder and more dangerous; the hunter grew more outrageous. Stories also developed as a means of explaining natural events such as thunder and lightning, earthquakes, floods, phases of the moon, and the changing seasons. The stories often involved supernatural beings that people invented to explain how the world functioned, and even how life and their world was created.

In the beginning, everyone told stories, but eventually there was one person in each tribe whose knowledge, skill and talent raised him above all others. Whether a *griot* (Africa), a *Scald* (Scandinavia), a *Bard* (Wales), a *Seanachie* (Ireland), a *Gleeman* or *Minstrel* (England), the storyteller dedicated his life to remembering and retelling the stories of his people. The onset of the Industrial Revolution altered our style of living. The widespread use of newspapers and books diminished the need for storytelling. But the joy of hearing a story, especially if the experience is shared with others, will never disappear. Stories teach us, entertain us and enlighten us in a way that never fails to amuse and amaze.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What do you think the title *Breadcrumbs Along the Trail* means? Can you name some stories you know that taught you something or changed you in some way?
- Which story from the performance did you like best? Why?
- Can you name all the settings the characters in the stories passed through? Did Carl's descriptions of the different settings of the stories create any pictures in your mind? If so, describe the scene you saw.
- On a world map, locate the homeland of your ancestors. Place pins or flags to mark the various locales. Can you share any stories that come from your home or ancestral country?
- What did you learn from the stories today? Is there any information you feel you would like to pass on to someone else by telling the story? Cite specific examples.

## FRAMEWORK FOCUS—LANGUAGE ARTS:

Introduce students to the idea that poetry can tell a story. Read some story poems as a class. Suggestions for primary grades include: *Nursery Rhymes*, "*The Nonsense Alphabet*" by Edward Lear, the "*Brownie Year Book*" by Palmer Cox, or the poems of A.A. Milne. Upper elementary could try "*The Walrus and the Carpenter*" by Lewis Carroll, "*The Village Blacksmith*" or "*Paul Revere's Ride*" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, "*The Duel*" by Eugene Field, "*The Pied Piper of Hamelin*" by Robert Browning or the poems of Robert Lewis Stevenson.

Read the selected story poem as a class and discuss how the use of rhyming words altered the story. Imagine the story told in a narrative style. How would it change?

Ask students to create their own story using rhyme. Begin with a simple opening line, such as:

"Once upon a time there was a boy named \_\_\_\_\_,  
who tried to \_\_\_\_\_"

Decide on a rhyme scheme to use: AAAA, ABAB, ABABCC, etc. Make up additional lines to finish the verse. Recite the story poem as a 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:

**Pr** Share a favorite story that you heard around your dinner table or at a family event. To make it fun, pretend to be the family member or friend who told the story, and try to use their gestures, vocal pitch and phrasing. Allow the class to try and guess something about the storyteller, such as age, relationship, etc.

**Cr** Collect pictures of scenic beauty and urban and rural settings without people in them. Travel magazines and nature magazines are good sources, as well as picture postcards. Divide the class into small groups and let each group choose a picture to work from. Ask the group to devise a story specific to the picture they have chosen. Give each group 15-30 minutes to plan and rehearse their stories and then share them.

**Cr** Divide the class into small groups and give each group three unrelated words to incorporate as an integral part of an original scene. Give the groups 15-30 minutes to plan the scene, assign the roles, rehearse the story and improvise dialogue and action. Suggestions for word combinations include:

toothbrush - horse - earring

hair clip - telephone - hammer

balloon - paintbrush - door knob

candle - compass - deck of cards

toaster - teddy bear - baked potato

**Cn** Have students select and read a story from a culture different from their own. Does the story remind them of any tales told in their own culture? Using the board, chart the differences and similarities in the stories, watching for interrelations or values.

**Re** Have students evaluate the performance of *Breadcrumbs Along the Trail* by writing a paragraph describing what they liked about the performance, the stories and the lessons given to the audience, the way the actor used his voice and body, etc. Then ask them to include a sentence that tells what they would add or change in the performance.

**Re** Reflect on how the lessons conveyed in the stories connect to students' lives. Discuss moments in the stories that seemed familiar or taught something to the students. Divide into groups to role-play selected scenarios.

## SUGGESTED RESOURCES:

Afanasyev, Alexander. *Russian Fairy Tales (Illustrated)*. *The Planet Pub*, 2013.

*Illustrated Stories from the Greek Myths*. Usborne, 2011.

Sims, Leslie. *Illustrated Stories from Around the World*. Usborne, 2014.

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

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

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**\_\_\_\_\_ AND THE MUSIC CENTER ANNOUNCE  
CARL WEINTRAUB TO PERFORM ON \_\_\_\_\_**

\_\_\_\_\_ and The Music Center today announced the upcoming performance of Carl Weintraub 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.

Breadcrumbs Along the Trail is a dynamic solo performance by Carl Weintraub, the founding force behind the well-known theatre troupe, We Tell Stories, and a recipient 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](http://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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# CARL WEINTRAUB



**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, 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](http://www.musiccenter.org)