

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



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

**LEELA DANCE
COLLECTIVE
IMAGINE INDIA**

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. The Leela (Lee- Lah) Dance Collective brings you the rapid-fire footwork, swift pirouettes, complex rhythms, dramatic storytelling and rich music that is Kathak, a classical dance from Northern India. Please welcome the Leela Dance Collective!"



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

- 25' wide x 15' minimum

SURFACE

- Hard wood surface that is smooth and clean.
- It is important that the surfaces not be waxed and that any irregularities are covered with strong tape.
- Portable stages must be sturdy, level and securely lashed with steps leading up to the stage.

DRESSING AREA

One dressing room able to comfortably accommodate 3-5 people

EQUIPMENT

- One microphone connected to a sound system on a tall stand placed upstage right for the narrator
 - Two electrical outlets

OUTDOOR PERFORMANCES

- Outdoor performances require a hard wood floor. One may be rented for a fee.
 - The area MUST be shaded.

ARRIVAL

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

PARKING

- Three 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
- Audiences should be in the auditorium, seated and ready to begin at the listed times

LEELA DANCE COLLECTIVE

ART FORM: Dance

STYLE: Traditional

CULTURE: Indian

MEET THE ARTIST:

The Leela Dance Collective features Northern Indian dance and music from the kathak cultural tradition. The group are disciples of legendary kathak master Pandit Chitresh Das, along with leading kathak performers Rina Mehta, Sarah Morelli and Shefali Jain. It is the only company of its kind that focuses on Indian-American dance that brings together leading kathak artists from around the world. These artists represent a multitude of voices to articulate a unique vision for kathak. The group is distinguished by an artistic practice that centers around collaboration, collective creativity and a body of work that is both grounded in tradition and boldly innovative. Past performance highlights include appearances at The Broad Stage, the Green Music Center and the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts.

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE:

Leela Dance Collective's show *Imagine India* begins with a traditional invocation to evoke courage and strength. This focuses the dancers to perform their opening dynamic and rhythmic dance called "Malkauns Tarana." Students then have the opportunity to learn hand gestures (mudras) through the telling of a traditional story of how a young boy named Krishna cleverly defeated the evil creature Kalia Daman. "Thaat," a classic piece from India's medieval era, demonstrates the distinctions and characteristics of the northwestern and northeastern styles of kathak. From medieval India, the performance progresses to modern India where dance and music moved from the courts onto performance areas in front of an audience. "Kathak Yoga" is a 20th century composition that highlights the thrilling dynamics of classical dance and music of Northern India. The final piece features a *sawaal-jawaab* (call and response) between the dancers and the musicians. Throughout the performance, students learn about other traditions, such as dress, *ghungroos* (ankle bells worn by dancers), footwork patterns, hand gestures and facial expressions (abhinaya).



PREPARING FOR THE EXPERIENCE:

Modern India is currently the world's largest democracy and a rising economic force in our global economy. The nation is known for its mastery of computer technology and its famed spiritual traditions. But India is also the world's most ancient surviving civilization with unbroken continuity into prehistory. Like other great civilizations such as Greece or Egypt, it has experienced several glorious golden ages in arts and culture over the millennia. Its great thinkers and religious leaders have had significant global impact even as it has faced and survived successive invasions from Alexander the Great, Genghis Khan, Timur, and the British Empire.

It is home to an extraordinary spectrum of music, dance and literature with eight styles of classical dance, three main genres of classical music and countless folk dances. These art forms embody the history and philosophical underpinnings of Indian culture. As such, they serve as a compelling window into India and its people.

The tradition of Kathak dance and music began in ancient times when the "kathakas" (a nomadic community of dancers) would travel from village to village telling stories of Indian epics through dance, music and mime. During medieval (5th to 15th century) times in India, dance and music moved out of the temples and into the lavish courts of the Moghul Emperors. It became a form of entertainment for the royals and the courtiers. It was during medieval times that two distinct schools of kathak dance emerged. In the lavish courts of Lucknow (located in Northeast India) kathak developed a stylized grace and nuance; in the courts of Jaipur (located in Northwest India) kathak developed a stylized power. On these stages, in city-states across the subcontinent, the art

form developed a new level of speed and complexity as well as a more dynamic and diverse movement vocabulary.

The traditional musical instruments used to create music for Kathak include: *tabla* (drum); *Sitar* (plucked string instrument); *Flute*; *Sarang* (a bowed, short-necked string instrument); *Harmonium* (a keyboard instrument in which the notes are produced by air driven through metal reeds by foot or hand operated bellows); and *Tanpura* (a long-necked plucked string instrument).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What are some of the things you learned about the country of India and its contributions to the world?
- Describe how hand gestures and facial expressions were utilized to tell a story in the kathak style
- List the musical instruments you saw and heard. Categorize the instruments as string, woodwind, percussion and describe the sounds each instrument made.
- Describe how hand gestures and facial expressions were used to tell a story in the art form.
- Name the primary techniques used in North Indian classical dance (rhythmic footwork, types and number of pirouettes, etc.)

FRAMEWORK FOCUS-GEOGRAPHY:

Look on a map and find the country of India, also known as the Republic of India. It is the seventh largest country by area and has more than 1.3 billion people making it the most populous democracy in the world. Identify the following oceans, seas and countries that border it:

- Which Ocean? (**Indian Ocean** on the south)
- Which Sea? (**Arabian Sea** on the southwest)
- Which Bay? (**Bay of Bengal** on the southeast)
- On west side, which countries share its borders? (**Pakistan**)
- On the northeast, which countries share its borders? (**China, Nepal and Bhutan**)

On the east, which countries share its borders? (**Bangladesh and Myanmar**)

In the Indian Ocean, India is in the vicinity of **Sri Lanka** and **the Maldives**, while its **Andaman** and **Nicobar Islands** share a maritime border with **Thailand and Indonesia**.

The names of these countries and bodies of water are often mentioned in the news. Research recent news articles or stories that feature any of the above. Share all results.

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 Pick a partner and think of your favorite short story. Use only hand gestures and facial expressions to present the story to your partner. See if your partner can tell you, using words, what the story was about. Change roles. An extension of this is to have one partner tell the story using words while the other uses hand gestures and facial expressions. Take turns performing for the class.

Cr Pick a partner and plan your own "sawaal-jawaab" or "Call & Response." You can use your hands to clap the rhythms, or your feet to stomp the rhythms. Use some of the rhythms you heard during the performance or make up your own rhythms. Switch roles. You can choose to mirror the phrase exactly or add your own variation. After several rounds, try to make it more like a conversation in which one person says something rhythmically using their feet and their partner answers with a new rhythm. Go back and forth several times, with different rhythms each time.

Cn Oral tradition is a form of human communication wherein knowledge, art, ideas and cultural material is received, preserved and transmitted orally from one generation to another. Why is oral tradition central to artistic traditions such as North Indian classical dance and music? What have you learned from your own oral traditions? (family stories, traditions, etc.)

Cr Kathak dance and music relate to the musical elements of *tempo* (speed); *rhythmic pattern*; *dynamics* (loud and soft—varying levels of volume). Have a leader explore a short rhythmic pattern, echoed by the group. Each time it is repeated by the leader, change the tempo, and/or the dynamics.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES:

Shovana Narayan. *Kathak (Dances of India)*. Wisdom Tree Publishers, 2009.

Klauss, Anja *Illustrated Stories from India*. Usborne Pub, 2015.

Contact Name: _____

Phone: _____

**_____ AND THE MUSIC CENTER ANNOUNCE
LEELA DANCE COLLECTIVE TO PERFORM ON _____**

_____ and The Music Center today announced the upcoming performance of Leela Dance Collective 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.

The Leela Dance Collective was founded in 2016 by Rina Mehta, Rachna Nivas and Seibi Lee, senior disciples of legendary kathak master Pandit Chitresh Das, along with leading kathak performers Sarah Morelli and Shefali Jain. It is the only one of its kind Indian-American dance company that brings together leading kathak artists from around the world representing a multitude of voices to articulate a clairvoyant vision for kathak. The collective is distinguished by an artistic practice that centers around collaboration and collective creativity and a body of work that is at once grounded in tradition and boldly innovative. In its two year history, the collective has already begun to make an indelible mark on the field of kathak and world dance with its rigorous technique, dynamic choreography, fashion-forward costuming, and sophisticated musical scores. With home season performances in San Francisco and Los Angeles along with national and international touring, the collective performs for more than 10,000 people annually. Past highlights include appearances at The Broad Stage, the Green Music Center and Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. The collective's productions and performances have been supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, the California Arts Council, the Zellerbach Family Fund, the Esper Petersen Foundation and New Music USA.

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.

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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Neighborhoods

Exciting
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LEELA DANCE COLLECTIVE



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