

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

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

# **MUSICAL THEATRE GUILD**

## From the Page to the Stage

# 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 "From the Page to the Stage," and features excerpts from many Broadway shows that started as literature, including adaptations of "Don Quixote," "Huckleberry Finn," and "The Peanuts" comic strip. Please welcome Musical Theatre Guild's performance of "From the Page to the Stage!"



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 10' deep x 10' high minimum
- Portable stages must be sturdy and securely lashed

## SURFACE

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

## EQUIPMENT

- One table and chair
- Two electrical outlets (three-prong and grounded)
  - Bottled water

## ARRIVAL

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

## PARKING

- Two spaces 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
- Audiences should be in the venue, seated and ready to begin at the listed times

## MUSICAL THEATRE GUILD—From the Page to the Stage

**ART FORM:** Musical Theatre

**STYLE:** Modern

**CULTURE:** American

### MEET THE ARTIST:

"From the Page to the Stage" is produced and presented by members of Musical Theatre Guild. Drawing from the book, music, and lyrics of five different musicals, writer Kevin McMahon, director Lee Martino, and musical director Tom Griep have collaborated to create this brightly entertaining revue. The Musical Theatre Guild is a non-profit company with a large membership of professionals who are committed to keeping this American art form alive by performing staged, concert versions of wonderful, but almost-forgotten musicals with live accompaniment. Since its inception in 1995, the Guild has produced over fifty such concerts. The artists in this production are professionals who have been trained in many performing arts skills. Physical and vocal characterization, singing, dancing, projection, diction, improvisation, and script analysis are just a few of them. Collectively, they become a singing quartet representing four major singing ranges: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Baritone. Individually, they have appeared in many other plays and musicals.

### ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE:

"From the Page to the Stage" is a celebration of the magic that occurs when an inspired work of literature is taken down from the shelf, receives a make-over from playwrights, lyricists, and composers, then emerges onstage in a live performance, totally reinvented as a new work of Musical Theatre. The five uniquely engaging shows featured in this revue are "Man of La Mancha" based on Miguel de Cervantes' "Don Quixote," "Big River" from Mark Twain's "Huckleberry Finn," "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown," based on the iconic "Peanuts" comic strips by Charles M. Schultz, "Seussical," based on various books by Dr. Seuss, and the satirical "prequel" to Frank Baum's Oz books, "Wicked" based on Gregory Maguire's book of the same name. A wonderfully versatile company of four singing actors magically inhabit multiple roles, performing songs in many musical styles. A feast for the imagination, "From the Page to the Stage" will surely inspire both young and old to take another look at great literature in the library, and great musical theatre wherever it can be found.

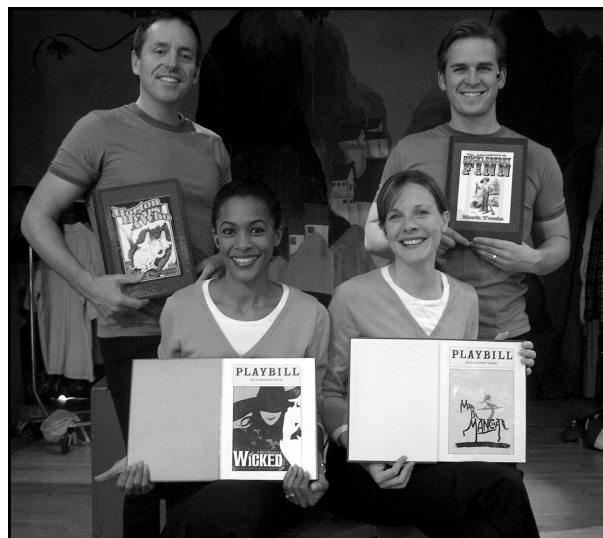
### PREPARING FOR THE EXPERIENCE:

If you have ever enjoyed a football player dancing wildly after scoring a touchdown, felt proud when Olympic champions sing along to their national anthem, felt moved while overhearing a parent singing a soft lullaby to his or her child, or are having so much fun with your friends, that you start wailing along to a song you're hearing, then you understand something about musical theatre. Like the rest of humanity, the characters in a musical experience moments when their feelings are too full and rich to express in words alone, so they sing. Sometimes, if singing isn't enough, they dance - just like the football player.

The difference, of course, is that theatre is an art form which tells stories. In musicals, the plots of these stories are written by playwrights as a script, or the "Book". Then the composers and lyricists add the rhythmic and emotional power of melodies and words, or the "Score." This brings new dimension to what we see and hear. But for those not familiar with musicals, it may all seem very odd.

Picture these scenarios: An honorable but crazy Spanish knight passionately speaks of his search for truth -- then sings an anthem; a rebellious fellow and a runaway slave are about to be caught, but escape -- harmonizing to a bouncy bluegrass tune; A teenage girl with magical powers is furious with people who have been lying about her, and plans to "get even" -- right after she "gets down" with a threatening pop-rock power-ballad! Hidden in each song lyric are secrets and clues for the audience. "Pay attention," they all say. "This quest may cost me my life." "We're on a big river adventure!" "Wait and see how I'll get my revenge!"

These moments, and many more like them, are featured in "From the Page to the Stage." As you enjoy it, remember that Musical Theatre, like every art form, is inspired by "real life," and then takes it to a selective level of reality. The creators and performers want to share their visions, and draw us in so we can respond with our own emotional response. Choose to believe.



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What did you discover about seeing a story presented as a musical that is different from reading it? Which do you prefer, and why?
- In lyric writing, feelings come first, story comes second. Which song lyrics made you feel something, and respond with: laughter; sadness; anger; concern; surprise; happiness; or boredom?
- The composers wrote in many musical styles. What differences did you hear between the songs in the five shows? Which song was your favorite, and for what reasons?
- While changing from character to character, how did the cast transform their bodies and voices? What did these skills add to the magic of the show?
- Which of these musicals would make you want to read the original book? Will you?

## FRAMEWORK FOCUS—LANGUAGE ARTS:

The delightful musical "Into the Woods" features familiar fairy-story characters thrown together into an original cautionary tale. "Be careful what you wish for" is the Universal Theme. Using Act One of the original Broadway production as an inspiration, the goal is to have student groups create their own literary work in prose or dramatic form. To begin, lead the class in a discussion of sound Literary Structure including character, goals, actions to succeed, antagonistic characters, decisions to overcome obstacles, conflict, crisis, sacrifice, and resolution. Create groups of six or seven students, and begin screening Act One of "Into the Woods" over a period of days, in ten-to-fifteen minute increments. After each screening, have the groups discuss what they've observed based on Literary Structure concepts. Also, prompt them to discuss all the entertaining similarities to, and differences from, the original tales. After finishing the act, the writing begins with a "twist". Each group member must choose and "become" one character from a book, comic strip, poem, or fairy tale. Using the twice-discussed elements of Literary Structure, these selected characters will devise the plot, and an original (though adapted) story or playlet will be born!

### California Arts Standards: Artistic Processes

<b>Cr</b>	Creating
<b>Pr</b>	Performing/Producing/Presenting
<b>Re</b>	Responding
<b>Cn</b>	Connecting

Learn more at:

<https://tinyurl.com/ArtsStandardsCA>

## ACTIVITIES TO ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE:

**Re** Listen to songs from other musicals with literary beginnings, or watch musical numbers from filmed versions of them. Evaluate how the music and lyrics define situation and heighten feelings. Consider rhythms, melodies, rhymes, phrases, and performance elements.

**Cr** Have students envision their own stage settings for one of the musicals, using photos of other scenic designer's work as inspiration. Paint backdrops on large paper. Or, tip over a mid-sized cardboard box, creating a stage. Using cans, juice boxes, fabric, paper, etc, build a set, using the mathematic ratio of 3/4" equals one foot.

**Cn** In days gone by, popular music came from Musical Theatre. Select names of important American songwriters of yore, such as *George Gershwin* or *Irving Berlin*, and create an "Artist Collection" for each. Using texts, songbooks, the internet, etc., gather photos, biographical tidbits, printed and recorded music. Share these together, and then research how the lives of these artists and events in their eras - WWI, the Jazz Age, Great Depression, WWII - are woven into the fabric of their work and is reflected in our cultural history. Pay special attention to how many of their songs are considered classics.

**Cn** Musical theatre productions exist because of many different people. Producers raise money and make over-all decisions. Writers create the book. Directors stage the show with the actors who interpret and portray the roles. Designers establish the "look", while a stage crew is behind the scenes, working the technical components. The staff of the theatre administrates the business-end. They all collaborate. So must people in "real life." Consider how these "theatre folk" have familiar and necessary counterparts in clubs, sport teams, the classroom, school, community and family. Have students share their experiences in such "real" collaborations.

## SUGGESTED RESOURCES:

DK Publishing and Elaine Paige. *Musicals -The Definitive Illustrated Story*. DK Publishing, 2015.

Green, Stanley and Sinell, Cary. *Broadway Musicals—Show by Show*. Applause and Cinema Books, 8th Edition, 2014.

Grode, Eric. *The Book of Broadway. The 150 Definitive Plays and Musicals*. Voyageur Press, 2015.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_ **AND THE MUSIC CENTER ANNOUNCE**  
**MUSICAL THEATRE GUILD TO PERFORM ON** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ and The Music Center today announced the upcoming performance of Musical Theatre Guild 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 Musical Theatre Guild is a non-profit company with a large membership of professionals who are committed to keeping this American art form alive by performing staged, concert versions of wonderful, but almost-forgotten musicals with live accompaniment. Since its inception in 1995, the Guild has produced over fifty such concerts. The artists in these productions are professionals who have been trained in many performing arts skills. Physical and vocal characterization, singing, dancing, projection, diction, improvisation, and script analysis are just a few of them. Collectively, they become a singing quartet representing four major singing ranges: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Baritone. Individually, they have appeared in many other plays and musicals.

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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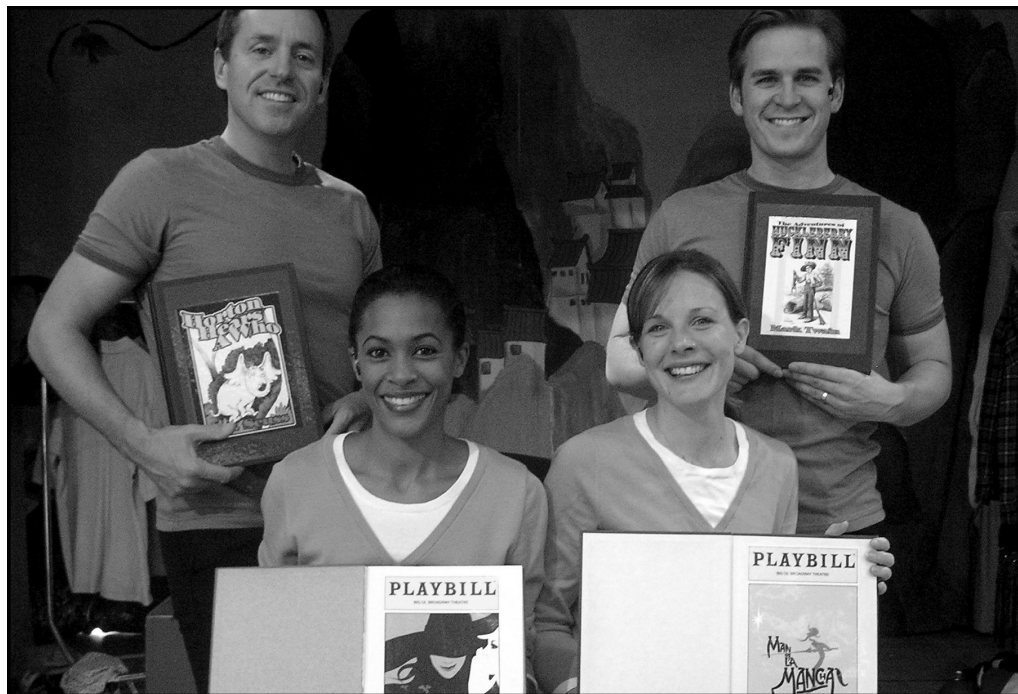
*For more information, please contact The Music Center at 213-972-3332. Members of the media are welcome to cover this performance. Please contact The Music Center prior to sending a reporter or photographer to the school.*



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## MUSICAL THEATRE GUILD



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

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

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



[musiccenter.org/performingartists](http://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)