

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

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

# **STRING FAMILY PLAYERS**

## Mozart: The Child Prodigy

# 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. String Family Players are going to treat you to a party - a party for your ears! They are classically trained musicians who not only play beautiful music, but can also have fun with it as well! **Please note that due to union policy, the use of photos, video or any kind of recording is strictly prohibited. All cell phones should be put away.** Please welcome String Family Players!"

## SPACE

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

## SURFACE

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

## EQUIPMENT

- 5 armless chairs
- 1 microphone on a stand (not attached to a podium)
  - PA system

## ARRIVAL

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

## PARKING

- Three spaces, on close to the venue for loading and unloading

## ASSISTANCE

- Please have a representative ready to welcome the performers and assist 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

## SPECIAL NOTE

- NO FILMING OR RECORDING OF THE PROGRAM IS PERMITTED, DUE TO CONTRACTUAL AND UNION RESTRICTIONS.

## STRING FAMILY PLAYERS—Mozart: The Child Prodigy

**ART FORM:** Music

**STYLE:** Various/Baroque to Contemporary

**CULTURE:** Western European

### MEET THE ARTIST:

David Young, leader and narrator of the String Family Players quintet, also plays double bass in the group. Educated at the Eastman School of Music and the University of California, David holds the position of Principal Bass for the Los Angeles Opera and performs in various recording and chamber music ensembles in the Southern California area. In addition, he teaches at the Colburn School of Performing Arts in Los Angeles and at California State University, Long Beach. Mr. Young is the Artistic Director of the String Family Players Association, a non-profit corporation that also sponsors the group to conduct in school residencies.

The other professional musicians who make up the String Family Players use their masterful performance skills to share music with children as well as adults. They include Nancy Roth, violin, Armen Anassian, violin, Mary Ann Steinberger, cello, and Lynn Grants, viola. The collective group combines their joy for classical music with their deep love for working with children.

### ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE:

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and his music are the inspiration for this show. Students enter the world of young Mozart and hear the music that came from his genius. Led by narrator David Young, the audience journeys to Salzburg, Austria where Mozart was born in 1756. Costumed in clothes worn by musicians of that period, the group will play some of the minuets he wrote when he was 5 and 6 years old. Audiences will also hear variations of "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star," showcasing the improvisational methods used by Mozart to dazzle his friends. A party piece, "Eine Kleine Nachtmusik" (A Little Night Music), expresses Mozart's spirit of fun. Students will also hear a competitive duet between a solo violin and a viola. By the end of the performance, students will begin to understand that Mozart's music isn't limited to a historical time and place, but is universal.

### PREPARING FOR THE EXPERIENCE:

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart had the good fortune to be born into the family of a well-known, respected musician and teacher, Leopold Mozart. From an early age, when musicians would practice together at their home, Wolfgang would hold his ears and cry when someone played out of tune. As a toddler he showed persistent interest in his elder sister's lessons on the clavier, the keyboard instrument of that time. By the age of five, Mozart had written music for the clavier which he played perfectly. He learned to play the violin by watching others, so his father got him a small violin of his own to play when he was five years old.

Wolfgang took to music like a bird takes to flying - it was part of his basic intelligence. Soon, his father decided to show his precocious son's talent to the world, taking him to places such as Italy, France and England. These trips gave young Mozart a chance to perform, and also to absorb and learn more about the popular musical styles of Europe. He had the ability to improvise music of his own invention or improvise upon a specific melody. He was famous for tricks, such as playing the clavier with a cloth over the keyboard so he couldn't see the keys. Endowed with a high-spirited temperament, he was full of good humor and loved practical jokes.

A prolific composer, by the time Mozart was 21 he had composed over 300 pieces of music! As an adult his output continued, while he mastered every form of music popular at that time. Mozart died from a serious kidney disease in 1791 at the age of 35. In spite of his early death, he completed over 600 pieces of music which have been loved and played for over 200 years.



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What is it about Mozart's music that is different from, as well as similar to, music of today? (Examples of differences include the lack of the drummer's constant back-beat, the different instruments, the many changes in mood in Mozart's music versus the constant drive and mood of present-day rock music. An example of similarity might be the presence of the "pulsing bass notes," played by the double bass, driving the rhythm just as the drummer drives rock songs.)
- What surprised you most about Mozart and his music? (e.g., his ability to write good music when he was four and five years old.)
- Did you notice any differences between the music of Mozart and his contemporary, Salieri?

## FRAMEWORK FOCUS—SOCIAL STUDIES/HISTORY:

Take a look at the world as it was during the time of Mozart's life, both in Europe and America. There were no planes, trains or automobiles because these vehicles had not yet been invented. Most travel, even from town to town, was very difficult. There were horses and horse drawn carriages, but most people walked everywhere. When they couldn't travel by land, they traveled by boat. Electricity had not been discovered, so people depended on candles or lamps with wicks for lighting. The late 1700s, when Mozart lived, was also the time when the Declaration of Independence was signed in America, changing England's relationship with her colonies and inspiring revolutions in America and France.

Make a chart and, in writing or drawing, show the following: major events; discoveries; and art and styles that existed during the late 1700s. Identify similarities and differences between Europe and America, (e.g. types of travel, inventions, political events, etc.).

### 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:

**Pr** Music is often called "organized sound," and rhythm is one of its foundational elements. The music of *Mozart's* day had a *steady beat* driven by the *bass line*. The *steady beats* are organized in groups called *measures*. You can feel when these *measures* come in groups of two, three or four beats. Try listening to a piece by *Mozart* and count out loud to see which grouping feels right. Is it one-two, one-two? Is it one-two-three, one-two-three? Or is it one-two-three-four, one-two-three-four? Try clapping or tapping the strongest beats (called "one") to see which grouping is correct.

**Pr** In an orchestra or band, a conductor helps musicians play together in a cooperative way. The conductor stands in front of the group moving their arms in a standardized "beat pattern." To try it, hold a pencil in one hand and "conduct" some music. The strong first beat is a down stroke. The last beat of the *measure* is always an upstroke. Therefore, *measures* in two beats would be conducted down-up, down-up. *Measures* in three would be conducted down-right-up, down-right-up, following the path of a triangle. *Measures* in four would be conducted down-right-left-up, down-right-left-up.

**Cn** Music composed by *Mozart* is called "absolute music" because it is not based on pictures or a story. Rather, it is about the movement and interplay of sounds. Yet we feel a wide range of emotions, such as sadness or joy, when we hear it. Listen to a piece by *Mozart*, then discuss what you feel. It is important to note that people may respond differently (And, all responses are correct.)

**Cn** *Stringed instruments* evolved in Italy in the late 16th century, and have common Italian names. The root word, "viol," means "stringed instrument." Identify the instruments you heard and saw during the performance and describe their different sound textures, as well as their role within the *string quintet*.

## SUGGESTED RESOURCES:

McDonough, Yona Zeldis (author) and Carrie Robbins (illustrator). *Who Was Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart?* Grosset & Dunlap, 2003.

Weeks, Marcus and Julian Rushton. *The Boy Who changed the World with His Music*. National Geographic World History Biographies, 2013.

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

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

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**\_\_\_\_\_ AND THE MUSIC CENTER ANNOUNCE  
STRING FAMILY PLAYERS TO PERFORM ON \_\_\_\_\_**

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\_\_\_\_\_ and The Music Center today announced the upcoming String Family Players 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.

String Family Players delivers fascinating performances made memorable by great music. Breaking down the stereotype that classical music is inaccessible, the ensemble offers the audience an unforgettable experience as they connect with students through their music. This dynamic string quintet ensemble, led by director David Young, includes two violins, a viola, a cello and a double bass to create fun and memorable concerts.

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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# STRING FAMILY PLAYERS



**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)