

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

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

# **STRING FAMILY PLAYERS**

## All Strings Considered

# 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 must 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—All Strings Considered

**ART FORM:** Music

**STYLE:** Classical

**CULTURE:** European, Australian, Latin American and North American

### 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:

The String Family Players quintet introduces audiences to some of the modern orchestral instruments in a most delightful way. Their performance of "All Strings Considered" begins by introducing the audience to the names, respective sounds and ranges of the violin, viola, cello and double bass. The musicians then introduce themselves and demonstrate their favorite characteristics of the instruments they play. Their diverse repertoire includes selections written several centuries ago as well as compositions from modern times. Students will hear the music of Johann Sebastian Bach, as well as the theme music from "The Simpsons," written by Danny Elfman. Students are involved in the performance as they join in games that help them discriminate between the unique sounds of each instrument. By the finale, listeners have a heightened perception that enables them to hear music in an entirely new way.

### PREPARING FOR THE EXPERIENCE:

The history of stringed instruments is an ancient one -- the earliest types were designed to be plucked or strummed. Besides the guitar or harp, other plucked or strummed instruments include the psaltery, zither, lyre and the lute. Stringed instruments weren't known in Europe until the Medieval Ages; it was in the 15th century when the family of violins developed. These were the first stringed instruments that were played with bows.

The design of the instruments evolved as the bow developed. The bow is a curved wooden stick with horsetail hair stretched from end to end. The design of the bridge, over which the strings are strung, changed from straight to curved, allowing the bow to slide over one string at a time.

The instruments of the modern violin family were mostly developed in Italy and therefore have Italian names. Early bowed instruments include the rebec, lyra da braccio, and the family of instruments called the viola da gamba. The modern violin shape began to solidify in the late 1400s. Any instrument with strings was referred to as some sort of "viol," and the full name of the earliest violin, which was held on the arm, was "viola da braccio." The "viola da gamba" was held with the legs.

Other instruments of the string family also have colorful histories and a wide variety of musical styles. One way of distinguishing between the styles is to determine whether the player is reading written music or improvising. For example,

classical styles are mainly written and jazz styles are mainly improvised.

Small stringed instruments made to be bowed are often classified under the heading of "fiddles" and folk fiddling has a long tradition in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. In America, however, the violin has been used for "fiddling" as well as in the symphony orchestra.



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- How many strings does each of these instruments have: violin, viola, cello, double bass? (All have four.)
- Where do the fingers press on the strings of the instruments to make higher or lower sounds? (finger board) Can you guess why this happens? (The vibrating part of the string is shorter for higher notes.)
- What is the technique for making the tone waver? What is the term used to describe this? (vibrato)
- Which instrument can play the highest tones? Lowest? Why do you think this is so? (highest—violin; lowest—double bass. The strings are longest on the double bass and shortest on the violin.)
- Aside from the fact that the cello can play lower than the violin, describe the other differences. (violin can play at a faster tempo, usually gets the melody; cello plays at a slower tempo, has a fuller sound and usually accompanies the violin.)
- Bass strings are longer than violin strings; how else are they different? (bass strings are thicker)
- When you play pizzicato you pluck the string. Which instrument's pizzicato sound vibrates the longest, the violin or the bass? (the bass)

## FRAMEWORK FOCUS—SCIENCE:

Vibration is movement, not sound. You can see vibrations in water when you throw a stone into it and feel vibrations during an earthquake. Vibration is also the basis of sound -- the sensation caused in the ear by the movement of air. The science of sound is called acoustics. Vibration disturbs the atmosphere; waves of disturbance travel through the air at the speed of sound, which is 1,113 feet per second. On earth, vibrations moving at the rate of between 20 and 10,000 times per second can be heard by the human ear.

You can hear vibrations when you stretch a string tightly between two points and pluck the string. Take a slender board and hammer pairs of nails opposite each other into both ends. Make sure that they are different distances apart. Stretch rubber bands, fishing line, or wire tightly between the partner nails. Pluck the strings and see if you can get different tones from ones that are stretched between nails of different distances apart. Which sounds are higher? Lower? See what else you can create with strings tightly stretched over a board or other material such as a cardboard or tin box.

## ACTIVITIES TO ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE:

**Cn** Listen to recordings such as classic violin performances by *Yehudi Menuhin* and *Jasha Heifetz*. Compare violin solos to those of cellists such as *Rostropovitch* and *Yo Yo Ma*. Great recordings by violists such as *William Primrose* and *Pinkas Zukerman*, and by double bassist *Edgar Meyer* are easily available.

**Pr** Choose lively music with a strong beat for the students to clap to. "Russian Sailors Dance" by Gliere has many variations with changes of mood that are a fun challenge to adjust one's clapping to. Marches such as from the "Royal Fireworks Music" by Handel make for great marches around the room. Clap with the beat and then try clapping between the beat, or on the "off-beat."

**Re** Instruments other than the violin are also featured in different styles of music. The double bass is at the heart of the improvising jazz tradition. Listen to a recording by *Ray Brown*, one of the pivotal double bass players in jazz. Most of what he plays is not written down, but is improvised upon a song or melody structure. After listening to his playing, discuss and comment on what you notice from your new knowledge.

**Re** There are many folk fiddle traditions throughout the world. In the United States, the fiddling tradition was established in places like Appalachia. These folk tunes are played on the same violin as the pieces played in a symphony orchestra. Listen to fiddling from traditional recordings as well as successful artists of today such as *Mark O'Connor*, *Liz Carrol*, and *Natalie McMaster*. How would you describe the *mood*, *tempo*, *style*, and *texture* of sounds created by these fiddle masters? Listen again and imagine miming the strokes as the music is played.

## SUGGESTED RESOURCES:

Nunn, Daniel. *Strings*. Heinemann, 2011.

Wood, Robert W. *Sound FUNdamentals*. Chelsea House Publishers, Philadelphia, 1997.

### 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>

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_ 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)