

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

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

BALLET FOLCLÓRICO DO BRASIL

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

After the performance, you'll receive an invoice via email. 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. Led by Joselito "Amen" Santo, Ballet Folclórico do Brasil will share exuberant dances and music that express the rich blend of African, Portuguese and indigenous influences that shaped the country of Brazil. The dancers of Ballet Folclórico do Brasil have performed in Brazil's leading national dance companies.

Please welcome Ballet Folclórico do Brasil!"



Feel free to encourage the adult members of your audience to share the experience on social media!

Tag us on X, Instagram, Facebook, and Tik Tok at @MusicCenterLA and we might repost your photos!

SPACE

- 20' wide x 20' deep minimum
- Portable stages must be sturdy, level and securely lashed

SURFACE

- Freshly mopped (not waxed)
- Irregularities covered with tape
- Extraneous clutter removed
- No concrete, all surfaces must be smooth

OUTDOOR PERFORMANCES

- Shaded and protected from wind and excess traffic or playground noise
- Grass that has been cleared of debris

DRESSING AREA

- One private, secured dressing area close to the stage

EQUIPMENT

- Two to three freestanding microphones
 - Sound system

ARRIVAL

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

PARKING

- Three spaces
- Two spaces should be as close to the performance area 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
- Audience should be in the auditorium, seated and ready to begin at the listed times

BALLET FOLCLÓRICO DO BRASIL

ART FORM: Music and Dance

STYLE: Traditional

CULTURE: Brazilian

MEET THE ARTIST:

Joselito "Amen" Santo, the dynamic Artistic Director of *Ballet Folclórico do Brasil*, was born and raised in Bahia, Brazil. With over 30 years of experience in the African-Brazilian performing arts, he is an accomplished martial artist, dancer, musician, choreographer and teacher. Mr. Santo first came to the U.S. in 1986 to perform at Carnegie Hall. After teaching internationally and performing in venues such as the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (Washington D.C.), the Village Gate (New York City) and Wolf Trap (Virginia), he moved to Los Angeles. In 1990, Mr. Santo founded the Brasil Brasil Cultural Center, providing a base for his dance company and the *Capoeira Batuque: Ginga Bahia*. Mr. Santo has garnered many honors, including his induction into the International Martial Arts Hall of Fame. His company has been applauded for "serving as a bridge between ancient and contemporary dance" by juxtaposing the sacred and joyous, the old and new.

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE:

This energetic program teaches about Brazilian culture, celebrating its multicultural dimensions through dance and music. When Brazil was a Portuguese colony (16th-19th centuries), Africans were captured from their villages and forced to work as slaves on the sugar plantations and in the gold mines. Their music, dance and beliefs kept their spirits alive. A samba, the most popular dance in Brazil, is accompanied by the following instruments: the *agogô* (double metal bell); *pandeiro* (tambourine); and *surdo* (bass drum). The performance begins with the "Limpeza," a dance performed at the beginning of a Candomblé ceremony that honors ancestors and the orixás - spirits of the natural world. The spirit of Carnival, the biggest Brazilian festival, is expressed through "Maculelê," a dance that originated in the 18th century sugar plantations. "Congolê," a dance performed by the women, shows many popular Afro-Brazilian folkloric steps. The Berimbau, a one-stringed instrument of Angolan origin, accompanies a song, followed by the exciting "Capoeira," initially a form of self defense disguised as a dance.

PREPARING FOR THE EXPERIENCE:

Brazil is the fifth largest country in the world, and it covers almost half of South America. The Atlantic Ocean touches its northern and eastern coasts, and ten neighboring countries share borders with Brazil. Brazilian geography is divided into five distinct regions: North; Northeast; West Central; Southeast and South. The North includes the infamous Amazon River basin; the Northeast includes tropical beaches and dry countryside; the West Central is isolated and sparsely populated; the Southeast contains forests and the Pantanal wetlands; the South includes grasslands, farms, and the country's largest waterfall - Iguazu, but is also highly developed. Brazil's current capital is located in Brasilia in the southeast region. It's history can be traced back to the many Native American nations that first lived in what is now called Brazil. In the early 1500s, Brazil was colonized by Portugal. It remained a colony until it gained its formal independence in 1822. Millions of Africans from different countries were forced to build the new country, yet Brazil was the last country to formally abolish slavery in 1888. During the 1900s, the country struggled to emerge from the colonial period and build a new republic. While important steps were taken to build a democracy, Brazil fell prey to a military dictatorship that squelched public participation in the 1960s. Even today, when formal democratic institutions have been restored, governmental corruption remains a problem.

Portuguese is the official language of Brazil, yet the country is most famous for its ethnic and cultural diversity. Brazilian culture and language are influenced by its rich diversity as a crossroads for different African, European, Native American and Asian communities. The vitality of these different cultural currents can be felt in Brazil's music, dance, beliefs, and cuisine.

Brazil still has many difficult challenges ahead. It is struggling to overcome serious problems of poverty, illiteracy, poor health care, and inequality. This is now the task of the next generation to translate its natural

and cultural resources into a more positive future. The world is enriched by having Brazilian music, dance and culture.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What most impressed you about the performance? Give reasons why.
- Describe some video game images or popular dance moves that have a connection to capoeira.
- What is unique about the Bahia region of Brazil?
- Can you demonstrate any of the dance steps shown in the Congolê?
- What was the original purpose of the “Capoeira”?
- Describe one of the instruments you saw today. Do you remember its name? (the *agogô*—double metal bell; *pandeiro*—tambourine; and *surdo*—bass drum)
- Were there parts of the performance you want to know more about? Do some internet research.

FRAMEWORK FOCUS—HISTORY/SOCIAL STUDIES:

Bahia was the first capital of Brazil, followed by Rio de Janeiro, which was replaced by Brasilia in 1960. The people of Brazil are a fusion of three main groups: indigenous; Portuguese; and African. Each group has made cultural contributions to Brazil, but in the Bahia region there is a strong African heritage that is reflected in the religion, music and dances. During the time of slavery, and even after it was outlawed, the slaves who escaped formed communities called *quilombos*. These were places where the “Capoeira” dance was used to defend against those who opposed their freedom. The “Capoeira” is an Angolan style of fighting done in the 1500s. They used hands, feet and head-butting, but when performed it was flowing and graceful as a dance. Even though it was legally abolished until the 1950s, “Capoeira” continued to flourish.

Research slavery and follow the journeys made by slaves to different parts of both North and South America. Everywhere Africans went, they brought aspects of their culture with them. Make a chart of all the things you can find in both South and North America that have their roots in Africa, such as “Capoeira,” blues, rock n’ roll, peanuts, yams, etc.

ACTIVITIES TO ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE:

Re Analyze the “About the Performance” section with the class. Write the names of the dances, instruments, and music on the board and have the class pronounce them. Then ask if they can describe each dance, instrument and type of music.

Cr Listen to some Brazilian music, perhaps a *samba*. Ask the class to stand near their desks or in an open space and move to the music. How does the rhythm of the music make them want to move? Begin by moving specific body parts, such as head, shoulders, arms, hips, legs, then use the whole body. Does the music suggest movements are strong or relaxed? Free or bound energy? Big or little? Percussive, sustained, bouncy, vibratory or swinging? Ask students to explore how they might move with a partner.

Cn Look at a map of South America and locate Brazil. Locate its capital, Brasilia, and the city of Rio de Janeiro. Then find the area of Bahia, which might also be called Salvador. Identify the countries that share a border with Brazil. Which South American countries do not share a border with Brazil?

Re Write a critique of the performance, jotting down words and simple phrases. Then analyze one aspect that you found interesting and describe it in great detail (attire, music, movements, background information, etc.). Share these with the class.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES:

Aloian, Molly. *Cultural Traditions in Brazil*. Crabtree Publishing Company, New York: 2011.

Atwood, Jane. *Capoeira: A Martial Art and a Cultural Tradition*. Resen Publishing, New York: 1999.

California Arts Standards: Artistic Processes

- Cr** Creating
- Pr** Performing/Producing/Presenting
- Re** Responding
- Cn** Connecting

Learn more at:

<https://tinyurl.com/ArtsStandardsCA>

Contact Name: _____

Phone: _____

**_____ AND THE MUSIC CENTER ANNOUNCE BALLET FOLCLÓ-
RICO DO BRASIL TO PERFORM ON _____**

_____ and The Music Center today announced the upcoming performance of Ballet Folclórico do Brasil 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.

Joselito "Amen" Santo, the dynamic Artistic Director of Ballet Folclórico do Brasil, was born and raised in Bahia, Brazil. With over 25 years of experience in the African-Brazilian performing arts, he is an accomplished martial artist, dancer, musician, choreographer and teacher. Mr. Santo first came to the U.S. in 1986 to perform at Carnegie Hall. After teaching internationally and performing in venues such as the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (Washington D.C.), the Village Gate (New York City) and Wolf Trap (Virginia), he moved to Los Angeles. In 1990, Mr. Santo founded the Brasil Brasil Cultural Center, providing a base for his dance company and the Capoeira Batuque: Ginga Bahia. Mr. Santo has garnered many honors, including his induction into the International Martial Arts Hall of Fame. His company has been applauded for "serving as a bridge between ancient and contemporary dance" by juxtaposing the sacred and joyous, the old and new.

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 Gloria 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, TikTok, Instagram and X @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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Exciting
Dance
Music
Theatre
Storytelling
Performances
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BALLET FOLCLÓRICO DO BRASIL



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, workforce 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