THE EXCITEMENT OF DANCE, MUSIC, THEATRE AND STORYTELLING COMES 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 sponsor 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 once the project has begun, notify 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.

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.

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 school 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.

CURRICULUM CONNECTION FOR CLASSROOM TEACHERS

These pre- and post-event classroom activities are designed to enhance the understanding and enjoyment 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.

PRESS RELEASE AND POSTER

A pre-made press release is available should you wish to publicize the event. A premade poster is also included so that your school community can be aware of the upcoming event.

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.
"I would like to introduce today's performance which is presented by The Music Center of Los Angeles County. This energetic dance troupe is called Ballet Folclórico do Brasil. These dancers have performed in Brazil's leading national dance companies. In the show you will see today, they celebrate the rich culture and customs of Brazil. 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 Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram at @MusicCenterLA and we might repost your photos!
TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

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 school representative ready to welcome the performers and to stay and help as needed.

START TIME
• Please prepare to start the program on time
• Students 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 Foliclórico 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.

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 taken to Portugal 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 agogó (double metal bell); pandeiro (tambourine); and surdo (bass drum). The spirit of Carnivale, the biggest Brazilian festival, is expressed through "Maculelê," a dance that originated in the 18th century sugar plantations. The performance begins with the "Limpeza," a dance performed at the beginning of a Candomble ceremony that honors ancestors and the orixás - spirits of the natural world. "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 - Iguacu, 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 “Congole?”
• What was the original purpose of the “Capoeira,” the dance done by slaves?
• Describe one of the instruments you saw today. Do you remember its name? (the agogó—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.

(Example: 8 counts walking normally; 8 counts as if weightless; 8 counts falling in slow motion; and 8 counts rising back up quickly; holding a final pose for 8 counts.)

ACTIVITIES TO ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE:

☆ Review 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.

● 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 try moving with a partner.

■ 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?

◆ Write your impressions of the performance, jotting down words and simple phrases. Then select one aspect that you found interesting and describe it in great detail (costume, music, movements, background information, etc.). Share these with the class.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES:


LEGEND

★ Artistic perception
● Creative expression
■ Historical & cultural context
◆ Aesthetic valuing
♦ Connections, Relations, Applications
AND THE MUSIC CENTER ANNOUNCE

BALLET FOLCLÓRICO DO BRASIL TO PERFORM ON

and The Music Center today announced the upcoming performance of Ballet Folclórico do Brasil. As part of the school’s continuing efforts to enrich its curriculum and its students’ educational experience, the school will present a special performance of Ballet Folclórico do Brasil. 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.

An exaltation of Brazil’s diverse values, customs and culture, Ballet Folclorico do Brasil shares exuberant dances and music that express the rich blend of African, Portuguese and indigenous influences that shaped this country. The dancers, who have performed in Brazil’s leading national dance companies, foster multicultural awareness in students through dances such as the inspiring candomble, the exciting congole and the athletic capoeira. The performance is riveting, with explosive movements, vibrant colors and authentic costumes.

The Music Center on Tour is the premiere resource for high-quality performing arts performances in Los Angeles County. For more than 35 years, schools and communities have benefited from the program’s roster of diverse and compelling performing artists who serve as models of artistic excellence, inspire creative thinking and introduce young audiences to the world’s diverse cultural traditions. Music Center artists represent and celebrate the finest artistic contribution of the world’s cultures – from the colorful regional dances of Mexico and the exquisite music of the China, to the pulsating rhythms of Brazil and the golden harmonies of 20th century America.

Schools can choose from more than 70 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

As L.A.’s performing arts destination, The Music Center is L.A.’s home to the world’s greatest artistic programs and events. With four iconic theaters and four renowned resident companies – Center Theatre Group, the LA Master Chorale, the LA Opera and the LA Philharmonic – and recognized for its illustrious dance programming, Glorya Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center, The Music Center is a destination where audiences find inspiration in the very best of live performance, as well as nationally recognized arts education and participatory arts experiences. With The Music Center On Location, the non-profit performing arts organization brings events and activities to locations outside of its Downtown Los Angeles campus. The Music Center also programs and manages Grand Park, a 12-acre adjacent greenspace, with year-round free programming. For more information, visit musiccenter.org Follow The Music Center on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram (@MusicCenterLA).

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For more information, please contact The Music Center at 213-972-3338. 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.
THE MUSIC CENTER PRESENTS

BALLET FOLCLÓRICO DO BRASIL

DATE: ___________________ TIME: ___________________

SCHOOL: ___________________

musiccenter.org/ontour
OTHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS

ARTS INTEGRATION PARTNERSHIPS

The Music Center’s teaching artists work in the classroom facilitating student learning and modeling effective instructional strategies for teachers. Essential skills and vocabulary in music, theater, dance, or visual art are connected to universal themes and integrated with other content areas.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Our Professional Development targets arts integration strategies for K-12 teachers in dance, music, theatre, and visual arts. Teachers learn creative and effective approaches for integrating the arts into their content areas. Additionally, The Music Center offers the Summer Arts Studio for Educators. This program consists of events tailored for classroom teachers, arts teachers and educators.

STUDENT MATINEE PERFORMANCES

Each year Glorya Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center offers free student matinee dance performances. All performances include a teacher orientation session and curriculum guide for students.

THE BLUE RIBBON CHILDREN’S FESTIVAL

The Blue Ribbon Children’s Festival, designed specifically for fifth grade students, is an annual admission-free program at The Music Center. Students experience a live professional performance at a world-class performing arts center, then gather together to perform a short choreographed dance inspired by the production.

VERY SPECIAL ARTS FESTIVAL

The Very Special Arts Festival is an annual admission-free event celebrating the artistic achievements of students with disabilities and their mainstream peers. The festival features student and professional performances on two stages, visual and performing arts workshops, and a student art exhibit created around a central theme.

SPOTLIGHT

Much more than a competition, Spotlight is a scholarship and training program, which encourages personal and artistic growth, while exploring new possibilities in the arts.

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, Dance Downtown, Symphonic Campus Tours, Grand Park