THE EXCITEMENT OF DANCE, MUSIC, THEATRE AND STORYTELLING COMES TO YOU!

A TOUCH OF CLASSICAL
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 performance is entitled “A Touch of Classical” and features Juilliard trained pianist Beth Sussman. Juilliard is a school in New York that has trained some of the finest musicians, actors and dancers from around the world. During her program, you will hear music from many different countries and some that you may recognize from cartoons, commercials and movies. Please welcome Beth Sussman!”

*Note: The performer requests that the microphone be placed back on the microphone stand after the introduction.*
TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

SPACE
- 12’ wide x 12’ deep minimum
- Portable stages must be sturdy, level and securely lashed

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

OUTDOOR PERFORMANCE
If the performance must be held outdoors, the following conditions must be met:
- Shaded – no direct sunlight
- Protected from wind and excess traffic or playground noise
- Piano may need amplification

AUDIENCE SEATING
- Need at least one aisle in the audience, for access to and from the stage

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

PARKING
- One space close to the venue for loading and unloading

ASSISTANCE
- Please have a school representative ready to welcome the performer and assist with moving the electric piano if applicable

EQUIPMENT
- Piano (Artist will bring an electric piano upon request) along with a piano bench or chair
- Electrical outlet for electric piano (if needed)
  - 1 music stand, if available
- One microphone on a stand (not attached to a podium)

START TIME
- Please prepare to start the program on time
- Students should be in the venue, seated and ready to begin at the listed times
A TOUCH OF CLASSICAL

ART FORM: Music
STYLE: Classical
CULTURE: European, Australian, Latin American and North American

MEET THE ARTIST:

Since receiving her Bachelor’s and Master’s Degrees from The Juilliard School when she was 21, pianist Beth Sussman has performed throughout the United States and Europe. Career highlights include performances at Lincoln Center, Royce Hall, The Ravinia Festival (summer home of the Chicago Symphony) and Segerstrom Center for the Performing Arts. Several years ago, Kelsey Grammer was the Executive Producer for a Paramount Pictures Television pilot loosely based on her life. Recently, Beth was a presenter at a TED - X conference where she demonstrated how “steady beat” can improve reading fluency and comprehension. She is currently working on a project to bring some of her music workshops online. They will be enhanced by animation and live action designed by professional talent.

PREPARING FOR THE EXPERIENCE:

Classical music is an “exact music,” meaning that when a composer writes a piece he or she expects it to be played as written without altering the notes, rhythm or instrumentation. In classical music each performer feels and interprets the music differently so there will be variations in their timing, energy, feel or phrasing while still staying within the confines of the composer’s written work. This is what makes audiences respond differently to various artists playing the same works.

All of the music in the performance will be played on the piano. The piano was invented about 300 years ago in Italy and is a stringed keyboard instrument. However, it is classified as a percussion instrument because you hit the keys to make a sound. The original name of the instrument was the “Pianoforte” or “Fortepiano” because it could play both loudly and softly as opposed to its predecessor the harpsichord which could only play at one dynamic level. The harpsichord is also a keyboard with strings, but the strings are plucked by a plectrum (a quill) and has a twangy sound. When you hit a key on a piano, a hammer hits the string or strings. Meanwhile a damper (which is covered in felt) moves away from the strings so they can vibrate. As soon as your finger is off the key, the damper goes back to rest on the string(s) stopping them from vibrating. If the Sustaining Pedal (the one the furthest to the right) is pressed, then the dampers stay up so the strings can continue to vibrate.

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE:

In A Touch of Classical, Beth Sussman takes students on a journey around the world with classical music. Her program begins with famous classical music compositions that audiences recognize from cartoons, commercials, movies and video games. Students participate throughout the performance as they imagine what the mischievous “Little Troll” is up to in a humorous piece by Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg, guess how many notes she plays in a fast piece by Brazilian composer Hector Villa-Lobos, and marvel as she performs a unique work by Mexican composer Manuel Ponce – using only her left hand. Students will also learn rhythm patterns and movements of The Juba Dance by African-American composer Nathaniel Dett. They will be introduced to Italian musical terms and use them to help interpret a piece by Hungarian composer Bela Bartok. The performance ends with Beth’s own composition, “The Wizard,” a dazzling piece inspired by “The Wizard of Oz.”
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What classical music have you heard before and where were you when you heard it? Can you hum some of the melody?
- What is a composer and what does he or she do?
- Can you name any famous classical composers? Can you name any classical works?
- What is the difference between “hearing” and “listening”?
- Which piece did you most enjoy? What specific things did you notice about it? Did anything surprise you?

FRAMEWORK FOCUS—LANGUAGE ARTS:

As Beth performed each piece, she varied the expression of the music by changing the volume (dynamics – forte vs. piano) and articulation (how the notes are played – legato or staccato). Below are musical terms (in Italian) and their definitions. These can be used to connect to speaking with expression when reading aloud.

Tempo (the speed of the music) - Fast tempo, medium tempo, slow tempo.
(Allegro = Fast, Andante = moderate or walking tempo, Lento or Largo = slow tempo)
Forte – loud
Piano – soft
Legato – when the music is smooth or connected
Staccato – music that is choppy or has air or space between each note – like popcorn popping.

Can you think of other sounds that are legato or staccato?

ACTIVITIES TO ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE:

★ ■ The Juba Dance has a special “Juba” rhythm – stamp, clap-clap and was a dance that celebrated the end of the work week. What are some ways that you celebrate an upcoming weekend or vacation? If you were to put your feelings about the weekend into a rhythmic pattern that is repeated, what would it be?

♦ ♦ Beth interpreted the music by sometimes playing it forte, piano, legato or staccato. Let’s play around with a silly sentence and use the musical vocabulary to express it in different ways:

“Stinky cheese tastes great.”

If you were excited and exclaiming that this stinky cheese tastes great how would you say it?

What if you were telling someone a secret about the cheese?

What would happen to the pitch of your voice if you were asking this as a question?

★ ● Mexican composer Manuel Ponce’s piece (the only piece in a slow tempo on the program and was for the left hand alone) is called A Pesar de Todo (In Spite of Everything). Taking into account the mood of the piece as well as the title, write a paragraph describing what you think this piece expresses. (For example: Love? Loneliness? Dreaming? Fighting? Joyfulness?) Back up your response with musical terms including tempo, forte, piano, legato and staccato.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES:


AND THE MUSIC CENTER ANNOUNCE

A TOUCH OF CLASSICAL TO PERFORM ON ______________________

and The Music Center today announced the upcoming A Touch of Classical performance. 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 A Touch of Classical. 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.

By the age of 21, pianist Beth Sussman received her Bachelor’s and Master’s Degrees from The Juilliard School where she was granted a full scholarship. Performing highlights include solo recitals at Lincoln Center, The Ravinia Festival (summer home of the Chicago Symphony), The Chautauqua Music Festival and Segerstrom Center for the Arts. As a composer, her music has been heard at New York’s City Hall, on a short film on HBO, and on an episode of the Fox sitcom “Greg the Bunny.” She was featured on NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams as one of several volunteers who brings the arts to abused children. In 1997, a television pilot loosely based on her life was executive produced by Kelsey Grammer for Paramount Pictures Television.

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

A TOUCH OF CLASSICAL

DATE: ____________________ TIME: ____________________

SCHOOL: ____________________

musiccenter.org/ontour
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, Symphonian Campus Tours, Grand Park

PROGRAM SUPPORT PROVIDED BY: