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

AMERICANA UNLIMITED

Lotta Crabtree
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 features actress Judith Helton’s portrayal of a woman named Lotta Crabtree. The California Gold Rush of 1848 changed many lives --- this is the story of one of them. Americana Unlimited presents one of the most famous entertainers of her day, Miss Lotta Crabtree, who witnessed the Gold rush firsthand. Lotta will present the story of her life. Keep in mind that every incident is based on historical fact. After the presentation, you will be able to question Lotta about her life and times. And now, Miss Lotta Crabtree --- and theater as it used to be."

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
• 15' wide x 10' deep minimum
• Portable stages must be sturdy, level and securely lashed with steps leading up to the stage

SURFACE
• A clean and safe freshly mopped (not waxed) floor for performing
• Irregularities covered with tape
• Extraneous clutter removed

DRESSING AREA
• One private dressing area (not a bathroom) must be ready upon artist’s arrival

ARRIVAL
• Artist will arrive 1 1/2 hours before start time
• Artist will need to get into costume and set up the performance area

PARKING
• One space near the venue for loading and unloading

ASSISTANCE
• Please have a school representative ready to welcome the performers and to stay and help as needed; this representative should have access to any doors and lights and power in the performance area

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
AMERICANA UNLIMITED—Lotta Crabtree

ART FORM: Storytelling/Historical Character
STYLE: Contemporary
CULTURE: North American

MEET THE ARTIST:
Actress Judith Helton literally steps into the past when she goes to work. Since 1976, she has brought history to life with her intriguing portrayals of women of accomplishment and artistic talent. Her versatile repertoire of one-woman shows consists of three from American history - First Lady Abigail Adams, Gold Rush entertainer Lotta Crabtree, pioneer author Laura Ingalls Wilder - and England’s author/illustrator, Beatrix Potter. Each portrayal is meticulously researched from an historical perspective. Ms. Helton’s professional theatre credits include work in resident acting companies in Baltimore, Milwaukee, Houston and San Diego. Internationally she has performed at the Edinburgh, Scotland “World Theatre Festival,” and in Dublin and Cork, Ireland. Ms. Helton’s commitment to authenticity in her performances has led her to master such specialized skills as spinning, weaving, banjo playing and antique costume construction. She so truly ‘becomes’ the women she plays, that it is little wonder when leaving her home she is asked by neighbors, “Who are you today?”

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE:
In Lotta Crabtree: A Diamond in the Gold Rush, Judith Helton portrays one of the outstanding entertainers of the 19th century. Using banjo, song and dance, this performance traces the beginnings of Lotta Crabtree’s career as a Fairy Star (as child performers were called) traveling to towns and camps during the Gold Rush in California. Students have an opportunity to learn about the excitement, hardships and pursuit of dreams that was life in the early days of the Golden State as they experience the adventurous life of Lotta. An entertainer who was so beloved her fans called her “The California Diamond” or “San Francisco’s Favorite,” Ms. Crabtree as presented by Judith Helton shares social, political and historical information with students as part of the performance. Students should be encouraged to prepare for the discussion period that follows the presentation by studying the information provided in these pages.

PREPARING FOR THE EXPERIENCE:
An event took place on January 24, 1848 on John Sutter’s land that forever altered life in California and began a movement that affected the entire United States of America. On that day James W. Marshall discovered gold at Sutter’s Mill in the Sacramento Valley. Sutter tried to keep this information secret, but word spread that gold had been found on the American River, and nothing could keep thousands of people from flowing into California to seek their fortunes. During this reckless time, fortunes were made and lost; dreams were fulfilled and shattered. Life was often harsh in the gold camps. Prices for goods were high (eggs cost $6.00 per dozen) and life was uncertain. Even when people got lucky and found gold, there was no guarantee of safety; there was always someone ready to take advantage of anyone else’s good fortune in hitting “pay dirt.” A hunger for entertainment grew out of this uncertain atmosphere, and performers began traveling to the settlements, presenting shows in tents, general stores and saloons. When a 7 year old girl named Lotta Crabtree joined in the trek to the camps, she began a career that would span over 37 years. Born on November 7, 1847 in New York City, Lotta Crabtree came to California with her mother in 1853. Her father had journeyed west two years before but had no luck in finding gold. Lotta and her family settled in Grass Valley, California, where her father ran a boarding house while continuing his fruitless attempt to strike it rich in the gold fields. Forced to earn their own living, Lotta and her mother turned to the theatre. Years of touring with shows in California and throughout the United States brought Lotta national fame and earned her the nickname “The California Diamond.” At the height of her career (the 1870s and 1880s) she was the highest paid actress in America. She viewed her fortune as an instrument of good. “Lotta’s Fountain,” which still stands in San Francisco, was her gift to the city in her youth. She retired in 1891, but never retired from helping others. At her death she left her entire fortune of four million dollars to charity. She never forgot where her fortune had begun—when hopeful, dream-filled miners threw gold nuggets at her feet as a child during the California Gold Rush.
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Think about the stories you heard in the performance. Which one was your favorite? Why?
- Did you know any of the songs that were sung by Lotta Crabtree? Which ones? What were the lyrics of the songs about? Did they give you an idea of what life was like during the Gold Rush?
- Discuss what conditions were like for many of the miners who lived in camps during the Gold Rush. What major problems did they have to overcome in their search for gold? (separation from family, lack of a secure income, high prices for goods, untrustworthy companions)
- Has anyone in your class ever panned for gold? If so, what was it like? Do you think that panning gold would be a good way to earn a living? What are the advantages and disadvantages?

FRAMEWORK FOCUS—SOCIAL SCIENCE:

Travelers who rushed to California during the Gold Rush were called 49ers because 1849 was the year that they headed for the Golden State. While many of the 49ers were from the eastern United States, many more came from around the world. Miners came from Mexico, China, Germany, France and even far off countries like Turkey. Each journey had its own set of difficulties to overcome, and its own story.

Imagine you will become a 49er. Select a country in the world from where you begin your journey. Make a list of things you will need. Be sure to think about how you will travel and what time of year you will be traveling. Plan your modes of transportation (horse, on foot, by train, ship or wagon) and draw a map of your planned route. What countries (or states) will you be crossing? Will you be traveling through snow, desert or over mountains? Will you be crossing oceans, rivers or streams? Estimate how long you think your journey will take.

Make a timeline of your journey, noting how many miles between stops, where you can purchase needed supplies, and where you will go when you get to California. Use a classroom map and colored strings to mark the different journeys planned by the class.

ACTIVITIES TO ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE:

- Discuss how the performance of Lotta Crabtree’s life and adventures reflected the time and place in which she lived. Select one aspect of a story or song you remember and note what events, lyrics or melodies seemed to transport you to that time period.
- With a partner, imagine what it would be like to tell someone else that you are leaving (perhaps forever) for the gold fields in California. What would you say? What reasons would you give for going? What reasons might convince you to stay? Rehearse and then act out a scene with your partner, alternating roles so each of you gets the chance to use every reason possible to convince your partner that you should go - or stay. Share with the class.
- Try panning for "gold" in your classroom. Take a plastic or metal tub and fill it 1/3 to 1/2 full of water, sediment and sand. Drop in a few small rocks or pebbles that have been painted gold. One or two at a time take pie plates and dig out a bit of the sediment, swirling it until the water and smaller bits of sand are gone. Continue taking turns until the "gold" is found.
- Discuss how inventions have changed the ways that Americans are entertained since Lotta Crabtree’s days as a performer. Make a list of challenges and benefits that performers from both eras would face.
- In discussion or in a written assignment, compare the Lotta Crabtree’s California to the California of today, noting the differences of the following:
  - Travel, in towns and between towns
  - Population (size, demographics, lifestyle)
  - Prices and availability of goods
  - Clothing and dress styles
  - Law and order
  - Employment opportunities

SUGGESTED RESOURCES:


“Gold Rush! California’s Untold Stories, Oakland Museum of California.” Art of the Gold Rush at Oakland Museum of California, Oakland Museum of California, explore.museumca.org/goldrush/


@MusicCenterLA
AND THE MUSIC CENTER ANNOUNCE

AMERICANA UNLIMITED TO PERFORM ON _______________________

and The Music Center today announced the upcoming Americana Unlimited 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 Americana Unlimited. 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.

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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

AMERICANA UNLIMITED

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: