THE MUSIC CENTER ON TOUR

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

CARL WEINTRAUB

Breadcrumbs Along the Trail
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 performance is titled “Breadcrumbs Along the Trail” and features actor and storyteller Carl Weintraub. He is going to explore with you an assortment of his favorite stories, fables and fairy tales. Please welcome Carl Weintraub!"

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
- 6’ wide x 6’ 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 near the stage

EQUIPMENT
- Sound system with microphone input

ARRIVAL
- 15-30 minutes prior to the scheduled start time to prepare and set up

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

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
CARL WEINTRAUB—Breadcrumbs Along the Trail

ART FORM: Storytelling
STYLE: Contemporary
CULTURE: Multicultural

MEET THE ARTIST:

Carl Weintraub, a well-known in the storytelling community, is founder of the popular troupe We Tell Stories. This talented artist works as a producer, director, writer and actor, but thinks of himself first as “a father and storyteller.” He has amassed a fascinating library of rare and antique children’s books of folk tales, fables and fantasies from all over the world. His love of the art led him to perform several storytelling concerts for adult audiences. Later, he developed this program of stories for young audiences. A charismatic and versatile performer, Carl’s stage credits include the Old Globe Theatre in San Diego, the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles, and many starring roles in prime-time television series and movies. He was one of the first artists to receive the prestigious Professional Artist in the Schools (PASA) Lifetime Achievement Award.

PREPARING FOR THE EXPERIENCE:

The storyteller of today is a link in the long chain of storytellers that stretches back to the past and into the future. Before the days of writing, when the spoken word was the only means of communication, stories were an essential and enjoyable part of life. Without written records, the history and laws of a people had to be remembered and passed on orally, often in the form of stories. From the early days, storytelling has had an importance and value for everyone in the community.

Stories can serve a variety of different purposes, including oral histories, entertainment, education and enlightenment. Two common types of stories in the early days of storytelling were the Warning Example and the Embroidered Exploit. Warning Example stories used dangerous or inappropriate behavior to show children and other members of a community how to stay safe or follow established rules. The Embroidered Exploit told of an actual event, such as a hunter’s encounter with a wild animal, that became more and more exaggerated each time it was retold. The beast became wilder and more dangerous; the hunter grew more outrageous. Stories also developed as a means of explaining natural events such as thunder and lightning, earthquakes, floods, phases of the moon, and the changing seasons. The stories often involved supernatural beings that people invented to explain how the world functioned, and even how life and their world was created.

In the beginning, everyone told stories, but eventually there was one person in each tribe whose knowledge, skill and talent raised him above all others. Whether a griot (Africa), a Scald (Scandinavia), a Bard (Wales), a Seannachie (Ireland), a Gleeman or Minstrel (England), the storyteller dedicated his life to remembering and retelling the stories of his people. The onset of the Industrial Revolution altered our style of living. The widespread use of newspapers and books diminished the need for storytelling. But the joy of hearing a story, especially if the experience is shared with others, will never disappear. Stories teach us, entertain us and enlighten us in a way that never fails to amuse and amaze.

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE:

In “Breadcrumbs Along the Trail,” Carl Weintraub chooses from his vast repertoire of fables, Russian folk tales, fairy tales, personal stories, and theatre games to entertain and enlighten his audience. In some ways, stories are like breadcrumbs scattered along the paths we choose in life. Along the roads, we accidentally stumble upon them. Breadcrumbs are there to help us find our way -- our way home, and our way to new, unknown destinations. Stories, like breadcrumbs, are made up of grains: grains of ideas; words; wisdom; and insight. We know men, women, cultures and societies by the bread they bake, the paths they walk, and the stories they tell. Audiences will find kernels of knowledge, inspiration and nourishment as they listen to some of Carl Weintraub’s favorite stories -- tales which have shaped his character and guided him along life’s journey.
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What do you think the title Breadcrumbs Along the Trail means? Can you name some stories you know that taught you something or changed you in some way?
- Which story from the performance did you like best? Why?
- Can you name all the settings the characters in the stories passed through? Did Carl’s descriptions of the different settings of the stories create any pictures in your mind? If so, describe the scene you “saw.”
- On a world map, locate the homeland of your ancestors. Place pins or flags to mark the various locales. Can you share any stories that come from your home or ancestral country?
- What did you learn from the stories today? Is there any information you feel you would like to pass on to someone else by telling the story? Cite specific examples.

FRAMEWORK FOCUS—LANGUAGE ARTS:

Introduce students to the idea that poetry can tell a story. Read some “story” poems as a class. Suggestions for primary grades include: Nursery Rhymes, “The Nonsense Alphabet” by Edward Lear, the “Brownie Year Book” by Palmer Cox, or the poems of A.A. Milne. Upper elementary could try “The Walrus and the Carpenter” by Lewis Carroll, “The Village Blacksmith” or “Paul Revere’s Ride” by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, “The Duel” by Eugene Field, “The Pied Piper of Hamelin” by Robert Browning or the poems of Robert Lewis Stevenson.

Read the selected story poem as a class and discuss how the use of rhyming words altered the story. Imagine the story told in a narrative style. How would it change?

Ask students to create their own story using rhyme. Begin with a simple opening line, such as:

“Once upon a time there was a boy named __________, who tried to __________________________.”

Decide on a rhyme scheme to use: AAAAA, ABAB, ABABCC, etc. Make up additional lines to finish the verse. Recite the story poem as a class.

LEGEND

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS CONTENT STANDARD STRANDS
★ Artistic perception
● Creative expression
■ Historical & cultural context
◆ Aesthetic valuing
❖ Connections, Relations, Applications

ACTIVITIES TO ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE:

★ Tell a favorite story that you heard around your dinner table or at a family event. To make it fun, pretend to be the family member or friend who told the story, and try to use their gestures, vocal pitch and phrasing. Allow the class to try and guess something about the storyteller, such as age, relationship, etc.

● Collect pictures of scenic beauty and urban and rural settings without people in them. Travel magazines and nature magazines are good sources, as well as picture postcards. Divide the class into small groups and let each group choose a picture to work from. Ask the group to devise a story specific to the picture they have chosen. Give each group 15-30 minutes to plan and rehearse their stories and then share them.

● Divide the class into small groups and give each group three unrelated words to incorporate as an integral part of an original scene. Give the groups 15-30 minutes to plan the scene, assign the roles, rehearse the story and improvise dialogue and action. Suggestions for word combinations include:

  toothbrush - horse - earring
  hair clip - telephone - hammer
  balloon - paintbrush - door knob
  candle - compass - deck of cards
  toaster - teddy bear - baked potato

■ Have students select and read a story from a culture different from their own. Does the story remind them of any tales told in their own culture? Using the board, chart the differences and similarities in the stories, watching for universal themes or values.

◆ Have students evaluate the performance of Breadcrumbs Along the Trail by writing a paragraph describing what they liked about the performance, the stories and the lessons given to the audience, the way the actor used his voice and body, etc. Then ask them to include a sentence that tells what they would add or change in the performance.

❖ Discuss how the lessons conveyed in the stories connect to students’ lives. Discuss moments in the stories that seemed familiar or taught something to the students. Divide into groups to role-play selected scenarios.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES:


Illustrated Stories from the Greek Myths. Usborne, 2011.

AND THE MUSIC CENTER ANNOUNCE
CARL WEINTRAUB TO PERFORM ON

and The Music Center today announced the upcoming Carl Weintraub 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 Carl Weintraub. 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.

Breadcrumbs Along the Trail is a dynamic solo performance by Carl Weintraub, the founding force behind the well-known theatre troupe, We Tell Stories, and a recipient of the prestigious PASA Award for lifetime achievement by professional artists in schools.

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

CARL WEINTRAUB

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, Symphonic Campus Tours, Grand Park

PROGRAM SUPPORT PROVIDED BY: