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

DAUGHTERS OF THE PURPLE SAGE
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 features Daughters of the Purple Sage. These musically accomplished artists perform both international and throughout the U.S. at Cowboy Gatherings and on trail rides. Today they will be performing traditional western songs and dances. They will also provide insight into the role of music in shaping the western frontier, the history of the Golden West, and its portrayal in the movies. Please welcome Daughters of the Purple Sage!"
TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

SPACE
• 10' wide x 8' deep minimum
• Portable stages must be sturdy, level and securely lashed

SURFACE
• Freshly mopped (not waxed)
• Irregularities covered with tape
• Extraneous clutter removed
• If buck-dancing is part of the performance, a wood surface is required (a piece of plywood will do)

EQUIPMENT
• 3 vocal microphones with stands
• A sound system that can receive 3 direct lines or 3 additional microphones and stands for instruments

ARRIVAL
• 45-60 minutes prior to the scheduled start time to prepare and set up

PARKING
• One space

ASSISTANCE
• Please have a school representative ready to welcome the performers and assist 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

AUDIENCE SEATING
• Aisle down the center and on the sides
DAUGHTERS OF THE PURPLE SAGE

ART FORM: Music
STYLE: Traditional
CULTURE: Western Cowboy

MEET THE ARTIST:

Daughters of the Purple Sage transports audiences back to the ‘Old West’ through their rendition of folk songs and narration. This international group is acclaimed for their smooth vocals and tight harmony. They were named "Rising Star of the Year" by the Academy of Western Artists and were also nominated as “Group of the Year” by the Western Music Association. Their polished blend and authentic style are featured in signature arrangements of such classics as “Tumblin' Tumbleweeds” and “Shenandoah.”

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE:

This nostalgic performance creates the atmosphere and mood of the American Western frontier. Students will learn about the role of music in the lives of pioneers, cowboys and cowgirls. Daughters of the Purple Sage repertoire includes: “Timber Trail;” “Home on the Range;” “Tumblin' Tumbleweeds;” “Shenandoah;” “Old Texas;” “Old Chisholm Trail;” “Texas Plains;” “Red River Valley;” and “Happy Trails.” Costumes worn by the women represent the “Wild West” era, the Circuit Rider cowgirls of the early 1900s and the Silver Screen cowgirls of the 30s and 40s. Students learn about the role of clothing, including hats, spurs and kerchiefs. The trio also introduces the instruments they play and the element of harmony. Life on the trails of the Golden West was hard and students will learn about the specific work and the responsibilities of pioneers and cowboys. The yodeling, buck dancing and blending of these three voices will captivate and delight everyone.

PREPARING FOR THE EXPERIENCE:

The life and experiences of the American cowboy and cowgirl have been documented since the first large herds of cattle were brought up the trails from Texas to Kansas. In 1867 the railhead in Abilene, Kansas, was completed and entrepreneurs began bringing large herds of cattle up the trails from Texas. The first participants, the actual working cowboys, were just laborers whose job was to oversee the movement of two thousand cattle from “point A to point B.” There was nothing glamorous about this work except, perhaps, that it was done on horseback. The traditions of the cowboy represent the most well-documented autobiographical ethnography of any occupational group in America.

Beyond the cowboy narrative traditions, their material culture has persisted, including the clothes that make up the general look. The importance of wearing the proper attire in terms of outward definition cannot be overlooked. The traditional cowboy ballad, “The Cowboy’s Lament,” (aka, “The Streets of Laredo”), begins the second verse with, “I see by your outfit that you are a cowboy.” In fact, many photographers of the period kept woolie chaps (leg protectors), large brimmed hats, boots, and gun belts as part of their set of props.

The days of the ‘open range’ and the ‘trail drives’ ended with the appearance of barbed wire, but cattle ranching has persisted, as has the American cowboy and cowgirl. They still dress in boots, hats and “wild-rags” or kerchiefs, and they continue to sing songs, and recite poems. Besides providing entertainment, traditional Western songs were sometimes sung on ‘night herds’ to calm the cattle. The two essential animals in a cowboy’s work were the horse and the cow. However, their attitudes toward, and expectations of, these animals were different. The cow was thought of as a product to be moved from one place to another. The horse was special because it was a partner in the work and the cowboy had to trust that partnership. While Victorian ladies sat in their parlors, adventurous women unlaced their corsets, exchanged their skirts for “split” garments, and set to work roping cattle, ‘breaking colts’ and ranching. The women of the “Wild West” shows like Annie Oakley, rode wild horses and were expert marksmen. Today, the cowgirl is as much a part of rodeo and ranch life as the cowboy.
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:
- What did you find most interesting or surprising about the performance?
- Were any of the songs familiar to you? If so, where do you think you might have heard them before?
- Do you remember the reasons for yodeling? Are there any other types of singing where yodeling is used?
- Name the instruments that were played. What do they have in common? What are the differences?
- What other kinds of work do you know where music plays a role (field labor, sea chanteys, soldiers)?

FRAMEWORK FOCUS—SOCIAL STUDIES/HISTORY:
In 1866, an entrepreneur named Joseph McCoy raised the necessary money to have a railroad line run to Abilene, Kansas. This was the first destination for the herds being driven up from Texas. Among the other trails were the "Chisholm Trail," the "Goodnight-Loving Trail" and the "Colorado Trail." The trails were long and people probably traveled about 15 miles per day. The weather could be hot, cold or stormy and there were rivers to cross. Singing was a way to past the time, calm the herd, and enjoy life.

Take a moment to imagine being one of the cowboys, or cowgirls. Jot down a few of your ideas. Then, pair up with a partner and take turns describing the experience in the first person (e.g. I ride my horse all day. Sometimes I lasso a stray calf who has wandered off). Tell your story as if you were really there. Describe the weather, what it feels like, the songs you sing, and what you are doing as you sit around the campfire at night with the other cowboys and cowgirls.

ACTIVITIES TO ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE:
- Look at some of these Western terms: doggie; lasso; night herd; chaps; tumbleweed; trail; stirrup; spur; round-up; kerchief; and branding iron. Select three to five words and write a sentence using each one. See if you can put your sentences together to tell a short story.
- There are many published and recorded versions of popular cowboy songs. For example, "Whoppi Ti Yi Ya," "Cielto Lindo," and "Git Along Little Dogies." Maybe you can learn one of the songs you heard in the performance, such as "Home on the Range," "Tumblin' 'Tumbleweeds" or "Shenandoah."
- Dating back to 2000 BC in Egypt, brands have been used as marks of identification. In the ‘Old West’, they were considered as the trademark for range-land ownership of livestock. A brand may consist of a letter, numeral, characters, symbols, or a combination of these. Early on, they were applied with white paint, but later hot iron brands were used. Rustlers were often clever in their ability to alter the brands so they could steal the cattle. Using this information, design a brand for your family ranch.

- Discuss the reasons that people became pioneers, cowboys, ranchers and homesteaders. What kind of human traits would they need to have to survive? What cultural backgrounds did they have? (Latino, Black, European, Native American, etc.) Do some research on cowboys and cowgirls and learn more.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES:


AND THE MUSIC CENTER ANNOUNCE
DAUGHTERS OF THE PURPLE SAGE TO PERFORM ON

and The Music Center today announced the upcoming Daughters of the Purple Sage 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 by Daughters of the Purple Sage. 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.

The trio, Daughters of the Purple Sage transports audiences back to the Old West through their rendition of folk songs and narration. Their polished blend and authentic style is featured in signature arrangements of such classics as Tumblin’ Tumbleweeds and Shenandoah. This nostalgic performance creates the atmosphere and mood of the American frontier. Students can learn about the role of music in the lives of pioneers, cowboys and cowgirls. Daughters of the Purple Sage repertoire includes Timber Trail, Home on the Range, Tumblin’ Tumbleweeds, Shenandoah, Old Texas, Old Chisholm Trail, Texas Plains, Red River Valley and Happy Trails. Costumes worn by the women represent the “Wild West” era, the Circuit Rider cowgirls of the early 1900s and the Silver Screen cowgirls of the 30s and 40s.

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

DAUGHTERS OF
THE PURPLE SAGE

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, Symphoniaian Campus Tours, Grand Park

PROGRAM SUPPORT PROVIDED BY: