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

DAVID PRATHER
Prather’s Poetry Jam
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 “David Prather’s Poetry Jam”, and it features actor and storyteller David Prather. Mr. Prather will share many different poems with us – even poems about ice cream, baseball and the United States of America! Please welcome David Prather!"

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!
**SPACE**
- 10’ wide x 10’ deep minimum
- Portable stages must be sturdy and securely lashed, with steps leading up to the stage

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

**OUTDOOR PERFORMANCES**
- Shaded
- Protected from wind, traffic and playground noise
- Good acoustics
- Sound system with one microphone stand is required

**EQUIPMENT**
- One microphone with a stand
  - Sound system
  - One 4-6 foot table

**ARRIVAL**
- Artist will arrive thirty 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
DAVID PRATHER — David Prather’s Poetry Jam

ART FORM: Theatre/Storytelling
STYLE: Contemporary
CULTURE: North American

MEET THE ARTIST:

David Prather, a charismatic actor and author, has earned a Princeton education, as well as receiving training at the American Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco, California. Combining all that he learned, he has utilized his experience and knowledge to create original works for young audiences. Whether performing his school assembly programs in multi-purpose rooms, or sharing the stage with Julie Andrews at Walt Disney Concert Hall, Mr. Prather uses improvisatory humor and wit to engage and entertain his audience. As “Cap’n Dave,” he delighted thousands over many years as the host of “Summer Sounds” at the Hollywood Bowl. He has performed with the L.A. Phil, the Pacific and San Francisco Symphonies, as well as at the Getty Center, the Skirball Cultural Center and other arts institutions. At The Music Center, he has performed Shakespeare at the Mark Taper and hosted concerts with the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE:

“David Prather’s Poetry Jam” is a high-energy performance for young audiences, designed to stimulate an interest in poetry and language. Drawing on a diverse array of poets from Shel Silverstein and Jack Prelutsky to A.A. Milne, and including such American classics as “Casey at the Bat” and “This Land is Your Land,” the show serves as an overview and introduction to poetry, metaphor, imagery and meter. This fast-paced show features audience participation, humor, pratfalls, and props, making it a language “jam.” From an entrance on a razor scooter to the donning of a sandwich board, from jumping rope to juggling boxes, the audience is engaged as David Prather demonstrates the rhythm and rhyme of poetry. There is definitely “joy in Mudville,” with this home run performance!

PREPARING FOR THE EXPERIENCE:

Poetry is more than rhyming words, linked together in a particular format with a specific meter (rhythm patterns that can be identified and measured). Through imagination and imagery, through figures of speech such as metaphor, assonance, alliteration and onomatopoeia, poetry takes ordinary words and shapes them into a message that goes beyond the literal meaning of the words. The verbal art of poetry aims straight for the heart of the listeners, providing them with an emotional experience that isn’t always evoked from a simple prose narrative.

Verse is a constant in everyday life, from commercial jingles and children’s rhymes to our own inadvertent speeches (i.e., “We’re going to the store. Out the door!”) Poetry probably originated in early civilizations as a tool used to convey oral histories and stories, and as ritualistic language for rites of passage. Many modern classroom teachers continue to use poetry to help students remember lessons; they find that rhythm and rhyme provide valuable memory triggers for younger listeners.

Poems performed in “Poetry Jam” are mainly contemporary poems that use modern language to speak about everyday experiences—and, using unusual twists. A visit to an ice cream store, watching television, and going to a baseball game all show how poems can present images that resonate long after the experience ends. Poets represented in this show include: Shel Silverstein (1932-1999) and Jack Prelutsky (1940-), two contemporary American poets; Alan Alexander Milne (1882-1956), an English writer best known for “Winnie the Pooh;” and other American poets including Woody Guthrie (1912-1967), a songwriter and folk poet whose words and songs spoke for the working class and the unions during The Great Depression; Ernest Lawrence Thayer (1863-1940), whose “Casey at the Bat” a humor piece in the San Francisco Examiner; and Carl Sandburg (1878-1967), a Pulitzer-prize winning poet who created new poetic forms as he wrote about life and living in America.
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What is a poem? What elements turn a simple sentence or statement into a poem? (rhythm, rhyme, imagery)
- Have you ever written a poem? Can you remember what it was about? What rhyming words did you use?
- What was your favorite poem in this performance? Why? Do you remember the poet's name? Have you read any other poems written by that poet?
- List some of your favorite poems. Do you share the same favorites with classmates? Can you recite any parts of the poems you like the best?
- Discuss various contacts you have with poetry during the day - on television, on the playground, in class, during bedtime stories, etc. How many different situations can you remember?

ACTIVITIES TO ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE:

- Help students define and understand the following figures of speech:
  - **assonance**: repetition of the same vowel sound
    
    Example: How now, brown cow.
  - **alliteration**: repetition of the same consonant sound
    
    Example: Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.
  - Then have them try to find or create one or two lines of poetry that use one of these figures of speech.
- Ask students to select a favorite poem to read or present to the class. They should be able to name the title, poet and country of origin, as well as the time period in which it was written. Students should concentrate on identifying and expressing the emotional tone of the poem, paying attention to interpretive aspects such as irony or sarcasm, etc.
- After students recite their poem to the class, help students discuss the meanings in each poem, and what importance it might have for the students. Be sure to point out and discuss any phrases that create images or emotions in the minds and hearts of the students.
- Poetry often reflects the historical era in which it was written, and can often shine light on the styles, values, challenges and ideas of that time. Select a poem that was written during a specific time period (drawn from classroom curriculum) and examine it to see what it says about any political or cultural issues of the time. For instance, "This Land Is Your Land," written by Woody Guthrie in the 1930s, reflected the fight of the working class and their struggle to claim their own piece of the American dream through the establishment of worker's unions.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES:


FRAMEWORK FOCUS—LANGUAGE ARTS:

A **metaphor** is a figure of speech in which a word that represents one thing is used to describe another. A **simile** is a figure of speech which uses "like" or "as" to compare one thing to another. Both are used often in poetry and literary writing to help create mental images that convey the written message through strong visual concepts. Here are some examples of simile and metaphors. Ask students to identify which are simile and which are metaphors. Ask students to create their own metaphors or simile.

From "Casey at the Bat:"

From the benches, black with people, there went up a muffled roar,

Like the beating of the storm-waves on a stern and distant shore;

From "This Land is Your Land:"

As I was walking that ribbon of highway

From Shel Silverstein's "The Dragon of Grindly Grun:"

I breathe fire as hot as the sun;

From A.A. Milne's "The Mirror:"

Between the woods the afternoon

Is fallen in a golden swoon.

**LEGEND**

★ Artistic perception
● Creative expression
■ Historical & cultural context
◆ Aesthetic valuing
♦ Connections, Relations, Applications
and The Music Center announce

DAVID PRATHER TO PERFORM ON

and The Music Center today announced the upcoming David Prather 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 David Prather. 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.

Dubbed the “Maker of Merry” by the L.A. Times, actor David Prather has shared his lively blend of improvisation, verbal wit and physical comedy with audiences from schools to concert halls across California. Whether appearing with Julie Andrews at Disney Hall as host of the L.A. Phil’s Holiday Sing Along, or engaging an assembly of rapt students in a multi-purpose room, Prather makes it his mission to entertain and enlighten. He has delighted audiences at the Hollywood Bowl (where he appeared for ten seasons as ‘Cap’n Dave’ of Summer Sounds) and in family programs at the Getty, Skirball, and Autry Museums. Mr. Prather is a graduate of Princeton University and the American Conservatory Theatre.

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, Glória 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).

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

DAVID PRATHER

DATE: _________________________ TIME: _________________________

SCHOOL: _____________________________________________
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: