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

LILY CAI CHINESE
DANCE COMPANY
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. Dancer and choreographer Lily Cai preserves her traditional Chinese culture by performing ancient classical court and ethnic folk dance. Please welcome Lily Cai.

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

- 18’ wide x 12’ deep x 12’ high minimum
- Portable stages must be sturdy and securely lashed

SURFACE

- Freshly mopped (not waxed)
- Irregularities covered with tape
- Extraneous clutter removed
- No concrete surface floor

AUDIENCE SEATING

- Artist requests a center or side aisle in the audience seating arrangement

EQUIPMENT

- Sound system with an input for a microphone and playback (computer output).
  - One electrical outlet

ARRIVAL

- 35-40 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 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
LILY CAI CHINESE DANCE COMPANY

ART FORM: Dance
STYLE: Traditional
CULTURE: Chinese

MEET THE ARTIST:

Lily Cai preserves her traditional Chinese culture by performing ancient classical court and ethnic folk dance. Born in Shanghai, China she began to study dance at the Children’s Palace when she was five. As she matured, her talent became evident and she was selected to study with special teachers. However, her traditional dance training was abruptly stopped during the Chinese Cultural Revolution. Mao Tse-tung, the Chairman of the Chinese Communist Party appointed his wife, Chiang-Ch’ing, to head cultural expression in the performing arts. She allowed only five ideologically-pure revolutionary stories to be danced. Lily Cai was a principal dancer in these productions at the Shanghai Opera House. In 1982 she immigrated to the United Stated and settled in San Francisco. Founder and Artistic Director of the Lily Cai Chinese Dance Company and co-founder of Chinese Cultural Productions, Lily’s strengths as a choreographer derive from her ability to combine and integrate Chinese traditional folk and classical dance with Western ballet aesthetics and American modern dance. She has toured extensively in the United States and Europe and is the recipient of many prestigious awards and grants.

PREPARING FOR THE EXPERIENCE:

China stood as a leading civilization in the arts and sciences for centuries. However, in the first half of the 20th century China was beset by major famine, civil unrest, military defeats, and foreign occupation. In 1966, the Communists, under Mao Tse-tung, established a dictatorship that imposed strict controls over everyday life. It was called the Cultural Revolution. Mao’s wife, Chaing-Ch’ing, was appointed head of the Cultural and Performing Arts and controlled the style, themes and expression of art so that it was geared toward a revolutionary and military intent. Lily Cai remembers that everyone on the street was fighting and students dropped out of school to promote the writings of Mao Tse-tung. At this time, all the people learned a Revolutionary Dance. It required no technique, but used movements designed to make everyone feel powerful and determined to make change.

Chinese civilization, which is over 5,000 years old, has both classical and ethnic folk dance. There are many dialects spoken in China and the cultural differences are expressed in their music, art and folk dances. Chinese classical dance reflects the philosophy and aesthetics of each dynasty of individual Emperors. A dynasty is a succession of kings, or emperors, from the same ruling family. In classical Chinese dance, the movements, gestures and floor patterns are based on the concept of the circle and S curve. Ms. Cai has selected two contrasting classical dances which show a wide variety of movements based on these principles. The “Flying Goddess” (Ribbon Dance) represents the Tang Dynasty (618-907 C.E.), which is called the “Golden Age for Culture.” The ribbons represent a goddess. The aesthetics of this dynasty were based on the concept that beauty was full and round; the costumes were transparent to reveal the outline of the body. In contrast, bodies were completely covered in the Qing (Ch’ing) Dynasty (1644-1912). Movements were more reserved, and fans were used to highlight elegance, beauty and conservative femininity.

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE:

Ancient Chinese dance comes to life in this thrilling and beautiful performance featuring Lily Cai. Utilizing traditional costumes of the Tang and Qing (Ch’ing) Dynasties, Lily appears with colorful ribbons, fans of red, green and gold, big head masks, traditional wooden platform shoes and swords. She begins with “Characters Variation,” portraying an old man, a lady carrying a baby, someone catching a butterfly, a drunken man and a village girl with a big head-mask. Students learn how to say “Hello” in Chinese and perform the classical “S” shaped dance movement, the basis of Court Dances. A colorful ribbon dance from the Tang Dynasty is performed, followed by a contrasting dance from the Qing Dynasty. The program concludes with the audience saying good-bye in Chinese. Composer Gang Situ coordinates music written especially for the performance.
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Can you remember how to say “Hello” and “Goodbye” in Chinese? Do you know these greetings in any other languages?
- What words would you use to describe the “Flying Goddess” (Ribbon Dance)? What images came to mind?
- What words would you use to describe the “Fan Dance?” What feelings did you have while watching this dance?
- What were the differences between the two dances? (costumes, movements, props, music, etc.) How would you describe the values or aesthetics of each dynasty based on the dances you saw?
- How many different ways did you see circles used in the dances? Can you show some of the circular gestures?
- What did you find interesting about the “Sword Dance?” What descriptive words would you use to describe it?

ACTIVITIES TO ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE:

- At spring festivals throughout the villages of China, people construct large props that are made to look like animals. These props are used in dances accompanied by gongs, symbols and drums. Select a specific animal and design an animal prop for a dance. Take cardboard or other stiff materials, combined with decorations and soft materials (e.g., ribbons, fabric, plastic, etc.) and build your prop.
- Animal mime dances are popular in parts of China. Lily did a “Peacock Dance” in her performance. In small groups, create a short dance that is based on one of the following animals: dragon, lion, unicorn, monkey, peacock or horse. Ask each group to combine the designs of their bodies to create each of these animals as it is named; then ask them to use individual movement and rhythm to show the way each animal might dance.

- Classical Chinese dance uses the concept of circles. Create five different circular positions (shapes) or gestures with your body. Sequence your ideas and then share them with a partner. Each person can perform their sequence of five circles or can teach the sequence to the other, combining them to make ten circular shapes or gestures.
- In small groups, select one of the dances that Lily Cai performed. Create a word web in which each person in the group contributes ideas to describe the dance. Ask one member of the group to be the scribe. Select a few words and write sentences, using those words, to describe the dance. Sequence the sentences so they work easily to describe the dance.
- Find China on a map or globe. Research some of the major inventions given to us by the Chinese. These include gunpowder, kites, porcelain, paper, noodles, printing, mariner’s compass, umbrellas, wheelbarrows, game of chess, matches, and silk fabric.

FRAMEWORK FOCUS—SOCIAL STUDIES/HISTORY:

Today, there are 55 minorities in China, each of which has its own unique culture. Dances of these cultures have been passed from one generation to the next for hundreds, sometimes thousands, of years. Sometimes researchers study ancient rock paintings to help in reconstructing dances which have become extinct. The written language of China is primarily composed of pictures. Originally these were called “pictograms,” which symbolized concrete ideas such as the sun, moon, animals and plants. These evolved into Chinese written characters. More than 1,000 years ago the Naxi group created pictographic characters to record their dances, fairy tales, poems and natural discoveries. Imagine that you are an artist in ancient times. Create 5-10 symbols to tell a story about one of the following: How the sun rises and sets; How the forests came to be; How the animals came; How the Peacock came to be; How the mountains were formed. Tell the story from left to right or from top to bottom, using only your original symbols to tell the story. These cave paintings are an ancient form of a storyboard. Use your symbolic drawings to tell your story or find a way to dance or dramatize it using gestures.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES:


LEGEND

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS CONTENT STANDARD STRANDS
★ Artistic perception
● Creative expression
■ Historical & cultural context
◆ Aesthetic valuing
♦ Connections, Relations, Applications
School Contact Name: ____________________________
Phone: ________________________________________

________________________ AND THE MUSIC CENTER ANNOUNCE

LILY CAI CHINESE DANCE COMPANY TO PERFORM ON _____________

________________________ and The Music Center today announced the upcoming Lily Caiperformance. 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 Lily Cai. 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.

Shanghai native Lily Cai brings the movements of China to life in her captivating narrated presentation that showcases her enthusiasm for Chinese culture, history and people. Utilizing traditional costumes of the Tang and Qing dynasties, colorful folk dance ribbons and fans of gold, red and green, big head masks and swords, the performance invites audiences to experience the mystery of one of the world’s most intriguing cultures.

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

LILY CAI CHINESE DANCE COMPANY

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: