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

SUZANNA GUZMÁN / LOS ANGELES OPERA
Don’t Be Afraid: It’s Just Opera!
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 and The Los Angeles Opera. Suzanna Guzmán (pronounced goo-ZMAHN) is a native of Los Angeles, California. She is an internationally renowned OPERA singer who has sung all around the world, including such places as Carnegie Hall, The Metropolitan Opera and The Kennedy Center. She has won many awards, is a radio talk host, a TV host and even received a Grammy nomination for “Best Classical CD.”

Now:

...opera is VERY serious
...very sophisticated,
...and very “ooo—la –la.”

Let’s give our best serious attention to mezzo—soprano, Suzanna Guzmán! in her show, Don’t Be Afraid: It’s Just Opera."

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
- Auditorium or raised stage preferred
- Portable stages must be sturdy and securely lashed, with steps leading up to the stage
- Students must be able to get onstage
  - Stage should have full lighting
- NO OUTDOOR PERFORMANCES

AUDIENCE SEATING
- Create a center aisle in the student seating area.

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

DRESSING AREA
- A private area near the stage is needed

ARRIVAL
- 10-15 minutes prior to the scheduled start time to prepare and set up

PARKING
- Two spaces

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

EQUIPMENT
- Piano, tuned and playable
  - Microphone
CURRICULUM
• CONNECTIONS

SUZANNA GUZMÁN/LOS ANGELES OPERA
“Don’t be Afraid: It’s Just Opera!”

ART FORM: Music
STYLE: Classical
CULTURE: Western European

MEET THE ARTIST:

Suzanna Guzman is a native, third generation Angelena, born and raised in East LA and Pasadena. For over three decades, you could easily have bumped into her backstage in theatres and opera houses across the globe: Europe, Asia, Mexico, Canada, and across the US from Anchorage to Houston to Miami, Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, and of course, the Music Center of Los Angeles County. It was at the Music Center where she was an Associate Artist appearing as a principal artist in over 400 performances. This led to international appearances side by side with opera greats Plácido Domingo, James Conlon, Marilyn Horne, James Levine, Jake Heggie, Daniél Catán, Franco Zeffirelli, Giancarlo Menotti, and others. Known for her portrayal of the title role of Carmen, TIME magazine called her a “fire-breathing, singing actress.” In 2016 critic Mark Swed called her “irresistible” for her performance in the mobile opera “Hopscotch”. She’s premiered countless new roles in opera, received a Grammy nod for her performance with Southwest Chamber Music, hosted the radio show “Sunday Evening Opera” for over a decade, and host ed more than 52 episodes of the weekly television show “Open Call” for KCET.

Since 1985, her award-winning show, “Don’t Be Afraid: It’s Just Opera!” has been performed for over 200,000 students nationwide and the 2017-18 season marked her 15-year anniversary performance in the title role of the pageant, “La Virgen de Tepeyac: Dios Inantzin,” with the Latino Theatre Company.

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE:

Internationally acclaimed mezzo-soprano Suzanna Guzmán performs her award-winning show and reveals the universal appeal of opera for all ages. With this friendly diva as a guide, the audience will discover just how entertaining and moving this beautiful music can be. Guzmán breaks through stereo-types and pre-conceptions in a funny, accessible and hands-on performance. High-energy, informative, multi-lingual and interactive, she performs excerpts from some of operas greatest works: Puccini, Rossini, Bizet, and a dash of Mozart. Students learn basic music dynamics, vocal production, interplay of language, rhythm and music. With the help of student volunteers, Guzmán tells an “opera story” or “aria” with picture titles (rather than ‘supertitles’) and ends the performance with everyone participating in the Grand Finale.

PREPARING FOR THE EXPERIENCE:

In the simplest terms, opera is a story set to music, with orchestral accompaniment. Opera, in the Western Classical tradition, is the result of the efforts of a group of freethinking scholars known as the Florentine Camera ta. In the course of researching Greek drama (which they were trying to recreate), they decided that the ‘choruses’ of these works had been sung. They incorporated this idea into what would become opera. The emotional high points in the story became arias, solo songs that highlight a singer’s skills. For the dialogue and to move the story along, they devised a rapid form of chant-like singing called recitative, which is minimally accompanied. The first extant opera was composed by Jacopo Peri around 1600 and entitled "Euridice." Seven years later Claudio Monteverdi composed and presented "L’Orfeo," at the court of Mantua. It is considered the first great opera. Both "Euridice" and "L’Orfeo" are based on the Greek myth of Orpheus and his quest to retrieve his beloved Euridice from the underworld. By 1637, the first public opera houses appeared in Venice. Theaters sold tickets byouting popular singers, who were the rock-stars of their times. They also incorporated spectacular stage effects such as live animals, explosions, water tanks and complex machinery.

Opera remains popular all over the world. The singers are still the stars and the staging is as lavish as ever. Some of the most well-known composers of opera include, Giuseppe Verdi, Giacchino Rossini, Giacomo Puccini and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

The operatic voice requires intense training as well as strong natural ability. Singers must train their voices for tone quality, vocal range and the ability to project over an orchestra without amplification. There are several different categories of vocal range that depend on gender. The basic female ranges are called soprano, mezzo-soprano (or medium soprano) and alto. The basic male ranges are tenor, baritone and bass. In operatic voice-typing, these terms are further broken down according to timbre (tone quality) and projection (strength). This helps in casting so that the voice matches the role appropriately.
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

• Name and describe the exaggerated things that Ms. Guzmán did to show the way people usually think of opera and its stars.

• What most impressed you about Ms. Guzmán and what she taught you about opera?

• What did you observe about the partnership between the singer and her accompanist? What skills did they use to communicate with each other?

• Which piece did you most enjoy ("In My Own Little Corner" from Rogers and Hammerstein’s Cinderella; Mozart’s “Variations on Twinkle Twinkle Little Star”; “Una Voce Poco Fa,” from Rossini’s Barber of Seville; “Un Bel Di Vedremo,” from Puccini’s Madame Butterfly, “Habanera,” from Bizet’s Carmen)? Give reasons for your choice.

• Opera singers must have talent, but they must also spend years developing that talent through training and practice. What other professions can you think of that require both a natural talent and years of discipline and practice?

FRAMEWORK FOCUS—LANGUAGE ARTS:

Operas are written in many different languages, including Spanish, German, French, Czech, English, Russian and (especially) Italian. However, when you listen to opera you don’t need to understand every word to know what is happening because the music and the singers will give you clues as to their character, mood and intention. Even so, when you attend an opera there are now Super Titles telling you the action in English. Ms. Guzman took you through the story of the opera “Madam Butterfly” and helped you understand the words of the song by using “Picture Titles.” Here is a summary of the opera as told by Ms. Guzman:

“Madama Butterfly” is one of the most famous operas written by Giacomo Puccini. It is a story about a young, Japanese girl. She is named Cio Cio San, but her friends all call her “Butterfly”. She is married to a US Naval officer named Pinkerton and they are very much in love. One day Pinkerton learns that his ship has been re-stationed and he must leave Japan, but he promises Butterfly he will return. She gives birth to his child and names the boy “Trouble,” a name she plans to change to “Joy” when she reunites with her husband. But three years pass and there is no news. Her friends and family try to convince her that he’s forgotten all about her and is gone forever. But Butterfly tells them that she is so certain that he’ll come back to her that she can describe exactly what the day will be like in the aria “Un bel di”, (“One Beautiful Day”). However, when her husband does return, a great conflict arises and Butterfly is forced to make a difficult decision. This leads to disappointment and a sad ending for Butterfly.

Create “Picture Titles” for the different ideas in the story in order to get the main ideas across. Have one or more students narrate the story. The “Picture Titles” will serve as a storyboard for the action. Make up your own ending for the final scene.

ACTIVITIES TO ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE:

★ Repeat the experience you had in singing “Twinkle Twinkle Little Star” and repeat it in your classroom. First, sing it with normal volume. Then, stand up sing it with gusto. Discuss the difference. Finally, divide into three groups. The first group sings the first two lines of the song forte (strong and loud); the middle group sings the second two lines piano (softly) and the third group sings the last two lines fortissimo (very loudly, without shouting). Hold the last note until the teacher gives a sign to end. Remember the meaning of forte, piano, and fortissimo. Rotate the groups so everyone has a chance to try all three parts. Discuss the experience you had.

✦ Opera is a story set to music. So, in an opera the actors sing their words to each other rather than talking. If they were to have a conversation, they would sing their phrases rather than speak them. Divide into partners. Number off #1 and #2, then sit or stand facing each other and have a short conversation. First, take turns saying the phrases to each other. E.g. #1: Hi! How’s it going? #2: Fine with me. How about you? #1: I’ve been sick! #2: Hope you’re better soon. #1: See ya! #2: Later! Next, try singing the same conversation, making up the tune as you go (improvisation).

SUGGESTED RESOURCES:


AND THE MUSIC CENTER ANNOUNCE
SUZANNA GUZMÁN/LOS ANGELES OPERA TO PERFORM ON

and The Music Center today announced the upcoming Suzanna Guzmán 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 Suzanna Guzmán. 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.

Internationally acclaimed mezzo-soprano Suzanna Guzmán performs her award-winning show and reveals the universal appeal of opera for all ages. With this friendly diva as a guide, the audience will discover just how entertaining and moving this beautiful music can be. Guzmán breaks through the pre-conceptions and stereotypes and in a funny, accessible and hands-on performance. High-energy, informative, multi-lingual and interactive, she performs excerpts from some of operas greatest works: Puccini, Rossini, Bizet, including a dash of Mozart. Students learn basic music dynamics, vocal production, interplay of language, rhythm and music. With the help of student volunteers, Guzmán tells an “opera story” or “aria” with picture titles (rather than ‘supertitles’. ) and ends the performance with everyone participating in the Grand Finale. Students leave the event literally clapping their hands and with a song in their lungs!

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).

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

SUZANNA GUZMÁN/
LOS ANGELES OPERA

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: