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

MARIACHI LOS CAMPEROS
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. Since 1969, Mariachi Los Camperos has provided Los Angeles with the very best in mariachi music. Today you will hear a variety of mariachi song styles— from slow romantic boleros (bow-ler-rows), to the quicker rhythms of the muscular son jalisense (son hall-is-sin-ay-say), the intricate huapango (wha-pang-go) and more. Please welcome Mariachi Los Camperos!"

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
- 20’w x 20’d x 10’ high minimum
- Portable stages must be sturdy and securely lashed, with steps leading up to the stage.

OUTDOOR PERFORMANCES
- Performance space must be covered so that the artists are shaded with no direct sunlight on the musical instruments.
- Protected from wind and excess traffic or playground noise.
- There must be access to dressing spaces

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

DRESSING AREA
- Two dressing areas are needed

EQUIPMENT
- Three downstage microphones requested (1 minimum)
- On-stage audio monitor (if possible)

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

PARKING
- Five spaces

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
MARIACHI LOS CAMPEROS

ART FORM: Music
STYLE: Traditional
CULTURE: Mexican

MEET THE ARTIST:

Mariachi Los Camperos was founded in 1961 by Natividad “Nati” Cano, a traditionalist and visionary who mirrored and shaped the history of mariachi music. Mr. Cano began to play the vihuela, a large, round-backed guitar, at the age of six; at age eight he began violin lessons at the Academia de Música in Guadalajara. He later joined Mariachi Los Camperos, and after becoming its musical director, changed the name to Los Camperos de Nati Cano. In 1969 the group became permanently based in Los Angeles where it established a reputation for offering the best in mariachi Dine & Show at La Fonda Casa de Los Camperos. Today, Mariachi restaurants all over the world are modeled after La Fonda. On October 3rd, 2014, Los Camperos mourned the passing of Nati Cano which was felt by followers, students and performers worldwide. Fortunately, he left the group in good hands having passed the leadership baton to the group’s longtime musical director, Jesus “Chuy” Guzman, Cano’s right-hand man for nearly three decades. Chuy Guzman is known for his musical arrangements that highlight the skills and voices of the group. He is also widely recognized as an arranger, director, instructor, and musician in the genre of mariachi music. He has served as head instructor for numerous international mariachi festivals in the United States and Mexico and is the Musical Director for the Mariachi Master Apprentice Program (MMAP) in San Fernando, California. He also continues as the instructor for “Music of Mexico” at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). The rest of the ensemble, who perform internationally, is comprised of talented musicians from Mexico and the United States. They have received numerous recognitions such as The National Heritage Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts in 1990, The Sylvestre Vargas Award, The Galardon Mariachi Guadalajara Award, two Grammy Awards and four Grammy nominations.

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE:

Mariachi Los Camperos perform a variety of mariachi song styles, from slow romantic boleros, to the quicker rhythms of the powerful son jalisciense and the intricate huapango, characterized by its use and range of falsetto vocal sounds. The instruments featured in Mariachi music include: the guitarrón, an acoustic bass guitar; folk harp; two trumpets; and four violins. Finally there is the vihuela, a large, round backed high-pitched guitar which gives the mariachi its typical rhythmic vitality. In keeping with mariachi tradition, these versatile musicians sing as well as play instruments throughout the performance. As is the custom for mariachi performers, the ensemble wears the uniform of Jalisco horseman.

PREPARING FOR THE EXPERIENCE:

The word ‘mariachi’ is a term that can be used to describe the individual musician, the ensemble, or the musical genre itself. A definitive origin has never been established. Perhaps the most common misconception is that the term is derived from the French word for marriage (mariage). The theory is that these unnamed ensembles were often hired by the French court in Mexico during the Maximilian epoch (1861-1867) to play at fiestas and weddings. But many Mexican scholars assure us that groups called mariachi were already in existence by 1830. Scholarly investigations also support possible indigenous roots. Evidence supports the existence of an Indian mariachi that used a single-head skin drum. One investigation suggests that the term derives from the yutonahuatl language group signifying a hard floor or dance area called a mariache or tarima. Another hypothesis suggests that the term comes from celebrations honoring the Virgin known as Maria H or ‘Maria Hache’ that evolved into mariachi. Finally, many older rural mariachi musicians, in the states of Jalisco and Colima, assumed that the name simply derived from the woman’s name ‘Maria.’ Present-day Mexican music incorporates features from hundreds of years ago, particularly in the percussion instruments used to accompany dance. Little is known about the actual compositions, but music played a major cultural and religious role in the rituals and celebrations of the native peoples. After the Spanish colonization of Mexico, beginning in the 1500s, traditional songs and melodies from regions such as Jalisco, Veracruz, Oaxaca and Tehuantepec evolved from Spanish and Indian elements, as well as some Moorish, African, and non-Spanish European influences. The Spanish conquistadors (conquerors) brought their instruments and music (which was itself infused with Arabic, African and various European flavors) to Mexico. The Africans enslaved there during the Spanish colonial period introduced their musical rhythms and instruments. Additional musical influences came from the Caribbean Islands, South American countries, the southern states of the United States, and European countries such as France and Germany, which had a direct or indirect interaction in the early history of Mexico.
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

• What most impressed you about the performance? What stands out in your mind?

• Was any of the music, or the songs, familiar to you? If so, where have you heard them?

• What is it about Mariachi music that stands out for you? Be specific: the instrumental sounds; the feelings it evokes; or the way the musicians work together?

• Name the instruments that were played. What do they have in common? What are their differences? Were you surprised by any of the instruments? If so, explain.

• Describe how the musicians work together. Name the qualities they demonstrate (unity, strong focus, commitment to creating a strong sound, etc.)

FRAMEWORK FOCUS—LANGUAGE ARTS:

Natividad Cano, founder of Los Camperos would say, “Lose yourself in music and you will find beauty.” Think about whether you agree with this statement, or not. If you do agree, write about the type of music that you like and listen to, and what emotions and images you find in the experience. Think about the images you see in your mind, and the feelings (e.g., sadness, anger, joy, peace or excitement) it stimulates within you. Be specific as to what you like about the music you listen to and what makes it unique. Also, identify how Mariachi is different from music that you usually listen to. If you don’t agree with Nati’s statement, then write about why you don’t agree; identify where you personally find beauty. It might be in art, nature, relationships or a hobby. Write about what it is in the experience that makes you feel a sense of beauty and the emotions that arise within you when you are in the experience. These essays can be shared with partners or in small groups.

ACTIVITIES TO ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE:

◆ Mexico’s proximity to the United States has had a cultural impact on the southwestern states, in particular (Arizona, California, New Mexico and Texas). Give examples of this cultural overlap as seen in food, clothing, sports, celebrations, architecture, names (streets, cities, people, parks etc.) and the arts.

◆ Discuss the instruments used by Mariachi musicians: violins, trumpets, guitar, vihuela, harp and guitarron. How does the combination of these instruments make the group sound unique from your point of view? How does the singing combine with the sounds of the instruments? Does the singing change the feeling or style, or enhance it?

★ In many areas of Mexico, people are often awakened by the sound of “Las Mañanitas,” the traditional song for saints days or birthdays. The mariachi band usually plays beneath the window of the person being celebrated. Learn a Mexican folk song which is sung on special occasions, such as “Las Mañanitas” (a morning greeting) and “Mañanitas Tapatías” (a birthday greeting). Sing the songs in Spanish and English. Or, make up your own song.

■ Dia de los Muertos is a Mexican holiday that is a celebration of life and reunion. It grew out of a ritual celebrated by the Aztecs over 3,000 years ago. They viewed death as a continuation of life and believed that life is only a dream. Research the historical background of this holiday and the traditions associated with it today. Mariachi music is usually played at these celebrations.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES:


AND THE MUSIC CENTER ANNOUNCE
MARIACHI LOS CAMPEROS TO PERFORM ON ____________

and The Music Center today announced the upcoming Mariachi Los Camperos 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 Mariachi Los Camperos. 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.

Jesus “Chuy” Guzman and Mariachi Los Camperos share the joy of Mexico’s most valued treasure which is the music of Mariachi. Founded in 1961 by Natividad “Nati” Cano, the group later became permanently based in Los Angeles where they established a reputation for offering the best in mariachi Dine & Show at La Fonda Casa de Los Camperos.

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

MARIACHI LOS CAMPEROS

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: