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

MELODY OF CHINA
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 Melody of China, whose musicians will entertain us with the classical, folk and contemporary music of China. Founded in 1993 and directed by Yangqin Zhao, Melody of China consists of professional musicians from some of the most prestigious music conservatories in China. We will see and hear traditional instruments including the Chinese fiddle, the Chinese hammer dulcimer, the table harp, the Chinese bamboo flute and many others.

Please welcome Melody of China!"
TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

SPACE
- 18’ wide x 12’ deep minimum

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

DRESSING AREA
- One dressing room will be needed

EQUIPMENT
- 4 armless chairs
- 2-3 stand-up microphones (minimum): 5 preferred
  - Sound system/speakers
  - Electrical outlet(s)
  - Extension cord
- Water and cups for four artists

ARRIVAL
- 30 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 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
MELODY OF CHINA

ART FORM: Music
STYLE: Traditional
CULTURE: Chinese

MEET THE ARTIST:
The mission of Melody of China is to promote classical and modern Chinese music, as well as to provide quality entertainment that connects these ancient cultural traditions with the youthful, diverse culture of America. Founded in 1993 by Hong Wang and Yangqin Zhao, the group features members trained at some of the most prestigious music conservatories in China. Director Yangqin Zhao, plays the yangqin (hammered dulcimer). Prophetically named after the instrument she plays, she has established herself as one of the foremost yangqin performers in the world. Ganqin Zhao, a multi-instrumentalist plays percussion and guzheng (21-stringed table harp), among many other instruments. Thomas Lee plays the erhu (2-string stick fiddle), gaohu (two-stringed Chinese fiddle), and Ray Lai plays the flute, xiao (vertically played flute), bawu (copper reed bamboo flute) and sheng (36-pipe mouth organ).

PREPARING FOR THE EXPERIENCE:
Chinese music performed today can provide two delightful gifts for an audience. This is partially in thanks to the teachings of the ancient philosopher, Confucius. He taught that the sole purpose of listening to music was to calm the passions and clarify the thoughts. Thus, the traditional gift given by performers of music was tranquility for the mind and the soul. The second gift available to modern audiences is enjoyment. Musicians can provide an increased awareness of ancient Chinese musical traditions, enlightenment about Chinese life and music, and pure enjoyment as listeners experience this special style of music. An ancient Chinese belief states that sound can have profound influence on all of us, and can shift the balance of the universe. If this is so, listening to the instruments and sounds of Melody of China is sure to be an uplifting experience for all.

Because the ancient purpose of music was to purify and calm, great attention is still paid to the playing of individual notes. The music is articulated carefully to evoke as much feeling and emphasis as possible. Primarily using the pentatonic (five-note scale), the heptatic (seven-note scale) may also be used.
The instruments used to play the music of China are ancient, some over 2,000 years old. Following is a list of instruments you may see in the performance:
ruan, or moon guitar, has 4 metal strings
guzheng, or table harp, has 21 strings
yangqin, or butterfly harp, a dulcimer that is over 600 years old, has over 150 metal strings.
erhu, or two-stringed stick fiddle played with a horsehair bow, an ancient instrument over 2,000 years old
xiao, a very long, vertical flute sheng, or pipe mouth organ made with 36 bamboo pipes.

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE:
Melody of China leads students on a fascinating trek through the music and unique, traditional instruments of China. Narrated by director Yangqin Zhao, instruments such as the ruan (moon guitar) are featured as the ensemble plays evocative music like “Oceans of Happiness,” “Purple Bamboo Melody,” “Tumbling Walnuts,” and “Joyful Xin Jiang People.” Students are encouraged to listen for images behind the notes as they listen to “Horse Racing,” and “Squabbling Ducks.” Basic elements of music like harmony, and various playing techniques are also introduced. A brief question and answer session allows students to explore specific areas of interest. Selected students are invited onstage to participate in the final musical presentation.
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

• What do you remember from the performance? Select one song you remember and describe your reaction to the music and the instruments used to play the song.

• Is this style of music new to you? Where have you heard music like this before?

• Several times the musicians asked if you heard specific “life sounds” such as horse hoofs, ducks quacking, etc. played by the instruments. Did you hear the sounds? Did they make you laugh? Why?

• If you were going to learn to play one of the instruments you saw today, which one would you want to study? Why?

• Traditional Chinese music was meant to calm and clarify the mind. Why do you listen to music today? Do you use it to help you work? Go to sleep? Calm you down? Wake you up? What are some other reasons you use music?

FRAMEWORK FOCUS—SOCIAL STUDIES/HISTORY:

Music that mimics the sound of life is common throughout many cultures. Sound effects can also be used to enhance literary drama. Working with a partner or small group, take a favorite story, fairy tale or piece of literature. Make a list of the different sounds that are suggested as the story unfolds. Pay particular attention to doors opening, animal noises, nature noises like wind or rain and human noises like crying or laughing. Select or find instruments, household objects or other items that can be used to create the sounds you have imagined. Decide who will read the story and who will “play” the sounds. Working together, present a reading of the story accompanied by the sounds you have discovered.

ACTIVITIES TO ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE:

• There is an old saying that, “Music can soothe a savage beast.” Listen to several different types of music: pop, classical, hip hop, jazz, country, etc. After listening to each selection, write a list of adjectives or verbs that describe your reaction to what you heard. Try to describe your reaction in as many different ways as possible: intellectually, emotionally, spiritually and physically.

• Find China on a map. What countries line the borders? What bodies of water surround it or are within the country itself? Compare the size of China to other countries. What kind of resources are available? Approximately one billion, four hundred million people live in China. How does that compare with the rest of the world? With the United States?

• Think about the performance of Melody of China, and choose one song that you remember well, or that you really enjoyed. Remember how the song was performed, what instruments were used, what mood did it convey (sad, happy, funny, etc.) After remembering what you experienced, “illustrate” the song you selected. You can draw the musicians playing, illustrate part of the song itself, or draw your reactions and impressions. Be careful to select colors, shapes and lines that help to identify and illustrate the song you are trying to recreate. Caption your drawing.

• Some of the songs played by Melody of China have wonderfully descriptive, often humorous titles, such as “Horse Racing,” “Squabbling Ducks” and “Tumbling Walnuts.” The title of each song helps the audience listen and appreciate the colorful images suggested in the music. Create a list of song titles that produce strong images in your mind, such as “Barking Frogs,” “Traffic Jam” or “Elephant Walking.” After you have made your list, select your favorite title and write a paragraph describing the instruments, rhythms and pitch you would use to play your song.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES:


AND THE MUSIC CENTER ANNOUNCE
MELODY OF CHINA TO PERFORM ON ____________________________

and The Music Center today announced the upcoming Melody of China 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 Melody of China. 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.

Established in 1993 by Hong Wang and Yangxin Zhao to promote Chinese music, this San Francisco-based group is composed of professional musicians from some of the most prestigious music conservatories in China. Melody of China offers fascinating selections that feature a blending of ancient cultural traditions of China and the youthful, multicolored American culture. Audiences are introduced to instruments including the yangqin (Chinese hammered dulcimer), pipa (Chinese lute), erhu (Chinese violin) and sheng (a mouth organ with 37 bamboo pipes), along with a variety of wind instruments. Viewers are also treated to a stunning demonstration of unusual percussion instruments. The music of China is incredibly diverse, including folk songs, classical, festival music, opera, popular music and instrumental pieces. The performance by Melody of China offers a wide selection of pieces that show an audience how moving, expressive, and occasionally humorous Chinese music can be.

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

MELODY OF CHINA

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, Symphonia Campus Tours, Grand Park

PROGRAM SUPPORT PROVIDED BY: