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

MUSICAL THEATRE GUILD
From the Page to the Stage
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 entitled “From the Page to the Stage,” and features excerpts from many Broadway shows that started as literature, including adaptations of “Don Quixote,” “Huckleberry Finn,” and “The Peanuts” comic strip. Please welcome Musical Theatre Guild’s performance of “From the Page to the Stage!”

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
• 25’ wide x 10’ deep x 10’ high minimum
• Portable stages must be sturdy and securely lashed

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

EQUIPMENT
• One table and chair
• Two electrical outlets (three-prong and grounded)
• Bottled water

ARRIVAL
• 45 minutes prior to the scheduled start time to prepare and set up

PARKING
• Two spaces 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
MUSICAL THEATRE GUILD—From the Page to the Stage

ART FORM: Musical Theatre

STYLE: Modern

CULTURE: American

MEET THE ARTIST:

"From the Page to the Stage" is produced and presented by members of Musical Theatre Guild. Drawing from the book, music, and lyrics of five different musicals, writer Kevin McMahon, director Lee Martino, and musical director Tom Griep have collaborated to create this brightly entertaining revue. The Musical Theatre Guild is a non-profit company with a large membership of professionals who are committed to keeping this American art form alive by performing staged, concert versions of wonderful, but almost-forgotten musicals with live accompaniment. Since its inception in 1995, the Guild has produced over fifty such concerts. The artists in this production are professionals who have been trained in many performing arts skills. Physical and vocal characterization, singing, dancing, projection, diction, improvisation, and script analysis are just a few of them. Collectively, they become a singing quartet representing four major singing ranges: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Baritone. Individually, they have appeared in many other plays and musicals.

PREPARING FOR THE EXPERIENCE:

If you have ever enjoyed a football player dancing wildly after scoring a touchdown, felt proud when Olympic champions sing along to their national anthem, felt moved while overhearing a parent singing a soft lullaby to his or her child, or are having so much fun with your friends, that you start wailing along to a song you're hearing, then you understand something about musical theatre. Like the rest of humanity, the characters in a musical experience moments when their feelings are too full and rich to express in words alone, so they sing. Sometimes, if singing isn't enough, they dance -- just like the football player.

The difference, of course, is that theatre is an art form which tells stories. In musicals, the plots of these stories are written by playwrights as a script, or the "Book". Then the composers and lyricists add the rhythmic and emotional power of melodies and words, or the "Score." This brings new dimension to what we see and hear. But for those not familiar with musicals, it may all seem very odd.

Picture these scenarios: An honorable but crazy Spanish knight passionately speaks of his search for truth -- then sings an anthem; a rebellious fellow and a runaway slave are about to be caught, but escape -- harmonizing to a bouncy bluegrass tune; A teenage girl with magical powers is furious with people who have been lying about her, and plans to "get even" -- right after she "gets down" with a threatening pop-rock power-ballad! Hidden in each song lyric are secrets and clues for the audience. "Pay attention," they all say. "This quest may cost me my life." "We're on a big river adventure!" "Wait and see how I'll get my revenge!"

These moments, and many more like them, are featured in "From the Page to the Stage." As you enjoy it, remember that Musical Theatre, like every art form, is inspired by "real life," and then takes it to a selective level of reality. The creators and performers want to share their visions, and draw us in so we can respond with our own emotional response. Choose to believe.

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE:

"From the Page to the Stage" is a celebration of the magic that occurs when an inspired work of literature is taken down from the shelf, receives a make-over from playwrights, lyricists, and composers, then emerges onstage in a live performance, totally re-invented as a new work of Musical Theatre. The five uniquely engaging shows featured in this revue are "Man of La Mancha" based on Miguel de Cervantes' "Don Quixote," "Big River" from Mark Twain's "Huckleberry Finn," "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown," based on the iconic "Peanuts" comic strips by Charles M. Schultz, "Seussical," based on various books by Dr. Seuss, and the satirical "prequel" to Frank Baum's Oz books, "Wicked" based on Gregory Maguire's book of the same name. A wonderfully versatile company of four singing actors magically inhabit multiple roles, performing songs in many musical styles. A feast for the imagination, From the "Page to the Stage" will surely inspire both young and old to take another look at great literature in the library, and great musical theatre wherever it can be found.
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

• What did you discover about seeing a story presented as a musical that is different from reading it? Which do you prefer, and why?

• In lyric writing, feelings come first, story comes second. Which song lyrics made you feel something, and respond with: laughter; sadness; anger; concern; surprise; happiness; or boredom?

• The composers wrote in many musical styles. What differences did you hear between the songs in the five shows? Which song was your favorite, and for what reasons?

• While changing from character to character, how did the cast transform their bodies and voices? What did these skills add to the magic of the show?

• Which of these musicals would make you want to read the original book? Will you?

FRAMEWORK FOCUS—LANGUAGE ARTS:

The delightful musical “Into the Woods” features familiar fairy-story characters thrown together into an original cautionary tale. “Be careful what you wish for” is the Universal Theme. Using Act One of the original Broadway production as an inspiration, the goal is to have student groups create their own literary work in prose or dramatic form. To begin, lead the class in a discussion of sound Literary Structure including character, goals, actions to succeed, antagonistic characters, decisions to overcome obstacles, conflict, crisis, sacrifice, and resolution. Create groups of six or seven students, and begin screening Act One of “Into the Woods” over a period of days, in ten-to-fifteen minute increments. After each screening, have the groups discuss what they’ve observed based on Literary Structure concepts. Also, prompt them to discuss all the entertaining similarities to, and differences from, the original tales. After finishing the act, the writing begins with a “twist”. Each group member must choose and “become” one character from a book, comic strip, poem, or fairy tale. Using the twice-discussed elements of Literary Structure, these selected characters will devise the plot, and an original (though adapted) story or playlet will be born.

ACTIVITIES TO ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE:

• Listen to songs from other musicals with literary beginnings, or watch musical numbers from filmed versions of them. Discuss how the music and lyrics define situation and heighten feelings. Consider rhythms, melodies, rhymes, phrases, and performance elements.

• Have students imagine their own stage settings for one of the musicals, using photos of other scenic designer’s work as inspiration. Paint backdrops on large paper. Or, tip over a mid-sized cardboard box, creating a stage. Using cans, juice boxes, fabric, paper, etc, build a set, using the mathematic ratio of 3/4” equals one foot.

• In days gone by, popular music came from Musical Theatre. Select names of important American songwriters of yore, such as George Gershwin or Irving Berlin, and create an “Artist Collection” for each. Using texts, songbooks, the internet, etc., gather photos, biographical tidbits, printed and recorded music. Share these together, and then consider how the lives of these artists (many of whom were of immigrant or former-slave stock) and events in their eras -- WWI, the Jazz Age, Great Depression, WWII -- are woven into the fabric of their work and is reflected in our cultural history. Pay special attention to how many of their songs are considered classics.

• Musical Theatre productions exist because of many different people. Producers raise money and make overall decisions. Writers create the book. Directors stage the show with the actors who interpret and portray the roles. Designers establish the “look”, while a stage crew is behind the scenes, working the technical components. The staff of the theatre administers the business-end. They all collaborate. So much in “real life.” Consider how these “theatre folk” have familiar and necessary counterparts in clubs, sport teams, religious groups, the classroom, school, community and family. Have students share their experiences in such “real” collaborations.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES:


and The Music Center announce MUSICAL THEATRE GUILD TO PERFORM ON

and The Music Center today announced the upcoming Musical Theatre Guild 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 Musical Theatre Guild. 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.

The Musical Theatre Guild is a non-profit company with a large membership of professionals who are committed to keeping this American art form alive by performing staged, concert versions of wonderful, but almost-forgotten musicals with live accompaniment. Since its inception in 1995, the Guild has produced over fifty such concerts. The artists in these productions are professionals who have been trained in many performing arts skills. Physical and vocal characterization, singing, dancing, projection, diction, improvisation, and script analysis are just a few of them. Collectively, they become a singing quartet representing four major singing ranges: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Baritone. Individually, they have appeared in many other plays and musicals.

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, Gloria 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

MUSICAL THEATRE GUILD

DATE: ___________________________ TIME: ___________________________

SCHOOL: ___________________________

musiccenter.org/ontour
OTHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS

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: