MUSICAL THEATRE GUILD

Revolution!
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. Musical Theatre Guild's "Revolution!" features selections from many Broadway musicals including "1776," "Ragtime," "Newsies," and "Hamilton," all of which are based on real people and events from history. Please welcome Musical Theatre Guild! "

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
- Piano

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—Revolution!

ART FORM: Theatre
STYLE: Contemporary
CULTURE: American

MEET THE ARTIST:

“Revolution!” is produced and presented by members of Musical Theatre Guild. Drawing from the book, music, and lyrics of various musicals, writer Kevin McMahon, director Lee Martino, and musical director John Massey have collaborated to create this entertaining and educational musical revue. 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 sixty such performances, winning the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle’s “Margaret Harford Award” for sustained excellence in the theatre. 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 at some of our nation’s top theatres.

PREPARING FOR THE EXPERIENCE:

Musical theatre is a form of performance in which music, songs, spoken dialogue, acting and dance are equally combined. All of these forms of expression enhance the emotional aspects of a story. Music and theatre have been combined in performances since Greek and Roman times. The modern form came into its own in the 19th century. Some of the earliest musicals, called “light opera”, were written by British collaborators Gilbert and Sullivan, and American creators Harrigan and Hart, and George M. Cohan. Musical theatre is closely related to the theatrical form of opera, but the two are uniquely different. Opera singers often sing in German, French, and Spanish to what would be considered classical music, while musicals usually focus more on spoken dialogue and sing in the language of the audience to the popular music style at the time. Many opera singers are not trained as dancers and actors, however musical theatre performers are usually trained in singing, acting and dance; also known as ‘the triple threat.’

The heightened world of musical theatre is the perfect showcase for larger than life figures and their stories. The Broadway hit “Hamilton,” written by Lin-Manuel Miranda, created a new approach that took historical events and figures from one period of time and combined it with musical styles and language from another period—and worked to bring a fresh view along with a cast of diverse actors. “Hamilton” is a musical of such astounding grace and skill that it reaches across generations and art forms to speak to all of us. Not only does it entertain, but it also makes us rethink any preconceptions we have about musicals. This is the transformational power of musical theatre; it evolves and changes with the times and culture.

American Founding Fathers, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson crafted the birth of a nation. Henry Ford’s creation of the automobile changed the world. The newsboys of New York waged a labor war at the turn of the 19th century. All of these revolutions occurred; the characters, except for those in “Annie,” were real people. There were many layers of events, conditions and political, social and economic factors that led to revolutions—and they continue to occur in America and throughout the world today.

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE:

In every age and century, the world has changed. History has been written by the acts of the brave souls who have dared to think differently and defy the status quo. History has also been shaped by a series of revolutions, both large and small. Unique unto itself, the musical theatre genre has been able to capture many of revolutionary American historical events, making them accessible to people of all ages. Musical Theatre Guild’s fast-paced revue features a diverse cast of four who capture moments that challenged conventional thinking and behavior of the times. These powerful stories include: the forming of the United States (“1776,” “Hamilton”); the American Civil War (“Shenandoah”); organized labor movement (“Newsies”); turn of the 19th Century in New York (“Ragtime”); The Great Depression, told through comic strip characters (“Annie”); and social revolution (“Hair”).

“Revolution!” inspires students to look at these real life, history-making individuals in a whole new light. Throughout the performance, students will develop a deeper understanding of how revolutions begin. These historical events created a strong emotional, social, and political response that caused people to stand up and demand change and justice.
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Have you ever heard any of the songs in “Revolution!?” If so, which ones? Where did you hear them?
- What was your favorite song in “Revolution!?” Why?
- What are the three main elements in a musical? (book, song, dance)
- If you could play any of the characters you were introduced to in the performance, which one would you choose? Why?
- The revue featured musicals from different time periods. Which musical took place at the turn of the 19th century (“Newsies”)? Which musical took place in the 1960s (“Hairspray”)?
- What similarities did you notice between the scene from “1776” and the scene from “Hamilton?” How were they different? Describe.
- Define the word “Revolution.” Can you name two different revolutions featured in the performance?
- Do you know of any other revolutions that have happened in other countries? If so, tell us what you know.

FRAMEWORK FOCUS—SOCIAL STUDIES/HISTORY:

The musical “1776” is based upon the events of the American Revolution and the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The characters in the play are based on historical figures, such as Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams and George Washington. Study American history in the colonial time period prior to the revolution, focusing on the issues that led to the decision to separate from England (taxation without representation, and the Boston Massacre, etc.). Have students research and report on our nation’s forefathers, noting each one’s major contributions. Locate the libretto to “1776” and the Broadway cast recording. Read the play aloud in class with students, taking turns in the various roles. Listen to each song in its appropriate place in the read-thru. Discuss and evaluate how American history was translated into a work of musical theatre. Look at pictures of the Broadway production and see how the costume design was based on colonial dress and how the set design reflected the famous painting of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

ACTIVITIES TO ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE:

- Watch a musical that has been made into a feature film. Some examples featured in this performance are “Newsies,” “Hair,” “1776,” and “Annie.” Discuss how music, dance and dialogue combine to create the art form.
- Select a core literature book to use as a basis for original musical scenes. On the board, make a list of the main characters and key plot points. Analyze the characters’ thoughts and motivations which might be revealed in song and/or dance. Divide the class into songwriting teams to create music and lyrics which depict and extend the story into a musical form.
- Research early musical entertainment and theatrical forms in America: minstrel shows, vaudeville and burlesque. Describe the key characteristics of each and find photographs of the actual performers and copies of posters and playbills from historical productions.
- Develop a list of criteria for a review or critique sheet used to evaluate student performances. The list may include: the ability to create believable characters; the use of vocal projection and articulation; the skill shown in the techniques of blocking and staging; and the appropriate choice of design elements.
- Look at a program from a professional musical theatre production, noting the many different jobs credited in the making of a musical. List all of the jobs you can identify. Define the responsibility of each occupation: producer; director; composer; lyricist; writer (book); choreographer; set designer; costume designer; lighting designer; sound designer; casting director; actor, musical director; orchestra musician; conductor; etc. Jobs behind the scenes include: stage manager; technical supervisor; property master; production assistant; and press associate.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES:


HISTORICAL FIGURES IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE:

John Adams  A Founding Father who became the second president of the United States. (1776)

Abigail Adams  Both wife and advisor to John Adams (and mother of President John Quincy Adams) who played a key role in the American Revolution. (1776)

Thomas Jefferson  A Founding Father, author of the Declaration of Independence and the third president of the United States. (1776)

Henry Ford  An American industrialist who created the Ford Model T car. (Ragtime)

Emma Goldman  A political activist and writer in the first half of the 20th century. (Ragtime)

Herbert Hoover  31st President of the United States whose presidency was overshadowed by the Great Depression. Note: Hoover does not appear in the performance but is the subject of the song "Hooverville." (Annie)

Alexander Hamilton  A Founding Father, immigrant, creator of the national bank, first Secretary of the Treasury, main author of George Washington’s policies; killed in a duel with Vice President of the United States, Aaron Burr. (Hamilton)

The Schuyler Sisters  Socialite daughters of Continental Army General Philip Schuyler. Elizabeth Schuyler married Alexander Hamilton. (Hamilton)

George Washington  General of the Continental Army in the American Revolution and first president of the United States. (Hamilton)
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, 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

MUSICAL THEATRE GUILD

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: