MUSICAL THEATRE GUILD

The History of Musical Theatre

in 42 Minutes and 28 Seconds
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 "The History of Musical Theatre in 42 Minutes and 28 Seconds," and features excerpts from many Broadway shows including "Show Boat," "Oklahoma" and "The Lion King." 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—From the Page to the Stage

ART FORM: Musical Theatre
STYLE: Modern
CULTURE: American

MEET THE ARTIST:

“The History of Musical Theatre in 42 Minutes and 28 Seconds” was created and is performed by members of Musical Theatre Guild. The Guild is a non-profit membership company of theatrical professionals who produce and perform a varie-ty of musical theatre works for the entertainment, enrich-ment and education of Southern California audiences. Since its inception in 1995, the Musical Theatre Guild has presented over two dozen individual concerts. Performed for one night only, each concert has a staged reading format with live or-chestra. They take place in the historic Pasadena Playhouse. “The History of Musical Theatre in 42 Minutes and 28 Sec-onds” was written by Kevin McMahon and directed by Nick DeGruccio.

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE:

“The History of Musical Theatre in 42 Minutes and 28 Sec-onds” is a revue of selected songs that encompass the rich-ness and diversity of a truly original American art form. A cast of four actor/singers and a pianist use selected costume pieces and props to trace the colorful history and develop-ment of musical theatre. From their earliest shows, the company has presented songs from the groundbreaking produc-tions of “Showboat” (1927) by Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein, and “Oklahoma” (1943) by Hammerstein and Richard Rodgers. Moving forward in time, the performers continue to ex-plore this unique art form by exam-ining the music and songs from recent Broadway musicals, such as “Ragtime” and “The Lion King.” The song list also includes favorites from “Annie Get Your Gun,” “West Side Story,” “Hello, Dolly!,” “Hair,” “Grease,” “A Chorus Line” and “The Phantom of the Opera.”

PREPARING FOR THE EXPERIENCE:

Musical theatre is an original American art form with three main defining elements: book, song (lyrics and score), and dance.

Book
In musical theatre, the term book refers to the actual script of a musical. It comes first, almost without exception. The book draws together the characters, dialogue, plot, placement of song and dance, and theatrical con-cept for the design elements into a kind of blueprint for a production. The written format is like that of a play with dialogue and stage directions, even though it is called a book -- a term that we normally associate with prose.

Song - Lyrics and Score
A song is comprised of the words (lyrics) and the music (score). A musical theatre lyric is a pattern of words that, when set to music, communicates essential infor-mation about the dramatic life of a show. Lyrics express the thoughts and emotions of characters, contributing to the mood and propelling the action or plot forward. The score or music provides the accompaniment for the lyric, giving it a time signature, rhythm and melody. Mu-sic can reinforce the emotion and dramatic action and establish the mood or tone. Music also can serve as a transition between the parts of a show, creating a bridge from one scene to another.

Dance
Music generates dance. Dance is a choreographed arrange-ment of positions and steps performed in a variety of styles (ballet, modern, jazz, tap, etc.). Like the lyrics and music, dance helps carry the action of the musical forward by revealing character and showing conflict and resolu-tion through movement. Dance helps establish mood as the human body shows emo-tion through facial expression, posture and gesture. It can also express comedy or extend a dramatic moment.
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Had you ever heard any of the songs in “The History of Musical Theatre in 42 Minutes and 28 Seconds?” Which ones? Where did you hear them?
- What was your favorite song in “The History of Musical Theatre in 42 Minutes and 28 Seconds?” 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 in the 1950s? The 1960s?
- What similarities did you notice between the scene from “Romeo and Juliet” and the scene from “West Side Story”? How were they different? Describe.

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 are “The Sound of Music,” “West Side Story,” “Fiddler on the Roof,” “My Fair Lady,” “The Music Man,” “Grease” 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. Make a list on the board 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 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. 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, orchestrator, conductor, etc. Jobs behind the scenes include: stage manager, technical supervisor, property master, production assistant and press associate.

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
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: