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

PACIFICO DANCE COMPANY
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. Pacifico Dance Company features authentic dances from Mexico’s vibrant folk traditions in stunning regional costumes. Please give a warm welcome to artists whose work celebrates the cultural pride and joy of the Mexican folk tradition, Pacifico Dance Company!"

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!
SPACE
- 30'w x 30'd minimum
- No portable stages
- Elevated stage is preferred

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

DRESSING AREA
- Two dressing areas are needed, preferably near the stage

EQUIPMENT
- Audio system with CD player
- Two microphones

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

PARKING
- Four spaces close to the venue for loading and unloading

ASSISTANCE
- Please have a school representative ready to welcome the performers and to stay and help as needed with lighting and sound cues

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

AUDIENCE SEATING
- If there are no front stairs to the stage there should be a cleared passage from the audience to the side stage stairs (ideally on both sides) as the performers bring students onto the stage
PACIFICO DANCE COMPANY

ART FORM: Dance
STYLE: Traditional
CULTURE: Mexican

MEET THE ARTIST:

Pacífico Dance Company, California’s premiere folklórico troupe, is composed of skilled artists whose works combine the essence of traditional styles with modern dance idioms. A leading international dance company, Pacífico is based in Los Angeles. The group strives to enlighten audiences, while providing Latinos with powerful insights into their own heritage. They have toured to New Mexico, North Korea and the People’s Republic of China. Director Adriana Astorga-Gainey began her dance training at the age of seven in Mexico City, where she attended the National Ballet Folklórico School, under the direction of the legendary Amalia Hernández. Astorga-Gainey also trained at La Escuela de Danza Mizoc and with Rafael Zamarripa Castañeda. Her classical ballet training was with Don Hewitt and Joanna DiGiovanna; modern with Don Bondi, Davinci Burks and Rudy Pérez. She earned a BS degree and a teaching credential from Cal State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE:

Spectacularly costumed, this performance is filled with exhilarating dancing, music and history. It begins with a solo dance accompanied by the musical sounds of a rattle. The audience is given an overview of the dances and the influence of European cultures. “Danza de Los Viejitos,” a traditional dance, is a mockery of old age. Three masked dancers use canes to portray old people who can still surprise us with their vitality. The next set of dances begin by involving the audience in movements of the bull and iguana, the animals featured in the dances. Costumes are modeled and props, such as fan, are featured so students can appreciate their relevance. Rhythmic footwork, an important part of Mexican dance, is introduced as selected students try a few patterns on stage. Next is the suite called “Fiesta en Veracruz,” incorporating complex footwork in one dance, and featuring a giant head puppet from the carnival parades in another. “The Mexican Hat Dance,” the national dance of Mexico, follows. The program concludes with “Jalisco,” a dance famous for whirling skirts and mariachi music—which is also a tribute to Amalia Hernández.

PREPARING FOR THE EXPERIENCE:

Mexico, which shares the southern boundary of the United States and extends to Central America, has snow-capped mountains, humid plains, hostile deserts, thick jungles, lush farmland and beautiful coastlines. These geological features have influenced the movements, music and costumes of the various regional dances. From the time of the Olmec Indians to the birth of modern Mexico, more than 30 distinct cultures have influenced Mexican civilization, including several European ones. The Aztecs remain the most extensively documented of all Amerindian civilizations at the time of European contact in the 16th century. However, the Mayans were also a great influence in the southern part of Mexico and Central America. It is important to note that dance, music and ritual have been very significant in all of these cultures, but when European cultures mixed with indigenous people, they produced a new group called mestizo (mixed). “Danza de Los Viejitos” originated in the state of Michoacan, perhaps the richest folk art region in all of Mexico. Located in the southwestern part of Mexico, Michoacan takes its name from Nahuatl, an Aztec word meaning “the place of the fishermen.” The history of Michoacan is diverse, dominated early on by the powerful Tarascan tribe, also known as Purépecha. The following set of dances, “El Toro Rabon” and “La Iguana” come from the state of Guerero in Western Mexico. This lush tropical area blends the spicy richness of many South American and African cultures with the tranquility and independence of the native coastal people. “Fiesta en Veracruz” (Totonacs) highlights Zapateado, or rhythmic foot patterns, and also “Bambá,” the dance where a couple ties a ribbon into a bow using their feet. The state of Veracruz has humid jungles where pre-Hispanic cultures like the Totonacs still survive. The final dances from Jalisco (Mestizo) dances, like “The Mexican Hat Dance,” emerged from the ranchero culture and express courtship. At the end of the dance, when the man places his hat on the floor, it shows his love for the woman.
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What stood out for you in this performance and why?
- Did you see any similarities in the dances you saw performed and the dances you and your friends do? If so, what similarities did you spot? How are they different?
- Describe the costumes that you remember. Can you name the dance that corresponded to each costume? What is the region or state?
- Which two dances contrasted the most? In what ways were they different? What cultures influenced each of them?
- What did you learn about the Mexican culture from watching and listening to the performance?
- What most surprised you or interested you about the performance?

FRAMEWORK FOCUS—HISTORY/SOCIAL STUDIES:

Diego Rivera is considered to be one of the most popular and well-known Mexican artists of his time (1886–1957). He painted the Mexican people, their traditions, political conflicts, and the life surrounding them. Diego created an art form that was specifically Mexican, drawing strong, simple, expressive images that were painted with bold strokes and strong colors. As a young man he visited Italy and was greatly impressed by the church murals that showed various scenes, visions and stories. When he returned to Mexico he made murals instead of painting on canvas, for it was a way to share Mexico’s history and stories with all of the people.

Go to the library, or online, and research the art of Diego Rivera. Bring pictures of his paintings and murals to share. Select and discuss specific paintings, noting the mood, colors, use of space, shapes and subject matter. What words, images, ideas and feelings does each painting evoke in the students?

Discuss any connections you can see between the dance, music and images. What do they have in common? What is unique about each?

ACTIVITIES TO ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE:

- Select two pieces of Mexican music, one traditional and one more contemporary. Listen to each one; find ways that you would move naturally to each one. Possible choices could include “Jarabe Tapatio” (Mexican Hat Dance) and a mambo by Pérez Prado. You will probably find that the traditional music has a stronger, driving underlying beat, while the mambo is a little freer. You might begin by moving one part of your body, such as shoulders, head, feet, etc. Exchange ideas with others. Can you combine a movement that incorporates two body parts (feet and arms, etc.).
- Select two of the dances you saw in the performance and write a paragraph describing each one. Then, see if you can make contrasts and comparisons between them in a third paragraph.
- Find a map and locate Mexico. Notice where it is in relation to the United States. Locate the states of Michoacan, Guerrero, Mexico, Veracruz and Jalisco.
- Pacífico strives to maintain the integrity of the art form of Mexican folkloric dance, while creating new works that incorporate modern dance. Talk about what it is like to be an American and also to have traditions from another culture. How do you combine two cultures? Give examples from your own life or from people you know, or have observed.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES:


School Contact Name: ____________________________
Phone: _______________________________________

__________________________ AND THE MUSIC CENTER ANNOUNCE

PACIFICO DANCE COMPANY TO PERFORM ON ____________

__________________________ and The Music Center today announced the upcoming
Pacífico Dance Company 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
Pacífico Dance Company. The performance is presented by The Music Center’s education department which
provides many offerings including live performances, classroom workshops, scholarship and training pro-
grams, online arts curriculum, on-campus events and professional development.

Under the direction of Adriana Astorga Gainey, Pacífico Dance Company presents spectacular perfor-
man ces of Mexican folklorico dances. A leading international dance company based in Los Angeles, the com-
pany educates and enlightens all communities, while at the same time providing Latino audiences with power-
ful insights into their own heritage. These brilliant artists present works that combine the essence of tradi-
tional styles with modern dance idioms. Spectacularly costumed, this performance is filled with animated
dancing and exhilarating music that is sure to thrill and amaze.

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 repres-
ent 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 pro-
grams 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 pro-
gramming, Gloria Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center, The Music Center is a destination where au-
diences 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 organ-
ization brings events and activities to locations outside of its Downtown Los Angeles campus. The Music Cen-
ter also programs and manages Grand Park, a 12-acre adjacent greenspace, with year-round free program-
ming. For more information, visit musiccenter.org Follow The Music Center on Facebook, Twitter, and Insta-
gram (@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

PACIFICO DANCE COMPANY

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: