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

SAKAII FLAMENCO
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. Through the exotic chords played on the guitar, the soul-stirring melodies of the Spanish Gypsies, and the fiery, powerhouse rhythms of the dancers' footwork, Sakai Flamenco will bring you an authentic and unforgettable experience of flamenco music and dance. Please welcome Sakai Flamenco!"

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

- 8’ wide x 8’ deep minimum
- Portable stages must be sturdy, level and securely lashed with no gaps

SURFACE

- Freshly mopped (not waxed)
- Irregularities covered with tape
- Extraneous clutter removed
- A SMOOTH WOOD FLOOR IS REQUIRED

DRESSING AREA

- One private, secured dressing area close to the stage

EQUIPMENT

- 1 electrical outlet
- Three microphones on stands, plugged into sound system (two microphones minimum; please call The Music Center if two working microphones are not available).
- Four chairs

ARRIVAL

- 15-30 minutes prior to the scheduled start time to prepare and set up

PARKING

- Five spaces, one as close to the venue as possible 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 auditorium, seated and ready to begin at the listed times
SAKAI FLAMENCO

ART FORM: Music and Dance
STYLE: Traditional
CULTURE: Southern Spain

MEET THE ARTIST:

Sakai Flamenco is a dynamic and fiery performing ensemble dedicated to keeping the traditional music and dance of Southern Spain alive. The company is composed of three dancers, a singer and guitarist. These talented artists, steeped in Spanish culture, are from Spain or have lived and performed there. Sakai is a Spanish gypsy word that refers to the eyes, which reflect the emotion of flamenco dancers. The eyes are said to transform when a dancer reaches his or her highest state of artistry, known as duende. Artistic Director Linda Andrade first became interested in flamenco when her mother took her to Olvera Street in Los Angeles, where she saw a performance of flamenco dancers. Growing up, she explored and studied different dance forms, yet always returned to flamenco. Her teacher at the University of Washington told her, "The roots are not to be found in a dance studio. They are to be found in the streets with the people." So she moved to Seville, where she connected with a small community of gypsy families, who performed the purest form of flamenco. There, she immersed herself in the art form and had the opportunity to study with some of the greatest living masters of flamenco. After she returned, she formed Sakai Flamenco. Linda was named "Favorite Flamenco Teacher" by the LA Times. In addition, the critically acclaimed film Kumpanía Flamenco Los Angeles, which won the Audience Award at the Madrid International Film Festival is dedicated to her.

PREPARING FOR THE EXPERIENCE:

Flamenco was only defined and recognized as an independent genre at the beginning of the 20th century. There are two main theories as to how flamenco got its name. One is that it is a derivation of the word flamingo, a bird that exhibits exquisite posture and displays the pride and beauty of flamenco dancers. The other theory is that it comes from the word Flemish, which depicts a style of art that was prized at the time, for its colors and passion. Flamenco was created in Spain, but how did it develop? Spain is a country with its own people and traditions, but for centuries it was conquered and inhabited by many different peoples including Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Sephardic Jews and North African Berbers. Out of this blending of cultures, flamenco was born.

Gypsies from East India, considered to be the catalysts of flamenco, wandered through Asia, the Middle East, Europe and North Africa, arriving in Southern Spain. Under Moorish rule, there were cultural and religious differences, but people lived together in relative peace. Before the Inquisition, Spain was a cradle of humanity, science and the arts.

With the coming of the Inquisition, many peoples, including gypsies, were rounded up, persecuted and expelled. People were forbidden to follow their own beliefs and traditions. This grief, frustration and anguish, was expressed in song, music and dance and became known as flamenco.

As you listen to the music, you will hear and feel some of these intense emotions. As you view the dance, you will see a spectrum of emotions in the energy and movements.
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Prior to the performance, ask students to discuss the benefits of living in an ethnically diverse society where traditions are allowed to influence each other and are often blended or combined to create something new. Ask students to give examples of when this has happened.

- Ask students what most impressed them about the music, dance and the voice as they watched the performance. Encourage them to give reasons.

- Discuss some of the different emotions that all people have (love, grief, anger, fear, etc.). What were some of the ones expressed by the dancers and musicians? What things about the way they danced, played or sang communicated specific feelings?

- How does Flamenco dance and music compare to other dance and music students have seen or heard?

ACTIVITIES TO ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE:

- Review vocabulary terms related to flamenco and this performance:
  
  Gypsy sakai (eyes)
  Castanets bruceo (arm movement)
  La guitarra (guitar) flamenco
  Palmas (hand clapping) guitar
  Taconeo (footwork) rhythm
  Maneo (hand movement) el cante (song)
  Jaleo (cries of encouragement) emotions
  Duende (true flamenco spirit)
  Improvisation (making something up on the spot)

- Divide the room in half. One group claps a continuous slow, steady beat. The other half claps off the beat or in between the beats. Start slowly and get increasingly faster, without losing the rhythm. Begin very softly and gradually build to the louder “palmas”.

- In the performance you observed a clapping, rhythmic conversation between the two dancers. Divide the class into partners and have them carry on a conversation in rhythm (clapping hands/palmas) using different patterns, varying loud and soft and alternating back and forth. Share.

- In the performance, you observed strong emotions being expressed through dance, music, and song. Select a strong emotion you have experienced and write about it in a poem. Begin with a word web, where you write the emotion in the center and all the words you can think of that relate to the emotion are written around the edges. Use cinquain poetry or other poetry.

FRAMEWORK FOCUS—SOCIAL STUDIES/HISTORY:

During the Spanish Inquisition the gypsies, as well as others, were forced to comply with the beliefs and values of the dominant group or experience death, pain and trauma. Think what life would be like if you were forbidden from doing things that you now think of as normal (reading the books you want, listening to any type of music, eating a wide variety of foods, dressing the way you like). Then discuss the benefits and problems of being in a society like ours, where there is personal choice, as well as the freedom to borrow ideas from each other to form something new.

Become aware of the ethnic diversity in your own classroom. Find a special contribution that each culture can give to the group - color combinations, music, dance, dress style, architecture, etc. Experiment with ways that these ideas could be combined. Create a building or design a piece of clothing that combines the ideas of two different cultural influences.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES:


Author: Linda Andrade and Susan Cambique-Tracey, © The Music Center of Los Angeles County www.musiccenter.org/ontour @MusicCenterLA
AND THE MUSIC CENTER ANNOUNCE

SAKAI FLAMENCO TO PERFORM ON ____________________________

__________________________ and The Music Center today announced the upcoming Sakai Flamencoperformance. 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 Sakai Flamenco. 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.

Sakai Flamenco is a dynamic performing ensemble composed of some of the finest traditional flamenco dancers and musicians in the United States. This fiery, stirring performance of music, rhythm and dance is a powerhouse presentation of flamenco, a style of music and dance that is truly unique. Through the driving rhythms of the guitar, passionate song, hand-clapping, finger-snapping, sharp footwork and cries of encouragement, the artists inspire each other as they carry the audience straight into the soul of this explosive musical dance experience.

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

SAKAI FLAMENCO

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, Symphonic Campus Tours, Grand Park