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

STRING FAMILY PLAYERS
All Strings Considered
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. String Family Players are going to treat you to a party - a party for your ears! They are classically trained musicians who not only play beautiful music, but can also have fun with it as well! Please note that due to union policy, the use of photos, video or any kind of recording is strictly prohibited. Please welcome String Family Players!"
SPACE
10' wide x 10' deep minimum
Portable stages must be sturdy and secure-
ly lashed

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

EQUIPMENT
5 armless chairs
1 microphone on a stand (not attached to a podium)
PA system

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

PARKING
Three spaces, on close to the venue for loading and unloading

ASSISTANCE
Please have a school representative ready to welcome the performers and assist 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

SPECIAL NOTE
NO FILMING OR RECORDING OF THE PROGRAM IS PERMITTED, DUE TO CONTRACTUAL AND UNION RESTRICTIONS.
STRING FAMILY PLAYERS-All Strings Considered

ART FORM: Music
STYLE: Various/Baroque to Contemporary
CULTURE: Western European

MEET THE ARTIST:

David Young, leader and narrator of the String Family Players quintet, also plays double bass in the group. Educated at the Eastman School of Music and the University of California, David holds the position of Principal Bass for the Los Angeles Opera and performs in various recording and chamber music ensembles in the Southern California area. In addition, he teaches at the Colburn School of Performing Arts in Los Angeles and at California State University, Long Beach. Mr. Young is the Artistic Director of the String Family Players Association, a non-profit corporation that also sponsors the group to conduct in school residencies.

The other professional musicians who make up the String Family Players use their masterful performance skills to share music with children as well as adults. They include Nancy Roth, violin, Armen Anassian, violin, Mary Ann Steinberger, cello, and Lynn Grants, viola. The collective group combines their joy for classical music with their deep love for working with children.

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE:

The String Family Players quintet introduces audiences to some of the modern orchestral instruments in a most delightful way. Their performance of "All Strings Considered" begins by introducing the audience to the names, respective sounds and ranges of the violin, viola, cello and double bass. The musicians then introduce themselves and demonstrate their favorite characteristics of the instruments they play. Their diverse repertoire includes selections written several centuries ago as well as compositions from modern times. Students will hear the music of Johann Sebastian Bach, as well as the theme music from "The Simpsons," written by Danny Elfman. Students are involved in the performance as they join in games that help them discriminate between the unique sounds of each instrument. By the finale, listeners have a heightened perception that enables them to hear music in an entirely new way.

PREPARING FOR THE EXPERIENCE:

The history of stringed instruments is an ancient one -- the earliest types were designed to be plucked or strummed. Besides the guitar or harp, other plucked or strummed instruments include the psaltery, zither, lyre and the lute. Stringed instruments weren’t known in Europe until the Medieval Ages; it was in the 15th century when the family of violins developed. These were the first stringed instruments that were played with bows.

The design of the instruments evolved as the bow developed. The bow is a curved wooden stick with horsetail hair stretched from end to end. The design of the bridge, over which the strings are strung, changed from straight to curved, allowing the bow to slide over one string at a time.

The instruments of the modern violin family were mostly developed in Italy and therefore have Italian names. Early bowed instruments include the rebec, lyra da braccio, and the family of instruments called the viola da gamba. The modern violin shape began to solidify in the late 1400s. Any instrument with strings was referred to as some sort of "viol," and the full name of the earliest violin, which was held on the arm, was "viola da braccio." The "viola da gamba" was held with the legs.

Other instruments of the string family also have colorful histories and a wide variety of musical styles. One way of distinguishing between the styles is to determine whether the player is reading written music or improvising. For example, classical styles are mainly written and jazz styles are mainly improvised.

Small stringed instruments made to be bowed are often classified under the heading of "fiddles" and folk fiddling has a long tradition in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. In America, however, the violin has been used for "fiddling" as well as in the symphony orchestra.
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

• How many strings does each of these instruments have: violin, viola, cello, double bass? (All have four.)

• Where do the fingers press on the strings of the instruments to make higher or lower sounds? (finger board) Can you guess why this happens? (The vibrating part of the string is shorter for higher notes.)

• What is the technique for making the tone waver? What is the term used to describe this? (vibrato)

• Which instrument can play the highest tones? Lowest? Why do you think this is so? (highest—violin; lowest—double bass. The strings are longest on the double bass and shortest on the violin.)

• Aside from the fact that the cello can play lower than the violin, describe the other differences. (violin can play at a faster tempo, usually gets the melody; cello plays at a slower tempo, has a fuller sound and usually accompanies the violin.)

• Bass strings are longer than violin strings; how else are they different? (bass strings are thicker)

• When you play pizzicato you pluck the string. Which instrument’s pizzicato sound vibrates the longest, the violin or the bass? (the bass)

ACTIVITIES TO ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE:

★ Listen to recordings such as classic violin performances by Yehudi Menuhin and Jasha Heifetz. Compare violin solos to those of cellists such as Rostropovich and Yo Yo Ma. Great recordings by violinists such as William Primrose and Pinkas Zukerman, and by double bassist Edgar Meyer are easily available.

• Choose lively music with a strong beat for the students to clap to. "Russian Sailors Dance" by Grieg has many variations with changes of mood that are a fun challenge to adjust one’s clapping to. Marches such as from the "Royal Fireworks Music" by Handel make for great marches around the room. Clap with the beat and then try clapping between the beat, or on the "off-beat."

◆ Instruments other than the violin are also featured in different styles of music. The double bass is at the heart of the improvising jazz tradition. Listen to a recording by Ray Brown, one of the pivotal double bass players in jazz. Most of what he plays is not written down, but is improvised upon a song or melody structure. After listening to his playing, discuss and comment on what you notice from your new knowledge.

■ There are many folk fiddle traditions throughout the world. In the United States, the fiddling tradition was established in places like Appalachia. These folk tunes are played on the same violin as the pieces played in a symphony orchestra. Listen to fiddling from traditional recordings as well as successful artists of today such as Mark O’Connor, Liz Carrol, and Natalie McMaster. How would you describe the mood, tempo, style, and texture of sounds created by these fiddle masters? Listen again and imagine miming the strokes as the music is played.

FRAMEWORK FOCUS—SCIENCE:

Vibration is movement, not sound. You can see vibrations in water when you throw a stone into it and feel vibrations during an earthquake. Vibration is also the basis of sound —the sensation caused in the ear by the movement of air. The science of sound is called acoustics. Vibration disturbs the atmosphere; waves of disturbance travel through the air at the speed of sound, which is 1,113 feet per second. On earth, vibrations moving at the rate of between 20 and 10,000 times per second can be heard by the human ear.

You can hear vibrations when you stretch a string tightly between two points and pluck the string. Take a slender board and hammer pairs of nails opposite each other into both ends. Make sure that they are different distances apart. Stretch rubber bands, fishing line, or wire tightly between the partner nails. Pluck the strings and see if you can get different tones from ones that are stretched between nails of different distances apart. Which sounds are higher? Lower? See what else you can create with strings tightly stretched over a board or other material such as a cardboard or tin box.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES:


and The Music Center announce

STRING FAMILY PLAYERS TO PERFORM ON ______________________

and The Music Center today announced the upcoming String Family Players 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 String Family Players. 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.

String Family Players delivers fascinating performances made memorable by great music. Breaking down the stereotype that classical music is inaccessible, the ensemble offers the audience an unforgettable experience as they connect with students through their music. This dynamic string quintet ensemble, led by director David Young, includes two violins, a viola, a cello and a double bass to create fun and memorable concerts.

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

STRING FAMILY PLAYERS

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, Symphonian Campus Tours, Grand Park

PROGRAM SUPPORT PROVIDED BY: