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

STRING FAMILY PLAYERS

Mozart: The Child Prodigy
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 securely 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:
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and his music are the inspiration for this show. Students enter the world of young Mozart and hear the music that came from his genius. Led by narrator David Young, the audience journeys to Salzburg, Austria where Mozart was born in 1756. Costumed in clothes worn by musicians of that period, the group will play some of the minuets he wrote when he was 5 and 6 years old. Audiences will also hear variations of “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star,” showcasing the improvisational methods used by Mozart to dazzle his friends. A party piece, “Eine Kleine Nachtmusik” (A Little Night Music), expresses Mozart’s spirit of fun. Students will also hear a competitive duet between a solo violin and a viola. By the end of the performance, students will begin to understand that Mozart’s music isn’t limited to a historical time and place, but is universal.

PREPARING FOR THE EXPERIENCE:
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart had the good fortune to be born into the family of a well-known, respected musician and teacher, Leopold Mozart. From an early age, when musicians would practice together at their home, Wolfgang would hold his ears and cry when someone played out of tune. As a toddler he showed persistent interest in his elder sister’s lessons on the clavier, the keyboard instrument of that time. By the age of five, Mozart had written music for the clavier which he played perfectly. He learned to play the violin by watching others, so his father got him a small violin of his own to play when he was five years old.

Wolfgang took to music like a bird takes to flying - it was part of his basic intelligence. Soon, his father decided to show his precocious son’s talent to the world, taking him to places such as Italy, France and England. These trips gave young Mozart a chance to perform, and also to absorb and learn more about the popular musical styles of Europe. He had the ability to improvise music of his own invention or improvise upon a specific melody. He was famous for tricks, such as playing the clavier with a cloth over the keyboard so he couldn’t see the keys. Endowed with a high-spirited temperament, he was full of good humor and loved practical jokes.

A prolific composer, by the time Mozart was 21 he had composed over 300 pieces of music! As an adult his output continued, while he mastered every form of music popular at that time. Mozart died from a serious kidney disease in 1791 at the age of 35. In spite of his early death, he completed over 600 pieces of music which have been loved and played for over 200 years.
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What is it about Mozart’s music that is different from, as well as similar to, music of today? (Examples of differences include the lack of the drummer’s constant back-beat, the different instruments, the many changes in mood in Mozart’s music versus the constant drive and mood of present-day rock music. An example of similarity might be the presence of the “pulsing bass notes,” played by the double bass, driving the rhythm just as the drummer drives rock songs.)
- What surprised you most about Mozart and his music? (e.g., his ability to write good music when he was four and five years old.)
- Did you notice any differences between the music of Mozart and his contemporary, Salieri?

FRAMEWORK FOCUS—SOCIAL STUDIES/HISTORY:

Take a look at the world as it was during the time of Mozart’s life, both in Europe and America. There were no planes, trains or automobiles because these vehicles had not yet been invented. Most travel, even from town to town, was very difficult. There were horses and horse drawn carriages, but most people walked everywhere. When they couldn’t travel by land, they traveled by boat. Electricity had not been discovered, so people depended on candles or lamps with wicks for lighting. The late 1700s, when Mozart lived, was also the time when the Declaration of Independence was signed in America, changing England’s relationship with her colonies and inspiring revolutions in America and France.

Make a chart and, in writing or drawing, show the following: major events; discoveries; and art and styles that existed during the late 1700s. Identify similarities and differences between Europe and America, (e.g. types of travel, inventions, political events, etc.).

ACTIVITIES TO ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE:

- Music is often called “organized sound,” and rhythm is one of its foundational elements. The music of Mozart’s day had a steady beat driven by the bass line. The steady beats are organized in groups called measures. You can feel when these measures come in groups of two, three or four beats. Try listening to a piece by Mozart and count out loud to see which grouping feels right. Is it one-two, one-two? Is it one-two-three, one-two-three? Or is it one-two-three-four, one-two-three-four? Try clapping or tapping the strongest beats (called “one”) to see which grouping is correct.
- In an orchestra or band, a conductor helps musicians play together in a cooperative way. He or she stands in front of the group moving their arms in a standardized “beat pattern.” To try it, hold a pencil in one hand and “conduct” some music. The strong first beat is a down stroke. The last beat of the measure is always an up-stroke. Therefore, measures in two beats would be conducted down-up, down-up. Measures in three would be conducted down-right-up, down-right-up, following the path of a triangle. Measures in four would be conducted down-right-left-up, down-right-left-up.
- Music composed by Mozart is called “absolute music” because it is not based on pictures or a story. Rather, it is about the movement and interplay of sounds. Yet we feel a wide range of emotions, such as sadness or joy, when we hear it. Listen to a piece by Mozart, then discuss what you feel. It is important to note that people may respond differently (And, all responses are correct.)
- Stringed instruments evolved in Italy in the late 16th century, and have common Italian names. The root word, “viol,” means “stringed instrument.” Identify the instruments you heard and saw during the performance and describe their different sound textures, as well as their role within the string quintet.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES:


School Contact Name: __________________________
Phone: __________________________

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).

# # #

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: ____________________

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, Symphonic Campus Tours, Grand Park

PROGRAM SUPPORT PROVIDED BY: