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

THE ALLEY CATS

Holiday Top Ten
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 features The Alley Cats, 'America's premier doo-wop group.' They will sing some of the greatest hits of the 1950s and 60s in four part harmony. They also will share with us elements of performance and make sure we have a lot of fun while celebrating the holiday season! Please welcome The Alley Cats!”

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
- 15’ wide x 15’ deep minimum
- Portable stages must be sturdy, level and securely lashed

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

OUTDOOR PERFORMANCE
If the performance must be held outdoors, the following conditions must be met:
- Shaded – no direct sunlight
- Protected from wind and excess traffic or playground noise
- Electrical power source is required

EQUIPMENT
- Electrical outlets
- Bottled water (or a pitcher of water and cups) for 4 people

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

PARKING
- Two spaces, one space 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

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
THE ALLEY CATS—The Do Re Mi’s of Doo Wop

ART FORM: Music
STYLE: 50s Era A Cappella Vocals
CULTURE: American

MEET THE ARTIST:
The four members of The Alley Cats are a perfect blend both vocally and personally. Their easy, playful familiarity makes their camaraderie and vocal expressions radiate from the stage. The Alley Cats formed in 1987 at Fullerton College in Orange County and began their musical journey with Disney’s “Blast to the Past” salute. The group have appeared at numerous fairs and festivals around the country and have been the featured performers on stages at Disneyland, Knott’s Berry Farm, and at the White House. Most recently, The Alley Cats took second place in the 2017 Moscow International A Cappella Festival. The competition featured 227 groups from 22 countries.

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE:
This joyous holiday performance features the The Alley Cats singing ten of the most well-known and enduring American Christmas songs. Presented in contemporary doo-wop style, these traditional songs capture the sentiment and fun of the season. This program is the result of research documenting the top twenty-five American holiday songs of all time. The following ten songs were selected because they best suit the group’s four-part harmony. They include: “Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer,” “White Christmas,” “Jingle Bells,” “Feliz Navidad,” “Little St. Nick,” “Winter Wonderland,” “Blue Christmas,” “Deck the Halls,” “Let It Snow,” and “The Chipmunk Song.” Narration between the selections gives background information on each song’s history and arrangement or vocal styling. Tight harmonies, humor and dynamic a cappella energy make The Alley Cats one of America’s premier doo-wop groups. This festive seasonal celebration is sure to delight audiences.

PREPARING FOR THE EXPERIENCE:
A cappella, the oldest form of music, means singing without musical accompaniment. Tribal chants, Gregorian chants, gospel, jazz, barbershop, doo-wop, and contemporary music all trace their roots to a cappella. During the 1950s, young men and women began forming singing groups in their neighborhoods. Their street corner singing soon became the hits of the day and doo-wop was born. Doo-wop is a type of ‘rhythm and blues’ style that was popular in the 1950s and 60s. Nonsense syllables are combined in intricate, harmonic arrangements. Classic examples of this style are “Earth Angel” by The Penguins, and “Sh-Boom” by The Chords. The collective power of these popular groups eventually helped establish the Motown recording label.

The first real ‘boy bands’, before One Direction, and The Wanted were doo-wop groups like Del Vikings, Dion and The Belmonts and in the Motown era, The Temptations, Four Tops and The Miracles. These groups laid the foundation for the music we hear today.

The 50s, overall, were a happy time in America; World War II was over, and “I Like Ike” was the phrase of the time. The majority of people felt safe and secure. Today, doo-wop is more widely known as ‘oldies’ and is rarely heard in the a cappella form. Now, instrumentation is added. However, this collection of music is truly timeless and continues to be enjoyed by many generations of people around the world.

Early on, what we called doo-wop music embraced the grand tradition of nonsense lyrics. Taking their cue from musician Dizzy Gillespie’s 1947 be-bop song, “Oop Boop Sh’ ‘Bam,” vocal groups sang “Sh-Boom,” “Oop Shoop” and “Bip Bam,” all using meaningless sounds to fill the beats and create background chants. But perhaps the most common nonsense syllable was “doo,” which has always been useful in popular songs. Over 150 years ago, composer Stephen Foster used “doo-dah, doo-dah” to fill out the verses of his “De Camp-town Races” (1850). A hundred years later doo wop made “The Turban’s Top 40’ hits.
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

• What was your favorite song from the show? Explain why it was your favorite.
• When did you realize there were no instruments other than the human voice and body percussion?
• What feelings did you have when listening to this traditional, seasonal music?
• If you could add other seasonal songs to this program, what would they be?
• What did you find the most interesting about the doo-wop style of singing? How is it similar or different to songs you listen to today?

FRAMEWORK FOCUS—HISTORY/SOCIAL STUDIES:

Think about some of the holidays that are celebrated during the winter season. These might include Chanukah, Ramadan, Christmas, Kwanzaa, the Winter Solstice, and New Years. Discuss some of the special traditions that are associated with each one. Then assign different groups one of the holidays and have them research the history and traditions of the holiday found throughout the world. The following are some questions to guide their research:

What is the original idea of the holiday?
What are some of the traditions?
Where in the world is this holiday celebrated?
What are some of the songs, music, dances or stories associated with the holiday?
What are the types of food prepared and eaten?
Have the traditions for each holiday changed through time?
Do students in the class celebrate this holiday? If so, interview them to find more about their cultural and family traditions.

Have groups report their findings, and if possible share recordings, visuals, video clips, or a short story about the holiday. Chart the results of the research; compare and analyze the answers. Discuss the aspects of the research that students found most interesting or that surprised them.

ACTIVITIES TO ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE:

• Select one or more of the songs that you heard in the performance and learn to sing it as a group. You can use the Internet to find the words and tunes, or ask parents and friends to help.
• As a class, select three of your favorite holiday songs to learn and perform together or share with another class. Sing a capella, but then sing it again adding accompaniment and sound effects using simple percussion instruments. (bells, shakers, triangles, drums, wood blocks, etc.)
• Several of the songs in this performance included snow. See if you can identify which songs these were. ("White Christmas," “Jingle Bells,” “Winter Wonderland,” “Let It Snow”) Discuss why people associate Christmas with snow and then think of the things that are more seasonally relevant to a Southern California Christmas or winter holiday. Create song titles that describe Christmas or another holiday in your neighborhood, e.g. “Blue Sky,” “White Cloud Christmas,” “Palm Tree Magic,” “Traffic Jam to Grandma's.”
• Select a song that the class knows well. Sing the song at three different tempos (medium or normal, very slow, fast). Then, sing it as you clap a basic rhythm or add percussion instruments. Finally, write one original verse as a small group or class. These three ideas, tempo, rhythm and lyrics, are important to composing and interpreting songs. This is why we might prefer one singer and style over another, even though they both sing the same song.
• Think about your favorite seasonal holiday from any time of year. Recall the food, activities, songs, games and traditions that go with this holiday. Write a paragraph about one holiday time that was special to you. Describe what you did and how you felt.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES:

and The Music Center announce

THE ALLEY CATS TO PERFORM ON __________________________

______________________ and The Music Center today announced the upcoming Alley Cats 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 The Alley Cats. 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.

A perfect blend of musical talent and comic timing, The Alley Cats breathe new life into everyone’s favorite doo-wop classics as they present their interactive, fun, and informative assemblies. Tight harmonies, humor, interesting stories and an unbelievable amount of a cappella energy enliven the performance as audiences sing along with familiar melodies. Students learn about the unique American musical form called "doo-wop" as they hear the group bring their own contemporary style to the tunes from the 50’s and 60’s or well-loved holiday classics. Having performed at the White House and as featured entertainers on Disney stages, audiences can be sure that this group is truly the "cat’s meow!"

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

THE ALLEY CATS

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