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

THE ART OF PUPPETS &
MARIONETTES

Carnival of the Animals
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. It features a puppeteer from Jim Gamble Puppet Productions, presenting a program called Carnival of the Animals. This will be a rod puppet program using special lighting. It is a wonderful story, performed to the music of composer Camille Saint-Saëns. Please welcome The Art of Puppets & Marionettes production of Carnival of the Animals!"

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
• 16’ wide x 10’ deep x 8’ high minimum
• Portable stages must be sturdy, level and securely lashed

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

AUDIENCE SEATING
• Puppets in Carnival of the Animals will appear at table height

LIGHTING
• Carnival of the Animals works best when performed in darkness

EQUIPMENT
• One electrical outlet

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

PARKING
• Two spaces, one 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 ART OF PUPPETS & MARIONETTES—Carnival of the Animals

ART FORM: Theatre
STYLE: Contemporary/Classical
CULTURE: North American/Western European

MEET THE ARTIST:
Jim Gamble, founding director of the Art of Puppets and Marionettes, was an internationally respected puppet designer and performer known for his appealing productions and beautifully crafted puppets. His dynamic company, founded in 1972 and composed of accomplished puppeteers and puppet makers, has an eclectic repertoire that includes "Peter and the Wolf," "Carnival of the Animals," "The Nutcracker," and "Hansel and Gretel." Each production features familiar classical music or an original score. Strongly committed to education, the company performs in hundreds of California schools annually and in theatres and festivals throughout the U.S., Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. In 2001, Jim Gamble was the only American to perform at the Obratsov Puppet Theatre in Moscow in celebration of 100 Years of Russian Puppetry. National appearances include the Children’s Theatre Series in Hawaii and the International Children’s Festival in San Diego. Among the company’s many awards are the Parents Choice and Golden Apple awards for their video series, and the President’s Award from the Puppeteers of America.

PREPARING FOR THE EXPERIENCE:
Camille Saint-Saëns was born in Paris in 1835. Musically precocious, he began his long and extraordinary career at the age of 7 with the study of piano and harmony. His first compositions soon followed. By the time Saint-Saëns was 23, he had established himself as a composer and began a tenure of twenty years as organist for the Church of the Madeleine. Highly respected and prolific, his music ranged from amusing satire to symphonic poems, from operas to chamber music. Saint-Saëns, beloved for his musical productivity and exuberance for life, died at the age of 86.

Puppets have been part of many cultures throughout the world, though puppet theatre as we know it has its early roots in 17th century Italy. At that time, troupes of travelling actors used standard characters in their performances; those characters evolved into standard puppet characters. The most popular was Punchinello, a bragging, comic fellow who always made the audience laugh because of his clumsiness and foolishness. He became the Punch of Punch and Judy in the English puppet tradition, Guignol in the French, Kasperle to the Germans, and Karagoz in the Middle East, as well as the forerunner of the modern circus clown.

Although inanimate, puppets come to life through imaginative movement and sound. Derived from the Latin word "pupa," meaning girl or doll, puppets have long existed as an art form and vehicle for creative expression. There are many types of puppets and their names indicate the ways in which they operate. Hand puppets are manipulated by the puppeteer’s hands, rod puppets are worked with rods, and shadow puppets work with the use of light and its projected shadow. The marionette, unique because it portrays the figure from head to toe, and moves very freely, was first used in Nativity Plays of the Middle Ages and is manipulated by a combination of strings or wires attached to a hand-held control above the figure.

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE:
Camille Saint-Saëns’ zoological fantasy, the Carnival of the Animals, comes to life on the puppet stage with Jim Gamble’s spectacular puppet creations. This innovative puppet presentation highlights both the art of puppetry and the work of France’s beloved 19th century classical composer. The performance, a whimsical study in transformation, uses the articles found in a child’s room or objects seen through his window to create fanciful animals that relate to the individual thematic pieces of Saint-Saëns’ music. The Carnival of the Animals (Le Carnaval des Animaux) is both a heartwarming and humorous blend of classical music and puppet theatre, and a reminder for students that art is made from the materials both in and of our lives.
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

• What was your favorite part of the Carnival of the Animals? Why?

• What kinds of feelings did you have as you watched the performance? Did the music help you to understand anything unusual or unique about the nature of the different animals?

• Were there selections of the music that seemed better suited to particular puppets? Why?

• Were there certain musical “themes” that occurred more than once or were repeated throughout the Carnival of the Animals?

• Could you make a puppet from objects that you have in your own room?

ACTIVITIES TO ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE:

• Hold a storytelling hour with your class using some of their favorite myths, fairy tales, or stories from contemporary literature. Ask students to select a character from one of the stories to make as a puppet. On a simple puppet stage or platform in the front of your class, have students use their puppets to pantomime the action of the story as you read along. Or, have students take on the voices of the puppet characters and bring the story to life in a puppet play.

• Camille Saint-Saëns composed the Carnival of the Animals for his family in 1886, but began composing as early as 1853. Research the music of this time period. Who were some other classical composers working during this same period? Was early classical music primarily a European genre? What are some of the other kinds of music that were developing or existed at this time?

• Bring in recordings of musical selections from different genres of music. As you play each one, ask your students to freely move a puppet to the music. How do the differences in the rhythms, melodies and moods of the musical selections affect the movement of the puppets?

• Play a recording of the Carnival of the Animals (length: 27 minutes) and have your students match the various animals to their musical themes. Select 2-3 selections to work with at one sitting.

Carnival of the Animals - Thematic Structure:

Introduction and Royal March of the Lion
Hens and Roosters
Wild Donkeys
Turtles and Tortoises
The Elephant
Kangaroos
The Aquarium
The Jackass
The Cuckoo
Birds; Pianists
Fossils
The Swan
The Finale

FRAMEWORK FOCUS—VISUAL ARTS:

There are many different kinds of puppets. Some can be complex and hang from strings, while others can be fastened to sticks called rods. Some can be more simply made from socks, bandanas, gloves or paper bags, and all can include decorative materials such as scraps of cloth, paint, ribbons, yarn or buttons.

Using these or other puppet types, have students create a puppet that is an image of her or himself. Have a classroom puppet-making session and allow students the freedom to use any materials or puppet styles they want for their self-portraits. When their puppets are complete, ask students to introduce their self-portraits in a puppet show-and-tell. Students can also use their puppets in creating improvisations or scenes, or they can work independently to tell a story from their personal or family history. Students can work in groups to act out situations based on common experiences or on imaginative scenarios. Often puppet self-portraits become a tool for self-expression, enabling students to portray, reveal, or express what they might not ordinarily communicate. Puppets can also provide students with the opportunity to enact situations from their lives gaining insight into their own behavior.

LEGEND

★ Artistic perception
● Creative expression
■ Historical & cultural context
◆ Aesthetic valuing
◆ Connections, Relations, Applications

SUGGESTED RESOURCES:


AND THE MUSIC CENTER ANNOUNCE
THE ART OF PUPPETS & MARIONETTES TO PERFORM ON

and The Music Center today announced the upcoming Art of Puppets & Marionettes 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 Art of Puppets & Marionettes. 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.

With three decades of performances credits, The Gamble Puppets annually perform for hundreds of audiences in the United States. International credits include tours in Japan, Korea, Singapore, France, Russia, Yugoslavia, Iran, Israel, Fiji, Micronesia, Siberia, Hong Kong, Bolivia and Croatia. Founder Jim Gamble was recognized as one of this country’s finest puppeteers. His award-winning company offers four productions. Each fosters entertainment-packed musical education, cultural enrichment and learning experiences in puppetry and literature.

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 ART OF PUPPETS & MARIONETTES

DATE: ____________________ TIME: ____________________

SCHOOL: ____________________
ARMS 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: