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

THE ART OF Puppets & Marionettes

Hansel & Gretel
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 puppeteers from Jim Gamble Puppet Productions. Today you will see the story of Hansel and Gretel, using beautiful music from the famous opera for children. Listen carefully to see if you can recognize some of the songs and dances. Please welcome The Art of Puppets & Marionettes' production of Hansel & Gretel!"

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**
- 20' wide x 12' 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 *Hansel and Gretel* will appear at table height

**LIGHTING**
- *Hansel and Gretel* 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
THE ART OF PUPPETS & MARIONETTES—Hansel and Gretel

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:

The first opera was performed in Italy in the late 1500s. Originally enjoyed by the royal, noble and landowning classes, the appeal of opera gradually widened; by the late 1600s, composers such as Claudio Monteverdi and Alessandro Scarlatti were creating operas popular with the public. By the mid-nineteenth century, opera had evolved into “Grand Opera,” so called because the sets and costumes were spectacularly elaborate. A number of the most beloved operas were written at this time including Giuseppe Verdi’s “Otello,” based on the play by William Shakespeare, and Giacomo Puccini’s “Tosca” and “La Bohème.”

The composer, Engelbert Humperdinck, was born in Germany in 1854. Initially a student of architecture, Humperdinck quickly discovered his passion for music and distinguished himself by winning many prestigious awards. Although he wrote music for German orchestras and chorus, Humperdinck is most famous for his opera, “Hansel and Gretel.” The music was originally composed to accompany his sister’s adaptation of the fairy tale into a play for the family’s children. Convinced that it was worthy of operatic production, Humperdinck sent his manuscript to Richard Strauss who agreed to conduct its world premiere in December 1893. Now a children’s classic, “Hansel and Gretel” took the opera world by storm. Its charm continues to enchant audiences around the globe.

Puppets have been part of every culture around the world, although puppet theatre as we know it has its roots in 17th century Italy. At that time, troupes of traveling actors created stock characters in performance, and those characters evolved into standard puppet characters. There are many types of puppets; 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 character from head to toe, moves very freely, and is manipulated by strings, wires or rods attached to hand-held controls above the puppet.

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE:

“Hansel and Gretel” is a marionette production of the opera by Engelbert Humperdinck. The opera is based on the classic fairy tale written by the Brothers Grimm — and slightly revised by Engelbert’s sister, Adelaide Humperdinck. In this enchanting 19th century revision, the mother is not the wicked stepmother and Gretel does much of the problem solving. Engelbert Humperdinck’s rich music and songs serenade the brother and sister throughout the presentation as they take their famous walk into the woods and encounter the witch’s delectable gingerbread house. Skilled puppeteers bring Hansel and Gretel to life, making the children dance and the witch fly in this colorful and magical puppet theatre performance.
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

• What character or musical segment of “Hansel and Gretel” did you find most memorable? Why?

• Did the differences in the rhythms, melodies, or moods of the music affect the movement of the puppets? In what ways?

• The puppets used in “Hansel and Gretel” are called marionettes. What are some of the unique characteristics of a marionette?

• What kinds of feelings did you have as you watched the performance? Did the music help you understand Hansel and Gretel’s experience? Have you ever taken a journey, gotten lost, then found your way? Share.

• Do you know any other fairy tales? Where did you learn them? Do they share wisdom, advice, or teach lessons?

ACTIVITIES TO ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE:

★ Reciting poetry out loud as a group is a good way to experience the musicality of language. It can also build confidence in students who are reluctant to read aloud by themselves, but feel comfortable in a group.

To practice a choral reading, divide your class into 2, 3, or 4 groups to perform rounds. Give each group a poetic phrase or musical jingle. Introduce signals for start, stop, loud, and soft. Conduct the class like an orchestra. Have students perform their ‘poetry symphony’ for another class.

◆◆ Often, a culture’s beliefs are passed down through stories, folk tales and fairy tales which can be instructive, express certain values, or offer wisdom. What are the lessons woven into the story of “Hansel and Gretel”?

Do you think they contain good advice? Why or why not?

Have students work in groups; select a folk or fairy tale, reflect upon it, and discuss the same questions.

◆ Composers write music in a spectrum of styles. The opera, “Hansel and Gretel,” was written by the renowned composer Englebert Humperdinck. Have students research the life and works of a composer of their choice. The composer may be contemporary or otherwise, well-known or obscure. Ask students to share what they have learned with the class, augmenting their presentations by playing examples of the composer’s work. Students should include any other pertinent information, such as the musical style or significant contributions made by their chosen composer.

◆ Hold a storytelling hour with your class using some of their favorite folk or fairy tales. Ask students to select a character from one of the stories to transform into a puppet. On a simple puppet stage or platform in the front of 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.

FRAMEWORK FOCUS—LANGUAGE ARTS:

In the fairy tale “Hansel and Gretel,” by the Brothers Grimm, the balance between good and evil characters is clearly drawn. Read the story to your class and discuss the following questions.

Is it helpful to have villains and heroes in stories? Do we learn things by their actions? What kinds of things? Why is contrast important?

Is the violence in fairy tales like “Hansel and Gretel” disturbing, or have students become numbed by the violence they routinely see on television and in feature films?

How do Hansel and Gretel help each other in their crises? How are they rewarded?

How have your students’ impressions of the story changed since first reading or hearing it, and then reviewing it with a more critical eye?

SUGGESTED RESOURCES:


LEGEND

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