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

THE ART OF PUPPETS & MARIONETTES

Peter and the Wolf
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. It features a puppeteer from Jim Gamble Puppet Productions, presenting a program called Peter and the Wolf. This will be a rod puppet program performed by a single puppeteer using special lighting. You will want to listen carefully, because following the program the puppeteer may have some special questions for you. Please welcome Jim Gamble Puppet Productions Peter and the Wolf!"

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’w x 10’d x 8’h 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 Peter and the Wolf will appear at table height

LIGHTING
- Peter and the Wolf 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—Peter and the Wolf

ART FORM: Theatre
STYLE: Contemporary
CULTURE: Russian / American

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 Obratov 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:

Sergei Sergeyevich Prokofiev (1891-1953), was the leading Soviet composer of his time. Peter and the Wolf, written in 1936 in the USSR, is a children's story with both music and text by Prokofiev, and spoken by a narrator accompanied by the orchestra. This symphonic fairy tale, ranks among the most popular compositions of the 1900s. Peter and the Wolf is a work written specifically to introduce children to musical instruments. Prokofiev wanted a work whose characters would be easily understood by a child. His choice to feature a child named Peter, a wolf, bird, cat, duck, and some hunters. The story depicts the concepts of good and evil. Prokofiev wanted each character to have its own "leitmotif," a recognizable tune associated with a character or idea in the story. In composing the piece, he used the usual string section – composed of first and second violins, violas, violincellos and double basses. The wind instruments he selected are a flute, an oboe, a clarinet and a bassoon. The horns include a trumpet, three French horns and a trombone. Two musicians play all the percussion instruments. In his score Prokofiev states: “one plays the kettle drums, triangle, tambourine and cymbals; the second, the castanets, snare drum and bass drum.” He wrote his score for a small theatre orchestra, enabling his child listeners to hear the individual instruments more easily. The following characters are brought to life when the leitmotifs are played by the following instruments:

- Peter’s theme played by the string section.
- The Bird is represented by a flute
- The Duck is played by the oboe.
- Peter’s grumbling grandfather is represented by the bassoon
- Peter’s cat is represented by a clarinet, played staccato in its lower register
- The wolf is represented by three horns playing chords in unison.
- The hunter’s theme is played by the bass drum and kettle drums.

When you listen to Peter and the Wolf, you will hear how Prokofiev used these instruments to make the story come alive to the delight of audiences, young and old alike. If possible, review the characters and the instrument that represents them before the performance. This will make you a more informed and delighted audience member.

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE:

Peter and the Wolf is a 45-minute rod puppet production performed on a proscenium stage in a "curtain of light" format. Based on composer Prokofiev’s famous musical work, Jim Gamble’s production features a variety of three-dimensional rod puppets portraying people, animals and animated instruments. The puppets appear at table height in clear view from all areas of the auditorium. The puppeteer, dressed in black, completely disappears behind the “light curtain.” This innovative style of puppet performance has rarely been seen in this country, making it an educational as well as an entertaining experience for the students.
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What puppet used in the performance was your favorite? Why?
- Had you ever seen a puppet play that used the "curtain of light" format?
- Which musical instrument featured in the performance did you most enjoy? Why?
- Could you "hear" the story in Prokofiev's music and distinguish the characters' various "leitmotifs"? Which one was easiest to recognize? Most difficult?
- What skills were required for one puppeteer to manipulate so many puppets?

ACTIVITIES TO ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE:

- Review pictures and listen to recordings of the various musical instruments used in Peter and the Wolf. Evaluate how well suited each instrument is to portray the various characters in the symphonic fairy tale. Describe the instruments' pitch and tone color, as well as the melody and rhythm of each "leitmotif."
- A hand puppet is easy to make. To begin, put a bandanna or cloth over your hand. Let your first and middle fingers be the "head," and put a rubber band around them for the neck. Your thumb and little finger are the arms. Put rubber bands around them in order to hold the cloth in place. Imagine that your hand is the actor. Make your "puppet" clap its hands, shake its head, and fall down.
- Explore ways your puppet can express feelings as you manipulate it. Try to find ways of showing that your puppet feels these contrasting emotions: happy/angry; sad/curious; shy/scared; tired/hungry.
- Have students select an historical figure to depict as a puppet character. A two-dimensional rod puppet can be made out of cardboard, then painted and mounted on a stick. Students should write a one-minute monologue based on the figure's biographical information, personality, and contributions.

FRAMEWORK FOCUS—LANGUAGE ARTS:

A puppet is an inanimate object given life through imaginative movement and sound. Derived from the Latin word "pupa" meaning girl or doll, puppets have long existed both as an art form and as a vehicle for creative expression. Have students create puppets based on the main characters of a favorite book. For example, a fourth grade student could choose "Charlotte's Web," by E. B. White and make Wilbur the pig and Charlotte the spider. The puppets can be any style:

- bandanna puppet
- finger puppet
- rod puppet
- paper bag puppet
- sock puppet
- glove puppet

A variety of materials can be used: fabric, felt, paper bags, socks, buttons, glitter, etc. Construct a simple puppet stage or platform in the front of your classroom. When the puppet characters are completed, have students write a puppet script, bringing a scene from the book to life through dialogue and movement.

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).

# # #

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: