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

THE CHAMELEONS
Mime Over Matter
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. The Chameleons have performed their highly acclaimed programs for over one million children and adults all over the world, including North America, South America, Europe, Africa, and Asia. Please welcome mime artists Keith Berger and Sharon Diskin performing Mime Over Matter!"
TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

SPACE
• 12’ wide x 12’ deep minimum if on a stage, or 15’ x 15’ if on the floor
• Portable stages must be sturdy and securely lashed with no gaps between planks of wood

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

DRESSING AREA
• One clean, secured dressing area will be needed either backstage or in the wings
• If dressing area is not adjacent to stage, a curtained or screened off area MUST be provided onstage
• Note that the artists still need 12’ x 12’ of usable space in addition to a changing area

AUDIENCE SEATING
• Audience should be seated in front of the performers, not to the side

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

PARKING
• 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

EQUIPMENT
• One microphone
• Electrical outlet and extension cord
  • Two chairs
  • One table
  • Drinking water
THE CHAMELEONS—Mime Over Matter

ART FORM: Theatre
STYLE: Contemporary
CULTURE: American

MEET THE ARTIST:
The Chameleons are a delightful mime duo composed of Keith Berger and Sharon Diskin. When they were children they didn’t dream about being mimes, however each studied acting and appeared in dramatic productions. As teenagers they both attended a performance by world famous mime artist Marcel Marceau, who had an extraordinary ability to create characters without using words. Marceau’s ability had tremendous impact upon each of them, opening their imagination up to a new world of expression and artistry. Keith sought formal training at The American Mime Theatre in New York City and became one of the very first street mimes. Sharon began her mime work with the Oberlin Mime Players. They met and began working as a team in 1985, and have since performed throughout Europe and North America. Their performance style features natural characters involved in real-life dramas in which strong emotions are expressed. The Chameleons are masters of traditional mime illusions and acclaimed for their original mime repertoire. Artistic collaborators, as well as husband and wife, their performances demonstrate that silence, indeed, is golden.

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE:
“Mime Over Matter” is a series of short mime vignettes, some accompanied by music and sound effects. During the show, the differences between ‘mime’ and ‘pantomime’ are demonstrated. Mime is the language of feelings, and pantomime is the creation of imaginary objects, places, and characters. When elements of mime and pantomime are successfully combined, the result is a work that is telling and beautiful. Traditional mime illusions such as ‘the rope’ and ‘the box,’ as well as chances for audience participation are incorporated into the program. From the comic to the dramatic, “Mime Over Matter” explores a spectrum of characters, human feelings and relationships.

PREPARING FOR THE EXPERIENCE:
Mime, one of the earliest forms for self-expression, was probably first used by ancient cultures as a way to express their adventures, myths and traditions. From the beginning, mimed actions were integral to the national theatres of Japan and China. In the West, mime established its own art form. Greek mime was farcical (in jest) in intent and performed during fall and spring theatre festivals. Roman mime evolved into exaggerated, often obscene, silent shows that were extremely popular. During the Middle Ages, mime was performed by the traveling jester, who was the probable forerunner of today’s comic mime performer. Mime was also presented in more subtle form in church dramas. The Renaissance brought a re-birth of mime as a significant dramatic form that was an important part of Italy’s traveling Commedia dell’Arte. By 1800, mime was popular in many countries as dramatic entertainment. It was incorporated into the performances of the Noh theatre of Japan, and the melodramas of France and America. In the 19th and 20th centuries, the French transformed the art form. Jean-Gaspard Debureau took what had once been crude and slapstick and turned mime into real theatre by creating stories with realistic scenes, fully developed characters, and plots about everyday life. His son began the formal teaching of mime as a systemized technique. After World War I, Etienne Decroux, a student of traditional mime, created a modern system of mime technique with theories, exercises, and specific illusions. His student, Marcel Marceau, inspired an international enthusiasm for the art form with a style based on exacting physical technique, simple, cleanly drawn movements, and the lovable ‘Everyman’ character, named Mr. Bip.

In 1952, Paul J. Curtis founded The American Mime Theatre in New York City. American mime, noted for its strong percussive physicality and its naturalistic playing, represents an exciting alternative to the traditional schools of mime.
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What was your favorite vignette (short scene) from “Mime Over Matter?” Why?
- Did you need words to understand the meanings in the scenes that did not use dialogue?
- What mime illusions did Keith and Sharon demonstrate?
- How did they make physical adjustments in their postures, movements, walks, etc. to portray different characters and circumstances? (i.e., tense/relaxed; smooth/jerky; bouncy/draggy; large/small; heavy/light; etc.)
- Was there a component of the performance that intrigued you and that you would like to learn? Describe.

FRAMEWORK FOCUS—SCIENCE:

Explore the concept of gravity using an imaginary ball exercise. In a circle, toss a volleyball around until everyone has had a turn catching and throwing it. Put the volleyball away and then ask the class to visualize an imaginary volleyball suspended in the air before them. Use the following directions to narrate miming a ball.

- Explore the shape of the ball. How large is it?
- Feel the texture of the ball. Is it rough or smooth?
- Feel the weight of the ball. Make it light.
- Make the ball heavy - so heavy you can barely lift it above your head.
- Put that ball down. Pick up another ball you can hold in one hand.
- Toss the ball in the air. Follow the ascent and descent of the ball with your eyes and head.
- Emphasize the catch so that we can "see" the weight of the ball by the way it affects your hand.
- Toss the ball to another person.
- Roll the ball to another person.

Experiment with different kinds of imaginary balls: billiard balls, balloons, beach balls, marbles, and footballs. Consider how you would throw, catch, or roll balls that are wet, sticky, hot, fragile, etc.

ACTIVITIES TO ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE:

★ This exercise isolates the eyes as the focus for communication. Ask students to imagine they are watching the following scenario using only their eyes to convey each idea:

- a tennis match
- an airplane flying high in the sky
- a good friend coming to greet you

- Ask students to create the following activities using pantomime:
  - Fishing
  - Playing basketball
  - Dealing cards
  - Walking a dog
  - Roller skating
  - Making your bed
  - Brushing your teeth.

- Nonverbal communication conveys a message about an action, object, or emotion, without the use of words. Use gestures, facial expressions and bodily movement to convey the following:
  - Help! - Surprise!
  - I’m cold. - I’m sad.
  - I’m tired. - I’m happy.
  - Ouch! - I’m scared.

- Describe and illustrate gestures and bodily movements that are universal to people who work in the following professions:
  - doctor - photographer
  - musician - magician
  - hairdresser - cook
  - gardener - librarian

SUGGESTED RESOURCES:


Author: Barbara Leonard, Edited by Susan Cambigue-Tracey, © The Music Center of Los Angeles County www.musiccenter.org/ontour@MusicCenterLA
AND THE MUSIC CENTER ANNOUNCE

THE CHAMELEONS TO PERFORM ON ____________________________

and The Music Center today announced the upcoming Chameleons 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 Chameleons. 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.

The world-renowned Physical Theater duo called The Chameleons, also known as Keith Berger and Sharon Diskin, have captivated thousands of young people world-wide with their electrifying performances. Their highly acclaimed children's programs are a celebration of theatre magic, wonder and surprise. Magical electric stairways transport audiences through an amazing array of imaginary objects, characters and places. Through audience participation and observation, students are amazed to discover how far their imaginations -- and the Chameleons -- can take them.

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 CHAMELEONS

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, Symphonian Campus Tours, Grand Park

PROGRAM SUPPORT PROVIDED BY: