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

THE TINKERS
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 Tinkers are roving musicians who blend the art of the Highland bagpipes with the primal driving rhythms of drums and the Bronze Age horn. They play the kind of music you might have heard hundreds of years ago in a Scottish castle or around a campfire. You will learn about the history of the music, as well as what life was like back then. Please welcome The Tinkers!"

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

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

EQUIPMENT
• 2 electrical outlets on or near the stage

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

PARKING
• Two spaces close to the venue for loading and unloading

ASSISTANCE
• Please have a school representative ready to welcome the performers and 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 TINKERS

ART FORM: Music
STYLE: Traditional and Modern
CULTURE: Celtic

MEET THE ARTIST:

Pioneers of the growing Tribal Celtic (KEL-tick) movement, The Tinkers have been playing haunting, heart-pounding bagpipes and irresistible, tribal drums as a professional touring band since 1995. Founder, Aaron Shaw has been playing the Scottish Bagpipes for over 30 years. He is a much loved and well-respected teacher in the Los Angeles area and at the California summer school put on by the College of Piping in Glasgow, Scotland: he is the only American on staff. His music can be heard on TV in "Friends," and other shows, as well as in several big-budget films including "The Fugitive." He is a member of the Los Angeles Police Pipe Band and has recorded with many artists including Bonnie Raitt. Pat Baron plays the Tapan, a big bass drum used in many styles of folk music. Keith Jones brings over three decades of experience and an incredibly diverse drumming language to the band. He has played every style, performing with such greats as Dwight Yoakam, Joe Houston, and the Neville Brothers. He also makes some of the drums he plays. CJ Henderson is the group's didgeridoo, bronze-age Irish horn player and he is also accomplished on the Irish rim drum called the Bodhran.

PREPARING FOR THE EXPERIENCE:

The first thing you will notice when you meet The Tinkers is that they are all wearing kilts. The kilt is not a skirt but the national costume of Scotland. The men also wear sporrans - the purses that hang in front. These can be made of many different materials. Can you spot the one that is made from Icelandic sheep's wool?

Historians believe that bagpipes originated in the Middle East and that the Roman infantry introduced them to Britain 2000 years ago where the Scots adopted them and made them their national instrument. Aaron will explain how bagpipes are played. They have no volume control and can be loud! Notice that when he plays, Aaron keeps his fingers straight - not curved like on most other wind instruments.

The band often play medleys of tunes - one tune following another, often with a change in tempo. Watch how they handle these breaks, moving smoothly into the next section.

The bass drum that is played - the tapan - does not simply play a steady beat like you would hear in a marching band. His pattern varies as he improvises with the tune.

Keith plays a snare drum which has a more mellow sound than you find on drums in most marching bands. The unique element in the band is Jay's Celtic Bronze Age Horn. This is an exact copy of one that was discovered in an Irish bog. It’s a heavy, curved pipe that is played like an Australian didgeridoo by blowing a continuous flow of air into it using a tricky technique known as ‘circular breathing.’

The percussionists in the band sometimes use the bodhran. This drum is played by hand or by using a beater known as the ‘tipper.’ A lot of fast wrist action is needed. Watch how the other hand on the back side of the drum is changing the pitch.

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE:

The show features Celtic music from Scotland and Ireland. This is not the Pibroch which is (pronounced pee-brock) classical music of Scotland, but the party music that invites one to grin and clap along to the pulsating rhythms. The show begins with "Caber Feidh" - ("stag’s horn" in Gaelic) - a tune from the 1600s for bagpipes and drums. After introducing themselves and their instruments, the group plays "Hugh Ross," a modern tune. They explain the difference between a jig and a reel and teach the students an easy way to tell which is which. A student is invited to demonstrate how the nine yards of heavy cloth in a 'great kilt' are worn. "Pumpkin Fancy" is an Irish horn pipe tune and "Fiollaigeann" is a Gaelic song that starts out slowly and changes into an upbeat version. A question and answer session is followed by "Scotland the Brave" and the program concludes with "Black Bear," another traditional melody.
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

• When the bagpipes began to play, which sounded first? The drones or the chanter? (Drones)

• How did the bagpipes make you feel on an emotional level?

• How did Jay keep the note sounding continuously on his Celtic Bronze Age Horn? ("Circular breathing" where the cheeks keep pushing air out while quickly breathing in through the nose)

• What was the player’s hand doing on the back side of the bodhran? (Pushing it to raise the pitch)

• How many of the instruments you saw were wind instruments? (Two. The bagpipes and the Celtic horn.)

• How many melody instruments were there? (Just the bagpipes)

ACTIVITIES TO ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE:

• Take a standard sheet of paper, 11” X 8.5”, and roll it between your hands into a tube of approximately 1” diameter. Put your lips into the end of this roll and make a “raspberry” sound, vibrating your lips. This ‘didgeridoo’ will create its own note. Roll the paper tighter and decrease the diameter of the ‘mouthpiece’ and you will produce a higher note. Enlarging the mouthpiece will produce lower notes. Tape it in place when you have all agreed on the note you want (a "Bb" to play with your home made reed instruments. The diameter will be about 11/4”.

• Construct your own wind instrument using a vibrating reed to produce five notes of a scale. Use plastic drinking straws and scissors. Flatten the end of a plastic drinking straw and cut a V-shaped wedge 1/2” long out of both the top and the bottom. Slit the sides of the straw down 3/8”. Sit down, put the reed in your mouth, close your lips and blow! Adjust the position in your mouth and apply pressure. You will get a “Bb”. On the top side, cut a small finger hole 1 1/4” from the other end. Slowly enlarge the hole until it sounds a “C”. Cut the next hole 1 1/4” further up. “D”. The 3rd hole should be 7/8” further up and be a “Eb.” The “F” is 1” further up. Experiment with your instrument. Play a melody while others play single ‘drone’ notes (“Bb”) on their didgeridoos.

• Can you mime playing the bagpipes? As you blow into the blow pipe, the bag inflates, pushing your left elbow outwards. Keep your fingers straight across the holes in the chanter, left hand above the right hand.

• Many great wind instrument players such as Miles Davis and Kenny G use “circular breathing.” Australian Aboriginals have been doing this for 10,000 years. Research this technique that is used to obtain a continuous sound on a wind instrument even when breathing in. For more info, visit: www.didgeridooostore.com/circularbreathing.html

SUGGESTED RESOURCES:


__________________________________________________________

LEGEND

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS CONTENT STANDARD STRANDS

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

Author: Paul Tracey. Edited by Susan Cambique-Tracey © The Music Center of Los Angeles County www.musiccenter.org/ontour @MusicCenterLA
AND THE MUSIC CENTER ANNOUNCE
THE TINKERS TO PERFORM ON ____________________________

and The Music Center today announced the upcoming Tinkers 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 Tinkers. 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 Tinkers, a roving pipe-and-drum band, bring their exciting program filled with vitality and humor to stages across America as they blend the ancient art of Highland bagpipes with the primitive, driving rhythms of drums -- the bass drum, bodhran (Irish Rim Drum) and snare. Enjoy stirring jigs and rousing reels from the Scottish Highlands, spiced with the Celtic tunes of Ireland and the many lands graced by the Gaelic people. Listen to the tones of the Great Highland Bagpipe joined to the ancient and haunting call of the Bronze-Age Celtic Horn - a sound lost for over a millennium.

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 TINKERS

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, Symphonia Campus Tours, Grand Park

PROGRAM SUPPORT PROVIDED BY:

[Logos of various sponsors]