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

WE TELL STORIES

Earth Tales
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. This performance is entitled Earth Tales and features We Tell Stories. These actors are going to explore some folk tales with you from ancient cultures. These are stories from people who lived a long time ago. These were people who understood how important our earth was to their survival and they told stories to remind them to take care of the earth. Please welcome We Tell Stories!

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
- 15’ wide x 15’ deep minimum
- Portable stages must be sturdy, level and securely lashed

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

OUTDOOR PERFORMANCE
- The area must be shaded, sheltered from wind, and away from distractions

DRESSING AREA
One dressing room (not a restroom) near the stage

EQUIPMENT
- One microphone with stand for indoor performances.
- Three microphones for outdoor performances

AUDIENCE SEATING
- Need at least one aisle in the audience, for access to and from the stage.

ARRIVAL
- 15-30 minutes prior to the scheduled start time to prepare and set up

PARKING
- Three spaces 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
WE TELL STORIES—Earth Tales

ART FORM: Storytelling/Theater
STYLE: Contemporary
CULTURE: Multicultural

MEET THE ARTIST:

We Tell Stories is a multi-ethnic storytelling troupe founded by Artistic Director Carl Weintraub. The company has a threefold purpose: to entertain and educate children through the literature, folklore, and mythology of all times and cultures; to expose them to the processes of language and acting as art forms; and to inspire them to plumb the depths and reach the heights of their own creativity. To this end, the group diligently seeks fresh material and performs it with an extemporaneous flavor, encouraging children to participate in their minds, from their seats and on the stage. In this way, the children see themselves as an integral part of the process, not only witnessing, but also experiencing the stories’ morals, the art, and the fun. An old trunk filled with props and costumes is the solitary set, and it is the group’s hope that the audiences go away saying to themselves, “I could do that!” And, perhaps they will.

PREPARING FOR THE EXPERIENCE:

Every day, someone somewhere tells another person a story. It might be true. It might be fictional. It might be a story from long ago, or from today, or even about tomorrow.

Telling stories is the way people recall important events, imagine the future, or share thoughts, beliefs and values. Telling a tale helps us learn in an enjoyable way; the lessons we hear delight us, excite us, and stay with us for a lifetime. The tales of ancient cultures help children imagine what life was like in different times. In Earth Tales, students will see and hear how important it is to cherish and care for this planet we all share.

A dominant theme in the performance is ecology. Ecology is the study of the relationship of plants and animals (including man) to their physical and biological environment. The word is drawn from the Greek term oikos, which means “household.” Our household, the Earth, is made possible through an intricate system of relationships between the essential elements of our atmosphere: light, heat (solar radiation), moisture, wind, oxygen, carbon dioxide, and nutrients in the soil, water and atmosphere. We are a part of this system, in that our actions can have a direct effect on our environment and on the others around us.

Practicing respect for our physical surroundings helps us learn to respect ourselves and others. No matter where we come from, we still all live on the same Earth, and need the same things to survive. Outside our homes is our second home, where we walk, play, work and live. This “home” is shared with many others. It is hoped that through these stories, students will learn a little bit more about “our” shared household.

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE:

The places we live (our homes, streets, neighborhoods, cities and countries) all inhabit the same planet: the Earth. “Earth Tales” tell about cultures who shared this planet long before our time, people who lived closely with Mother Earth. They listened to her voice, shared her rhythms and sang her songs. The stories which comprise this program are: “Who Owns the Land,” which presents a myth from Norway about the Norse Goddess Freya, and how she settles an argument between two farmers who both claim to “own” the land. “The Invisible Hunters,” a tale from the Miskito people of Nicaragua which tells of a group of hunters who are given the gift of invisibility as long as they keep a very special promise. “The Rainbow Bridge,” a Chumash creation myth tells of the arrival of man in the land we now call California. All of these stories will help students think deeply about the wonder of our beautiful planet.
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

• Which of the stories did you like best? Why?
• In “Who Owns the Land,” what lesson did the two farmers learn? Who does “own” the land?
• In “The Invisible Hunters,” what happened when the hunters broke their promise?
• Why did the people in “The Rainbow Bridge” have to leave their land and cross the sea? The story tells why the Chumash people feel closely related to dolphins. Have you ever felt close to an animal? Why?
• Which characters in the stories did you like the best? Which ones would you most want to be like? Which ones didn’t you like? Why?

FRAMEWORK FOCUS—HISTORY/SOCIAL STUDIES:

Everyone has a story to tell; everyone’s life is interesting, special and worth hearing about. Ask your students to imagine that they are a character in a story. Help them make a list of “titles” for personal life stories, such as “My Horrible Shopping Trip,” or “The Wonderful Birthday,” “The Day I Was Late for School” or “My Hamster and Me.” The titles should reflect actual events. (This activity may be adjusted for grade level; younger students can create a single class story about an event that they have shared or all experienced, such as going to the market, playing outside, taking a walk, or a class fire drill or field trip.) After students have selected titles, help them answer the following questions:

• What is your story about?
• Where does it take place?
• What is the most important event that happens?
• Who are the other important people in the story?
• What problems do your characters face?
• What lessons do your characters learn?

Place children in pairs or groups, or keep them together as a class, and ask them to begin “writing” their stories. A simple way to begin is “Once upon a time, there was a....” Students may create their stories verbally, or may use this as a writing assignment.

ACTIVITIES TO ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE:

• Use a globe to identify the countries or areas of origin for the various Earth Tales. Ask students to find southern California. How far away is it from the other locations?
• Using the globe or a world map, identify locations for the settings in some of your core literature. Look at the topography of the areas. Are there lakes or rivers? Are there mountains? Are there oceans or deserts?
• Ask students to select a story from the performance or a core literature story and have them read about and research the location of the story. Then ask them to draw a picture from the story, making sure they include parts of the natural environment such as trees, plants and animals, or appropriate weather events, such as rain, snow or sunshine.
• Ask students to look around their own home and ask themselves what they and their family are doing to help protect their personal part of the Earth. Do they recycle? Do they take care of their parks and playgrounds? Do the volunteer to help with clean ups?

★ Review the following vocabulary with students. How do these terms relate to the performance? What do these words mean? Why are they important to your students and to future generations? Atmosphere

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<tr>
<th>Visual and Performing Arts Content Standard Strands</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>★ Artistic perception</td>
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<tr>
<td>● Creative expression</td>
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<tr>
<td>■ Historical &amp; cultural context</td>
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<td>◆ Aesthetic valuing</td>
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<td>♦ Connections, Relations, Applications</td>
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SUGGESTED RESOURCES:


School Contact Name: ____________________________
Phone: _______________________________________

AND THE MUSIC CENTER ANNOUNCE

WE TELL STORIES TO PERFORM ON __________________________

________________________ and The Music Center today announced the upcoming We Tell Stories 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 We Tell Stories. 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.

We Tell Stories is a masterful group of theatre artists, founded in 1981 by children’s theatre innovator Carl Weintraub. The group uses a unique blend of storytelling, audience participation and sometimes original music to bring folklore, literature and mythology from all cultures and times to life. An old trunk filled with homemade props and costumes serves as the vehicle through which sets and characters are created, with ordinary objects transforming to support extraordinary stories. Humor and fantasy enthrall as stories of honesty, friendship, self-esteem and more enlighten all audiences. The professional artists who make up the company of We Tell Stories handle audiences of all age ranges with ease, and consistently deliver first-rate, mad-cap performances with joy and enthusiasm. Whether the viewer is young or simply young at heart, We Tell Stories is sure to capture, entertain and educate.

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

WE TELL STORIES

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