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

WILL & COMPANY
Don Quixote
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 name of this company of actors is Will and Company. They will be presenting scenes from Miguel Cervante's classic novel "Don Quixote."

Please welcome Will and Company!"

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
- 15' wide x 10' deep minimum (some flexibility available)
  - Must be clean and lighted

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

DRESSING AREA
- One clean, secured dressing area will be needed

STUDENT PARTICIPATION
- This performance provides a unique opportunity for a few students from your school to be performers in each show
- Please select 6 students to participate for each show (can be different students each show or the same students for each show)
- Students should report to the performance space 30 minutes prior to the performance. (If performance schedule is tight and includes multiple shows, all students should arrive 30 prior to the first performance)

ARRIVAL
- 60 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
WILL & COMPANY—“Don Quixote”

ART FORM: Theatre
STYLE: Classical
CULTURE: Spanish

MEET THE ARTIST:

Will & Company is a multicultural theatre ensemble with a “Professional Designation in Arts Education” award from the Los Angeles County Arts Commission. This unique company performs exciting adaptations of some of the world’s greatest classic literature. Under the artistic direction of Colin Cox, they present major scenes from plays, interspersed with narration and background information. Some plays performed by Will & Company include physical humor and dazzling swordplay. The troupe performs Shakespeare’s “Romeo and Juliette,” as well as adaptations of other great works, such as Homer’s “The Odyssey,” and Charles Dickens’ novella, “A Christmas Carol.” Will & Company has performed locally at The Geffen Playhouse, The Los Angeles Theatre Center, and El Capitan. They also tour nationally, presenting both classic works and original plays highlighting diversity. In 2005, Will & Company was nominated for a GLADD award for their production of “A Pebble in My Shoe.”

PREPARING FOR THE EXPERIENCE:

Miguel de Cervantes (1547-1616) ranks as the outstanding writer of Spanish literature and is most famous for his masterpiece, Don Quixote. Unlike most writers of his time he did not go to a university. However, he read widely and his writings show the influence of other literary works, including pastoral novels, and romances of chivalry. Cervantes joined the Spanish army in 1568 and fought in a naval battle against the Turks in 1571, where he was wounded in the chest and left hand. He was devoted to military life and so remained in the army, fighting in northern Africa and other Mediterranean lands. Cervantes sailed for Spain in 1575, but when his ship was captured by pirates, he was taken as a slave to Algiers where he spent the next five years. Cervantes attempted to escape several times before his family, working with a religious order, finally ransomed (paid for his release) him. Incidents from his captivity became episodes in Don Quixote. After obtaining his freedom, Cervantes reached Madrid in 1580, seeking employment to repay the cost of his ransom. He hoped to resume his military career, but instead obtained a job as a messenger. Shortly thereafter, Cervantes married and began to write prose and verse. Appointed as a grain collector, Cervantes met many kinds of people as he traveled the highways of southwestern Spain. He gained an understanding of human nature that enabled him to explore the conflict between hope and disillusionment, as well as differences between dreams and reality. Although he wrote many plays, stories and poems, his novel Don Quixote remains his major literary legacy. The hero of Don Quixote is a Spanish landowner who reads fictional tales of knights of old, which he believes to be true. Wishing to live the life of a knight, he takes the name, “Don Quixote de la Mancha,” and sets out to gain fame by performing heroic deeds. Sancho Panza, a peasant, serves as his squire. Small, round Sancho riding his donkey contrasts with the tall, thin Don Quixote on his scrawny horse. Sancho stands for the “real” in life; Don Quixote for the “ideal.” Cervantes published the novel in two parts, one in 1605 and the other in 1615. Until the 1800s, Don Quixote was thought of as a humorous story of a madman’s adventures. Then it became a model for a new type of fiction featuring hero’s who do not conform to their times.

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE:

Writer Miguel de Cervantes’ Don Quixote de la Mancha is brought to the stage in an adventurous adaption. Presenting the action of Book I of the two-part novel, Will & Company’s production introduces the audience to the legendary characters Don Quixote and his squire Sancho Panza. The two companions embark on a quest to capture the “Golden Helmet of Mambrino.” Along the way he battles windmills, thought to be giants, and sheep, thought to be soldiers. The character of Cervantes narrates the saga, which is performed in a madcap Commedia dell’ Arte style. Following the presentation there is a question-and-answer session during which a diversity of topics, such as the life of Spanish author Cervantes, acting, or stage combat, may be discussed.
**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

- Describe the character of Don Quixote using your own ideas and words. Next, describe the character of Sancho Panza, his squire. What are the main things that make them stay together as companions?

- What things about the story seemed real? What things seemed more like a dream, or part of Don Quixote’s imagination?

- What impressed you most about the characters? About the story?

- Did anything about the story (play) upset or confuse you? If so, what?

- What did you find humorous?

- Did the story make you think of other people or characters from another story or play? If so, tell what make them similar.

**FRAMEWORK FOCUS—SOCIAL STUDIES/HISTORY:**

Don Quixote was inspired by the knights of old and their chivalrous deeds. Have you ever been inspired to be like someone that you read about in a book, or studied in history? Name some of these people and briefly tell what you found interesting or attractive about them. Then, select one of these people and imagine that you could invite them over for a chat. Think about the questions you would like to ask them. What would you like to know about their childhood, their family, their problems, challenges, favorite things, environment, friends, and work? Write down a list of 5-10 questions that you would like to ask the person you select. Then, find a partner. Each partner will give their questions to the other. The partner will ask each of the questions to the person who wrote them. The person who wrote them will answer them, to the best of their ability, as the character they chose. Each partner will need to try to understand his or her character to do this. After, do a research project and see if students can find the actual answers to the questions they asked. Reflect on how the factual answers compared with the imagined responses.

**ACTIVITIES TO ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE:**

- Don Quixote dreamed about living a life different from the one he had. If you could dream about a life that is different from the one you have, what would that life be like? At what time in history would you live? Where would you live? Who would be your friends? What kind of work might you do? What age would you be? How would you entertain yourself? What would be the biggest thing in your dream life that is different from your real life? If you can imagine this life, what would be the biggest problems or challenges you might face? How would you face them? You can either write your dream life down or find a partner and share stories with each other.

- Do research on the internet and see what additional information you can research about Miguel de Cervantes or his novel, Don Quixote de la Mancha. Select one to three things that you found to be interesting or important. Summarize these points and write them down. Get everyone smarter by sharing your findings with a partner, in a small group, or with the class.

- Recall the way the actors were dressed in the play and the props they used. What were the skills they used to get you to believe that these props and clothes were real or authentic (focus, concentration, intention, they believed it, good acting, etc.)? Think about the casting of the characters. State what you think actors must do to play the parts of different characters. How would a young person play an old person? How would a person play the role of an animal? How would a woman play a man? Discuss the skills that actors must develop to be convincing in the part they play.

- Think of the relationship that Quixote had with his squire Sancho. How would you describe their relationship in a few words? Do you have a good friend? If you and your friend were to go on a journey together, what role would each of you take? In other words, who would do the planning? Who would manage the money? Who would cause most of the problems? Who would solve most of the problems? Who would be best in meeting new people? Who would tell the jokes or stories? Who would be best in finding interesting places to visit? What is the best thing you value, admire, or like about your friend? What might he/she most value, or admire about you?

**SUGGESTED RESOURCES:**


AND THE MUSIC CENTER ANNOUNCE
WILL & COMPANY TO PERFORM ON

and The Music Center today announced the upcoming Will & Company 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 Will & Company. 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.

Will & Company’s founder/director Colin Cox and a touring group of artists, much like the troupes who traversed the provinces in Shakespeare’s day, make ageless classics more accessible to young audiences. Celebrate the timeless language and classic theatre of Shakespeare’s work by selecting a tragedy or a comedy for students to enjoy. Each performance features narration of the story of the play, a presentation of several major scenes, and information about the history and background of the play. These dynamic performances are a great way to intrigue, entrance and educate students about the captivating work of William Shakespeare.

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

WILL & COMPANY

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, Symphonian Campus Tours, Grand Park

PROGRAM SUPPORT PROVIDED BY: