

**The Music Center  
Performing Artists  
in Schools and  
Neighborhoods**



**Exciting  
Dance  
Music  
Theatre  
Storytelling  
Performances  
Come To You**

# **PACIFICO DANCE COMPANY**

# 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 host 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, notify The 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.

## 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 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.

## PRESS RELEASE AND POSTER

A template press release is included should you wish to publicize the event. If you wish to use it, simply copy the text into a word document and fill in the blanks with the appropriate information. A premade poster is also included to let your community know about the upcoming event.

## CURRICULUM CONNECTION FOR CLASSROOM TEACHERS

These pre- and post-event classroom activities are designed to deepen the understanding and engagement 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.

## 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.

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.

## Performance Introduction

"I would like to introduce today's performance which is presented by The Music Center of Los Angeles County. Pacifico Dance Company features authentic dances from Mexico's vibrant folk traditions in stunning regional attire. Please give a warm welcome to artists whose work celebrates the cultural pride and joy of the Mexican folk tradition, Pacifico Dance 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!

## SPACE

- 30'w x 30'd minimum
  - No portable stages
- Elevated stage is preferred

## SURFACE

- Wooden surface preferred
- Freshly mopped (not waxed)
- Irregularities covered with tape
- Extraneous clutter removed

## DRESSING AREA

- Two dressing areas are needed, preferably near the stage

## EQUIPMENT

- A sound system with input for playback
  - Two microphones

## AUDIENCE SEATING

- If there are no front stairs to the stage there should be a cleared passage from the audience to the side stage stairs (ideally on both sides) as the performers bring students onto the stage

## ARRIVAL

- 45 minutes prior to the scheduled start time to prepare and set up

## PARKING

- Four spaces close to the venue for loading and unloading

## ASSISTANCE

- Please have a representative ready to welcome the performers and to stay and help as needed with lighting and sound cues

## START TIME

- Please prepare to start the program on time
- Audience should be in the venue, seated and ready to begin at the listed times

## PACIFICO DANCE COMPANY

**ART FORM:** Dance

**STYLE:** Traditional

**CULTURE:** Mexican

### MEET THE ARTIST:

Pacífico Dance Company, California's premier Mexican folk-dance company, is a Los Angeles-based ensemble whose works combine traditional styles with modern dance idioms to create dynamic and vibrant choreographies. Artistic director, Adriana Gainey places careful emphasis on Mesoamerican cultures and traditions that have blended European, Latin American, African and Caribbean stylings while preserving history through dance and music. She began her training at a young age at the school of Ballet Folklórico de Mexico under the direction of Amalia Hernandez. She has twice been honored with the Irvine Dance Maker award and has done several collaborations with educational organizations to produce performances for K-12 students. Pacífico captivates audiences and promotes pride in the Latino community through dance, conveying the uniqueness and diversity of the Mexican culture. They have performed extensively throughout the United States including a residency at the Kennedy Center.

### ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE:

Spectacularly attired, this performance is filled with exhilarating dancing, music and history from different states in Mexico. It begins with a solo dance accompanied by the musical sounds of a rattle. The audience is given an overview of the dances and the influences of European and African cultures. The next set of dances involve the portrayal of the animals featured in the dances, a bull and iguana. Throughout the performance, attire is modeled and props, such as a fan and handkerchief, are featured so students can appreciate their relevance. Rhythmic footwork, an important part of Mexican dance is introduced as selected students try a few patterns on stage. Next is the suite called "Fiesta en Veracruz," incorporating complex footwork in one dance, and the courtship practice of tying a bow between a couple in another. The next dance is known as a "polka" and is found in the Northern desert state of Chihuahua. This movement style and music resembles that of the Southwest with cowboys on farms. "The Mexican Hat Dance," the national dance of Mexico, follows. The program concludes with "Jalisco," a dance famous for whirling skirts and mariachi music- which is also a tribute to Amalia Hernandez.

### PREPARING FOR THE EXPERIENCE:

Mexico, which shares the southern boundary of the United States and extends to Central America, has snow-capped mountains, humid plains, hostile deserts, thick jungles, lush farmland and beautiful coastlines. These geological features have influenced the movements, music and attire of the various regional dances. From the time of the Olmec Indians to the birth of modern Mexico, more than 30 distinct cultures have influenced Mexican civilization, including several European ones. The Aztecs remain the most extensively documented of all Amerindian civilizations at the time of European contact in the 16th century. However, the Mayans were also a great influence in the southern part of Mexico and Central America. It is important to note that dance, music and ritual have been very significant in all of these cultures, but when European cultures mixed with indigenous people, they produced a new group called mestizo (mixed). "Danza de Los Viejitos" originated in the state of Michoacan, perhaps the richest folk art region in all of Mexico. Located in the southwestern part of Mexico, Michoacan takes its name from Nahuatl, an Aztec word meaning "the place of the fishermen." The history of Michoacan is diverse, dominated early on by the powerful Tarascan tribe, also known as Purépecha. The following set of dances, "El Toro Rabon" and "La Iguana" come from the state of Guerrero in Western Mexico. This lush tropical area blends the spicy richness of many South American and African cultures with the tranquility and independence of the native coastal people. "Fiesta en Veracruz" (Totonacs) highlights Zapateado, or rhythmic foot patterns, and also "Bamba," the dance where a couple ties a ribbon into a bow using their feet. The state of

Veracruz has humid jungles where pre-Hispanic cultures like the Totonacs still survive. The final dances from Jalisco (Mestizo) dances, like "The Mexican Hat Dance," emerged from the rancho culture and express courtship. At the end of the dance, when the man places his hat on the floor, it shows his love for the woman.



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What stood out for you in this performance and why?
- Did you see any similarities in the dances you saw performed and the dances you and your friends do? If so, what similarities did you spot? How are they different?
- Describe the that you remember from what the dancers were wearing. Can you name the dance that corresponded to each outfit? What is the region or state?
- Which two dances contrasted the most? In what ways were they different? What cultures influenced each of them?
- What did you learn about the Mexican culture from watching and listening to the performance?
- What most surprised you or interested you about the performance?

## FRAMEWORK FOCUS—HISTORY/SOCIAL STUDIES:

Diego Rivera is considered to be one of the most popular and well-known Mexican artists of his time (1886-1957). He painted the Mexican people, their traditions, political conflicts, and the life surrounding them. Diego created an art form that was specifically Mexican, drawing strong, simple, expressive images that were painted with bold strokes and strong colors. As a young man he visited Italy and was greatly impressed by the church murals that showed various scenes, visions and stories. When he returned to Mexico he made murals instead of painting on canvas, for it was a way to share Mexico's history and stories with all of the people.

Go to the library, or online, and research the art of Diego Rivera. Bring pictures of his paintings and murals to share. Select and discuss specific paintings, noting the mood, colors, use of space, shapes and subject matter. What words, images, ideas and feelings does each painting evoke in the students?

Discuss any connections you can see between the dance, music and images. What do they have in common? What is unique about each?

## ACTIVITIES TO ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE:

**Cr** Select two pieces of Mexican music, one traditional and one more contemporary. Listen to each one; find ways that you would move naturally to each one. Possible choices could include "Jarabe Tapatio" (Mexican Hat Dance) and a mambo by Pérez Prado. You will probably find that the traditional music has a stronger, driving underlying beat, while the mambo is a little freer. You might begin by moving one part of your body, such as shoulders, head, feet, etc. Explore ideas with others. Can you combine a movement that incorporates two body parts (feet and arms, etc.).

**Re** Analyze two of the dances you saw in the performance and write a paragraph describing each one. Then, see if you can make contrasts and comparisons between them in a third paragraph.

**Cn** Find a map and locate Mexico. Notice where it is in relation to the United States. Locate the states of Michoacan, Guerrero, Mexico, Veracruz and Jalisco.

**Cn** Pacífico strives to maintain the integrity of the art form of Mexican folkloric dance, while creating new works that incorporate modern dance. Talk about what it is like to be an American and also to have traditions from another country. How do you combine two cultures? Give examples from your own life or from people you know, or have observed.

## SUGGESTED RESOURCES:

Mesta, Martin Antonio Nunez. Bailes del folklore Mexicano/Mexican Folk Dances: teaching. Editorial Trillas S.A. De C.V. 2001 .

"Amalia Hernández & Ballet Folklórico De México." *The Music Center*, The Music Center, [www.musiccenter.org/education/Teacher-Resources/Artsource-Curriculum/Available-ArtSource-Units/Amalia-Hernandez--Ballet-Folklorico-de-Mexico/](http://www.musiccenter.org/education/Teacher-Resources/Artsource-Curriculum/Available-ArtSource-Units/Amalia-Hernandez--Ballet-Folklorico-de-Mexico/).

### California Arts Standards: Artistic Processes

- Cr** Creating
- Pr** Performing/Producing/Presenting
- Re** Responding
- Cn** Connecting

Learn more at:

<https://tinyurl.com/ArtsStandardsCA>

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **AND THE MUSIC CENTER ANNOUNCE**  
**PACIFICO DANCE COMPANY TO PERFORM ON** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ and The Music Center today announced the upcoming performance of Pacifico Dance Company on campus. As part of the school's continuing efforts to supplement its curriculum and its students' educational experience through a live performance, the school will host a special presentation from The Music Center on Tour roster. The performance is presented by The Music Center's education department, part of TMC Arts, which provides many offerings including live performances, classroom workshops, scholarship and training programs, online arts curriculum, on-campus events and professional development.

Under the direction of Adriana Astorga-Gainey, Pacifico Dance Company presents spectacular performances of Mexican folklorico dances. A leading international dance company based in Los Angeles, the company educates and enlightens all communities, while at the same time providing Latino audiences with powerful insights into their own heritage. These brilliant artists present works that combine the essence of traditional styles with modern dance idioms. Spectacularly costumed, this performance is filled with animated dancing and exhilarating music that is sure to thrill and amaze.

For more than 40 years, The Music Center Performing Artists in Schools and Neighborhoods have been the premier resource for high-quality educational performances, offering one of the most compelling and diverse artistic rosters. The Music Center's incredible artists bring the magic of live performance to audiences throughout Los Angeles County, with an emphasis on programs that are an excellent fit for educational and neighborhood settings. All Music Center Performing Artists in Schools and Neighborhoods performances include standards-based curriculum materials that feature background information on the artists and their performance, as well as related classroom activities with connections to multiple curricular disciplines. Schools can choose from more than 60 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**

The Music Center convenes artists, communities and ideas with the goal of deepening the cultural lives of every resident in Los Angeles County. The \$70 million non-profit performing arts organization has two divisions: TMC Arts and TMC Ops. TMC Arts, The Music Center's programming engine, provides year-round programming inside The Music Center's four theatres, on Jerry Moss Plaza, outside at Grand Park—a 12-acre adjacent green space—in schools and other locations all over Los Angeles County and on a digital platform called The Music Center Offstage. TMC Arts presents world-class dance with Glorja Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center, free and low-cost public concerts and events, as well as live and digital K–12 arts education programs, workshops, performances, interactive experiences and special events. TMC Ops manages the theatres, the Plaza and Grand Park, which comprise \$2 billion in county assets, on behalf of the County of Los Angeles. The Music Center is also home to four renowned resident companies—Center Theatre Group, Los Angeles Master Chorale, LA Opera and LA Phil. For more information, visit [musiccenter.org](http://musiccenter.org). Follow The Music Center on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @MusicCenterLA.

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*For more information, please contact The Music Center at 213-972-3332. Members of the media are welcome to cover this performance. Please contact The Music Center prior to sending a reporter or photographer to the*

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**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TIME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**LOCATION:** \_\_\_\_\_



[musiccenter.org/performingartists](https://musiccenter.org/performingartists)  
@MusicCenterLA

THE  
MUSIC  
CENTER  
A TMC Arts Program



## ARTS INTEGRATION PARTNERSHIPS

Music Center teaching artists work in classrooms to empower student creativity and develop their artistic, work-force and life skills. The program deepens learning across the curriculum in collaboration with classroom teachers by combining dance, music, theatre, visual and media arts with content areas including English Language Arts, history, science and social emotional learning for students of all ages and abilities.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Music Center's professional development programs bring educators together to participate in an experiential and immersive approach to integrating dance, music, theatre, visual and media arts into their classrooms. The focus is on meeting educators where they are and building their capacity over time and in depth — both at school sites and at The Music Center. As but one example, each year The Music Center's Arts Integration Symposium engages participants in all grade levels, art forms and content areas.

## DANCE LEARNING PROGRAMS

*Glorya Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center* offers Student Matinee performances during each season featuring world-class dance performances that celebrate the diversity of L.A. communities; invited rehearsals that provide young people with an inside look at the creative process of dance companies in residence; master classes focused on technique, choreography and dialogue with professional dancers; and creative residencies where local youth engage with visiting dance companies for multiple days, including the Ailey school residency program.

## STUDENT FESTIVALS

The Very Special Arts Festival engages students of all abilities as artistic creators and contributors. At the Blue Ribbon Children's Festival, fifth graders across the county experience live performances and dance together as a community.

## SPOTLIGHT YOUNG ARTISTS PROGRAM

A nationally acclaimed, free arts training and scholarship program that develops the creative capacity of high school performing artists in Southern California.

## ARTS GROWN LA

A new platform for artistic expression already thriving in communities throughout Los Angeles County. From performances at parks, community centers, libraries, senior centers and civic events, to Hip Hop dance parties and youth lessons, Arts Grown L.A. collaborates with community partners and neighborhoods to uplift artists and creativity, complementing existing local programs.

## 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*, Grand Park, Dance DTLA, L.A. County Holiday Celebration, Plaza Concerts, and Symphonian Campus Tours, among other activities

For all our offerings, please visit us at [www.musiccenter.org](http://www.musiccenter.org)