

**THE
MUSIC
CENTER
ON
TOUR**

A TMC Arts Program

**EXCITING
DANCE
MUSIC
THEATRE
STORYTELLING
PERFORMANCES
COME TO YOU**

AMERICANA UNLIMITED

Abigail Adams

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.

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 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.

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 below text into a word document and fill in the blanks with the appropriate information. A premade poster is also included to let your school community know about 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.

PERFORMANCE INTRODUCTION



"I would like to introduce today's performance which is presented by The Music Center of Los Angeles County. This performance features Judith Helton as one of America's great ladies of the past - Abigail Adams. She will share with you the role she played in our country's struggle for freedom and in the American Revolution. Please join me in welcoming Mrs. Abigail Adams!"



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

- 12' wide x 8' deep minimum
- Portable stages must be sturdy, level and securely lashed with steps leading up to the stage

SURFACE

- A clean and safe freshly mopped (not waxed) floor for performing
- Irregularities covered with tape
- Extraneous clutter removed

DRESSING AREA

- One private dressing area (not a bathroom) must be ready upon artist's arrival

EQUIPMENT

- Have the following set up, cleared and ready before the artist arrives: two 3' wide tables, cleared

ARRIVAL

- Artist will arrive 1 hour and 45 minutes prior to an assembly; 75 minutes prior to a visit where she is in one location; and 45 minutes prior to a visit where she visits more than one room

PARKING

- One space near the venue for loading and unloading

ASSISTANCE

- Please have a school representative ready to welcome the performers and to stay and help as needed; this representative should have access to any doors and lights and power in the performance area

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

AMERICANA UNLIMITED—Abigail Adams

ART FORM: Storytelling/Historical Character

STYLE: Contemporary

CULTURE: North American

MEET THE ARTIST:

Actress Judith Helton literally steps into the past when she goes to work. Since 1976, she has brought history to life with her intriguing portrayals of women of accomplishment and artistic talent. Her versatile repertoire of one-woman shows consists of three from American history - First Lady Abigail Adams, Gold Rush entertainer Lotta Crabtree, pioneer author Laura Ingalls Wilder - and England's author/illustrator, Beatrix Potter. Each portrayal is meticulously researched from an historical perspective. Ms. Helton's professional theatre credits include work in resident acting companies in Baltimore, Milwaukee, Houston and San Diego. Internationally she has performed at the Edinburgh, Scotland World Theatre Festival, and in Dublin and Cork, Ireland. Ms. Helton's commitment to authenticity in her performances has led her to master such specialized skills as spinning, weaving, banjo playing and antique costume construction. She so truly becomes the women she plays, that it is little wonder when leaving her home she is asked by neighbors, "Who are you today?"

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE:

The year is 1789. Abigail Adams is packing to leave for the capital of the United States, at that time, it was in the city of New York. Her husband, John Adams, has just been notified that he is to become the first Vice-President of our new nation, the United States of America. The audience becomes part of the crowd gathered outside the Adams' home in Braintree, Massachusetts, as Abigail relives many of the outstanding events in her life. During our visit with Abigail Adams, we learn about education during the pre-revolutionary and revolutionary years; the role women played in the fight for freedom; the legal status of women; and the establishment of a new nation. This woman, who was the wife of one American president and the mother of another, was truly a "founding mother" of our nation. Students are encouraged to prepare for the discussion period that follows the presentation by studying the information provided in these pages.

PREPARING FOR THE EXPERIENCE:

Abigail was born in Weymouth, Massachusetts, on November 11, 1744, the daughter of Elizabeth Quincy Smith and William Smith, a Congregational minister. She is one of only two women in American history to be both the wife (John Adams -- 2nd President) and mother (John Quincy Adams -- 6th President) of a President; Barbara Bush is the other. An eyewitness to many of the great events of the American Revolution, Mrs. Adams knew outstanding figures of that time -- Washington, Jefferson, Franklin, Revere, Hamilton, Lafayette and King George III. Herself a patriot, she braved life on the home front in Braintree, Massachusetts, while her husband fought for liberty in the Continental Congress in Philadelphia and in Europe. Mrs. Adams endured wartime conditions. Like other 'daughters of liberty,' she provided aid to our Continental soldiers by making bullets and gunpowder, and joined in celebration when independence was declared.

Abigail never attended school; education for women was considered unnecessary. She was, however, determined to become educated and became an "eager gatherer" from the books available to her. In addition to learning to read, write and speak well, she taught herself English and Latin well enough to be able to teach these subjects to her children. Well read and articulate, one of her goals was to gain equal educational opportunities for women, a concept much ridiculed during her time.



Abigail married John Adams in October, 1764. From 1784 to 1788 she accompanied her husband to France and England, where he represented their new country, the United States of America. He was elected to Vice President of the United States in 1789 and served two terms. In 1796 he became the second President of the United States.

After living a long, productive life, she died at age of 74. She is considered to be one of the outstanding women of her time. She was an outspoken supporter of women's rights and racial equality. Leaders, such as Thomas Jefferson, respected and sought her advice on political matters. In the 20th century, former President Harry S. Truman said of Abigail Adams, "She would have made a better president than her husband."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- How did the actress, Judith Helton, help you believe that the real Abigail Adams was visiting your school? Have you seen any other plays where historical people were featured onstage?
- Who was Abigail Adams? Who was her husband? Her son? Why was her family important to our country?
- Abigail Adams is often considered to be one of the outstanding letter writers of her time, and often corresponded with very important people. If you could write a letter to an important person today, to whom would you write? What would you want to say? Why?
- Discuss what conditions were like for those who lived and fought during the American Revolution. What major problems did they face during their fight for freedom? (separation from family, confiscation of personal property, charges of treason, home front and battlefield hardships, negotiating with family and friends who held opposing views)

FRAMEWORK FOCUS—SOCIAL STUDIES/HISTORY:

Female patriots, such as Abigail Adams, played an important role in America's fight for freedom. They ran farms and shops when their men went off to fight, and also risked their lives in the cause for liberty. Following are a few examples of these patriots:

Sybil Ludington - At age 16, she rode through the countryside of Connecticut warning patriots of a British raid.

Mary Hays - Sometimes called Molly Pitcher because she carried pitchers of water needed to cool down cannons after firing, she fired a cannon herself after her husband was wounded.

Deborah Sampson - This lady changed her name to Robert Shurtleff, dressed as a man and joined the Continental Army as a soldier. She fought in battles, was wounded and treated the wound herself.

Select one of the women listed above and write an imaginary letter from her to a relative or friend, describing the exploits mentioned above. Use descriptive phrases to help the reader imagine what it was like to ride that horse through the countryside, or to fire those cannons. Read the letters to the class.

California Arts Standards: Artistic Processes

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

Learn more at:

<https://tinyurl.com/ArtsStandardsCA>

ACTIVITIES TO ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE:

Cn Discuss how the performance about Abigail Adams' life and adventures reflected the time and place in which she lived. Research one event of the time period that was most interesting to you, and try to imagine how that particular event would be different today. Write a short essay to describe the differences.

Cn In a letter to her husband dated March 31, 1776, Abigail Adams wrote, "In the new code of laws ... I desire you would remember the ladies... If particular care and attention is not paid to the ladies we are determined to foment a rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice, or representation." What did she mean by this comment? In partners, make a list of reasons why women should have representation in a government.

Cn During her lifetime, Abigail Adams helped in the founding of our country. She witnessed the transformation of America, which started as an English colony and became a free nation. What countries do you know that have struggled for freedom in the past or today? Discuss how our fight for freedom is interrelated.

Cn During the Revolutionary War, important information was spread through letters, newspapers, word of mouth and riders who delivered messages like Paul Revere. Often it took many days, or even weeks, for letters to reach the intended recipient. In what ways do we communicate today? Write a short paragraph describing how modern inventions and technology have affected our lifestyles and how we share information.

Pr In discussion or a written assignment, compare life today with life in Abigail Adams' time. Imagine living through a typical day over 200 years ago. Would you wake to an alarm clock or to a rooster crow? Would your water come from a faucet, a well or stream? Would your breakfast be cooked on the stove or in a fireplace? Continue the discussion or select one topic (schooling, games, clothing, chores, etc.) to research, write about and orally present to the class.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES:

Forbes, Esther. *Johnny Tremain (Winner of Newbery Medal)*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1943/2011.

Holton, Woody. *Abigail Adams*. Simon & Schuster, 2009.

Jacobs, Diane. *Dear Abigail*. New York: Ballantine Books, 2014.

True, Kelley. *Who Was Abigail Adams?*. Grosset & Dunlap, an Imprint of Penguin Random House, 2014.

Wheeler, Jill. *Abigail Adams*. for Young Readers, ABDO Publishing Co., 2010.

"The Philadelphia Campaign of 1777: Background." *Ushistory.org*, Independence Hall Association, www.ushistory.org/march/.

School Contact Name: _____

Phone: _____

_____ AND THE MUSIC CENTER ANNOUNCE AMERICANA UNLIMITED TO PERFORM ON _____

_____ and The Music Center today announced the upcoming performance of Americana Unlimited 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.

Actress Judith Helton literally steps into the past when she goes to work. Since 1976, she has brought history to life with her intriguing portrayals of women of accomplishment and artistic talent. Her versatile repertoire of one-woman shows consists of three from American history -- First Lady Abigail Adams, Gold Rush entertainer Lotta Crabtree, pioneer author Laura Ingalls Wilder -- and England's author/illustrator, Beatrix Potter. Each portrayal is meticulously researched from an historical perspective. Ms. Helton's professional theatre credits include work in resident acting companies in Baltimore, Milwaukee, Houston and San Diego. Internationally she has performed at the Edinburgh, Scotland "World Theatre Festival," and in Dublin and Cork, Ireland. Ms. Helton's commitment to authenticity in her performances has led her to master such specialized skills as spinning, weaving, banjo playing and antique costume construction.

The Music Center on Tour is a program of TMC Arts, The Music Center's programming engine, which provides relevant, engaging arts experiences that deepen the cultural lives of all in Los Angeles County. For more than 40 years, The Music Center on Tour has 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 settings. All Music Center on Tour 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 75 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 non-profit performing arts organization has two divisions: The Music Center Arts (TMC Arts) and The Music Center Operations (TMC Ops). TMC Arts, The Music Center's programming engine, provides year-round programming inside The Music Center's four theatres, on The Music Center Plaza, outside at Grand Park—a 12-acre adjacent green space—and in schools and other locations all over Los Angeles County. TMC Arts presents world-class dance with *Glorya Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center*, free and low-cost public concerts and events, as well as K–12 arts education programs. TMC Ops manages the theatres, the plaza and Grand Park 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. 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 school.

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A TMC Arts Program

EXCITING
DANCE
MUSIC
THEATRE
STORYTELLING
PERFORMANCES
COME TO YOU

THE MUSIC CENTER PRESENTS

AMERICANA UNLIMITED



DATE: _____

TIME: _____

SCHOOL: _____



musiccenter.org/ontour

THE
MUSIC
CENTER



OTHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS



ARTS INTEGRATION PARTNERSHIPS

The Music Center's teaching artists work in the classroom to empower student creativity and develop their artistic, workforce and life skills. Arts Integration Partnerships deepen learning across the curriculum in collaboration with classroom teachers by combining dance, music, theatre and visual 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 and visual 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 Summer Arts Studio for Educators engages participants in all grade levels, art forms and content areas.

STUDENT MATINEE PERFORMANCES

Each year, *Glorya Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center* offers free student matinee dance performances where young people experience world-class dance performances that celebrate the diversity of L.A. communities. 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 from across L.A. County experience a live professional performance at a world-class performing arts center, then gather together to perform a short-choreographed piece inspired by the production, dancing together as a community.

VERY SPECIAL ARTS FESTIVAL

The Very Special Arts Festival is an annual admission-free event engaging students of all abilities as artistic creators and contributors. The festival features student and professional performances on a large stage, visual and performing arts workshops, and a student art exhibit created around a central theme.

SPOTLIGHT

Spotlight is a free education and scholarship program open to Southern California teens, offering arts training, experience/workforce development skills and awards more than \$100,000 in scholarships annually.

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, and Symphonian Campus Tours, among other activities

For all our offerings, please visit us at www.musiccenter.org

