



Music Center Celebrates 30 Years of Bringing the Magic of the Arts to Los Angeles Schools

This November, the Music Center celebrates 30 years of providing quality arts experiences for students throughout Los Angeles County. As a result of the Center's leadership, the arts have advanced from the chopping block, to sporadic enrichment activities, to the core curriculum. Los Angeles is now on the verge of a historic reinvestment in arts education, in large part because of the Music Center's commitment to making the arts an integral part of every child's education.

When schools' arts programs were cut following passage of Proposition 13 in 1978, Mrs. Dorothy Chandler and her colleagues knew their leadership was needed. They established the Music Center Education Division to fill the void and keep the arts alive in schools. Under the visionary leadership of Joan Boyett, the Music Center implemented a unique "fee for service" model for school programs. Dr. Stuart Gothold, former Los Angeles County Superintendent, commented, "The Music Center had the vision and courage to break the 'charity model' of arts education. By paying a fee for the Music Center programs, schools were being re-trained to take ownership of the arts."

As the Music Center's education programs grew, they maintained a commitment to artistic quality and expansive regional access. "From the start, the Music Center has stood for artistic excellence. Although it is based in Downtown Los Angeles, the Music Center stood apart for its commitment and ability to bring the highest quality resources to districts like us, all the way in Santa Clarita," stated Judy Fish, Superintendent of the Saugus Union School District.

A strong belief in professional development also became an integral part of Music Center Education's mission. The Institute for Educators was established in 1981 as a means for teachers to develop the knowledge, skills, and confidence to teach the arts in their own classrooms.

The Institute gathers teachers at the Music Center to explore a specific "anchor work" – a single great work of art, music, dance or theatre. This is followed by extensive classroom support provided by Music Center teaching artists. Dr. Myrna Rivera Cote, Superintendent of the Culver City Unified School District, states, "The Institute for Educators is one of the most effective and powerful professional development programs we have ever done. It is truly

transformative for our teachers and principals."

The Music Center has also played a key leadership role as a partner with the Los Angeles Unified School District's (LAUSD) ten-year arts plan and with Arts for All: the Los Angeles County Regional Blueprint for Arts Education. These two initiatives have received national recognition for their success in rebuilding arts education on a large-scale basis.

Harold M. Williams, President Emeritus of the J. Paul Getty Trust and Co-Chair of the LAUSD Blue Ribbon Committee for Arts Education, states, "The Music Center has been at the table providing essential leadership every step of the way. We could not have achieved the sustained impact of the ten-year plan without their leadership."

In 2006, the Music Center played a leading role in securing new state funding for arts education. Laurie Schell, Executive Director of the California Alliance for Arts Education, states, "The Music Center was a key part of the small leadership team that guided our campaign to secure this new money for arts education. The Center's policy sophistication, prestige, and public visibility were invaluable assets for this effort."

Since 1979, the Music Center has been at the forefront of efforts to help schools create systemic change that fosters comprehensive, standards-based arts education for all. Over these years, hundreds of thousands of students have benefited from the Center's education programs. In these very challenging times, the Music Center's leadership and innovative partnerships are more important than ever.



WORLD CITY: Barynya

November 14, 2009

11 a.m. with a repeat performance at 12:30 p.m.
Walt Disney Concert Hall
W.M. Keck Amphitheatre

FREE

Dance along with the **Barynya ensemble**, a unique group of top Russian, Cossack and Ukrainian dancers and musicians, accompanied by the delightful sounds of traditional Russian instruments.

Tickets are FREE and are distributed on Grand Avenue at 2nd Street.

Tickets for 11:00 a.m. performance distributed beginning at 10:00 a.m.
Tickets for 12:30 p.m. performance distributed beginning at 11:00 a.m.

For more information:
(213) 250-2787
musiccenter.org



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