

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

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

THE ALLEY CATS

Holiday Top Ten

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

After the performance, you'll receive an invoice via email. 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. This performance features The Alley Cats, ‘America's premier doo-wop group.’ They will sing some of the greatest hits of the 1950s and 60s in four part harmony. They also will share with us elements of performance and make sure we have a lot of fun while celebrating the holiday season! Please welcome The Alley Cats!”



Feel free to encourage the adult members of your audience to share the experience on social media!

Tag us on X, Instagram, Facebook, and TikTok 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

If the performance must be held outdoors, the following conditions must be met:

- Shaded – no direct sunlight
- Protected from wind and excess traffic or playground noise
- Electrical power source is required

EQUIPMENT

- Electrical outlets
- Bottled water (or a pitcher of water and cups) for 4 people

ARRIVAL

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

PARKING

- Two spaces, one space 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

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

THE ALLEY CATS— Holiday Top Ten

ART FORM: Music

STYLE: 50s Era A Cappella Vocals

CULTURE: American

MEET THE ARTIST:

The four members of The Alley Cats are a perfect blend both vocally and personally. Their easy, playful familiarity makes their camaraderie and vocal expressions radiate from the stage. The Alley Cats formed in 1987 at Fullerton College in Orange County and began their musical journey with Disney's "Blast to the Past" salute. The group have appeared at numerous fairs and festivals around the country and have been the featured performers on stages at Disneyland, Knott's Berry Farm, and at the White House. Most recently, The Alley Cats took second place in the 2017 Moscow International A Cappella Festival. The competition featured 227 groups from 22 countries.

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE:

This joyous holiday performance features the The Alley Cats singing ten of the most well-known and enduring American Christmas songs. Presented in contemporary doo-wop style, these traditional songs capture the sentiment and fun of the season. This program is the result of research documenting the top twenty-five American holiday songs of all time. The following ten songs were selected because they best suit the group's four-part harmony. They include: "Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer;" "White Christmas;" "Jingle Bells;" "Feliz Navidad;" "Little St. Nick;" "Winter Wonderland;" "Blue Christmas;" "Deck the Halls;" "Let It Snow;" and "The Chipmunk Song." Narration between the selections gives background information on each song's history and arrangement or vocal styling. Tight harmonies, humor and dynamic a cappella energy make The Alley Cats one of America's premier doo-wop groups. This festive seasonal celebration is sure to delight audiences.

PREPARING FOR THE EXPERIENCE:

A cappella, the oldest form of music, means singing without musical accompaniment. Tribal chants, Gregorian chants, gospel, jazz, barbershop, *doo-wop*, and contemporary music all trace their roots to a cappella. During the 1950s, young men and women began forming singing groups in their neighborhoods. Their street corner singing soon became the hits of the day and *doo-wop* was born. *Doo-wop* is a type of 'rhythm and blues' style that was popular in the 1950s and 60s. Nonsense syllables are combined in intricate, harmonic arrangements. Classic examples of this style are "Earth Angel" by The Penguins, and "Sh-Boom" by The Chords. The collective power of these popular groups eventually helped establish the Motown recording label.

The first real 'boy bands', before The Jonas Brothers, and BTS were *doo-wop* groups like Del Vikings, Dion and The Belmonts and in the Motown era, The Temptations, Four Tops and The Miracles. These groups laid the foundation for the music we hear today.

The 50s, overall were a happy time in America; World War II was over, and "I Like Ike" was the phrase of the time. The majority of people felt safe and secure. Today, doo-wop is more widely known as 'oldies' and is rarely heard in the a cappella form. Now, instrumentation is added. However, this collection of music is truly timeless and continues to be enjoyed by many generations of people around the world.

Early on, what we called *doo-wop* music embraced the grand tradition of nonsense lyrics. Taking their cue from musician Dizzy Gillespie's 1947 be-bop song, "Oop Boop Sh'Bam," vocal groups sang "Sh-Boom," "Oop Shoop" and "Bip Bam," all using meaningless sounds to fill the beats and create background chants. But perhaps the most common nonsense syllable was "doo," which has always been useful in popular songs. Over 150 years ago, composer Stephen Foster used "doo-dah, doo-dah" to fill out the verses of his "De Camptown Races" (1850). A hundred years later doo wop made "The Turban's Top 40' hits.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What was your favorite song from the show? Explain why you like it. What stood out for you?
- When did you realize there were no musical instruments, other than voices?
- What feelings did you have when listening to this traditional, seasonal music?
- If you could add other seasonal songs to this program, what would they be?
- What did you find the most interesting about the doo-wop style of singing? How is it similar or different to songs you listen to today?

FRAMEWORK FOCUS—HISTORY/SOCIAL STUDIES:

Think about some of the holidays that are celebrated during the winter season. These might include Chanukah, Ramadan, Christmas, Kwanza, the Winter Solstice, and New Years. Discuss some of the special traditions that are associated with each one. Then assign different groups one of the holidays and have them research the history and traditions of the holiday found throughout the world. The following are some questions to guide their research:

What is the original idea of the holiday?

When and where did the holiday begin?

What are some of the traditions?

Where in the world is this holiday celebrated?

What are some of the songs, music, dances or stories associated with the holiday?

What are the types of food prepared and eaten?

Have the traditions for each holiday changed through time?

Do students in the class celebrate this holiday? If so, interview them to find more about their cultural and family traditions.

Have groups report their findings, and if possible share recordings, visuals, video clips, or a short story about the holiday. Chart the results of the research; compare and analyze the answers. Discuss the aspects of the research that students found most interesting or that surprised them.

ACTIVITIES TO ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE:

Pr Select a song to sing without accompaniment. Remind the students that they are singing *a capella*. When we sing “Happy Birthday” we are singing *a capella* (voices only).

Pr As a class, select three of your favorite holiday songs to learn and perform together or share with another class. Sing *a capella*, but then sing it again adding accompaniment and sound effects using simple percussion instruments. (bells, shakers, triangles, drums, wood blocks, etc.)

Cr Several of the songs in this performance included snow. See if you can identify which songs these were. (“White Christmas,” “Jingle Bells,” “Winter Wonderland,” “Let It Snow”) Discuss why people associate Christmas with snow and then think of the things that are more seasonally relevant to a Southern California Christmas or winter holiday. Develop song titles that describe Christmas or another holiday in your neighborhood, e.g. “Blue Sky,” “White Cloud Christmas;” “Palm Tree Magic;” “Traffic Jam to Grandma’s.”

Pr Select a song that the class knows well. Sing the song at three different *tempos* (medium or normal, very slow, fast). Then, sing it as you clap a basic *rhythm* or add percussion instruments. Finally, write one original verse as a small group or class. These three ideas, tempo, rhythm and lyrics, are important to composing and interpreting songs. This is why we might prefer one singer and style over another, even though they both sing the same song.

Cn Think about your favorite seasonal holiday from any time of year. Research the food, activities, songs, games and traditions that go with this holiday. Write a paragraph about one holiday time that was special to you. Describe what you did and how you felt.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES:

Schotter, Roni, and Bryan Collier illustrator. *Doo Wop Pop*. Amistad, 2008.

Javna, John. *The Doo-Wop Sing –Along Songbook*. St. Martins Press, 1986.

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 THE ALLEY CATS
TO PERFORM ON _____**

_____ and The Music Center today announced the upcoming performance of The Alley Cats 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.

A perfect blend of musical talent and comic timing, The Alley Cats breathe new life into everyone's favorite doo-wop classics as they present their interactive, fun, and informative assemblies. Tight harmonies, humor, interesting stories and an unbelievable amount of a cappella energy enliven the performance as audiences sing along with familiar melodies. Students learn about the unique American musical form called "doo-wop" as they hear the group bring their own contemporary style to the tunes from the 50's and 60's or well-loved holiday classics. Having performed at the White House and as featured entertainers on Disney stages, audiences can be sure that this group is truly the "cat's meow!"

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 Gloria 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. Follow The Music Center on Facebook, Instagram and X @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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Neighborhoods

Exciting
Dance
Music
Theatre
Storytelling
Performances
Come To You

THE ALLEY CATS



DATE: _____

TIME: _____

LOCATION: _____



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, workforce 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