

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 6, 2024

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## McCallum Theatre Education Announces **2024 SUMMER INSTITUTE PERFORMANCES**

**Signature event returns for the first time since 2019  
June 10-14, 2024**

**Tickets Now On Sale – All Seats Just \$15!**

Palm Desert, CA — Cool off at the McCallum Theatre with performances that feed the soul and awaken the imagination! McCallum Theatre Education's Summer Institute returns for the first time since 2019, presenting three exciting performances to inspire, educate and entertain audiences of all ages on June 10, 12, and 14 at the McCallum Theatre.

All tickets are priced at just \$15. Tickets are available online 24/7 at [www.McCallumTheatre.org](http://www.McCallumTheatre.org). Tickets may also be purchased at the McCallum Box Office during normal business hours, Monday-Friday 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, or by calling (760) 340-2787. The McCallum Theatre, located at 73000 Fred Waring Drive, Palm Desert CA 92260, accepts payment by cash, personal check, VISA, MasterCard, Discover and American Express.

Summer Institute kicks off on Monday, June 10 at 3:00 PM with **Benzaiten — TAIKOPROJECT**. Prepare to be swept away by a captivating fusion of tradition and innovation! TAIKOPROJECT isn't your typical taiko group; they present a dynamic contemporary mix of taiko, music, storytelling, and choreography. Inspired by Benzaiten, the Japanese goddess of everything that flows, this performance seamlessly weaves percussive power and strength with graceful elements. Experience the thunderous resonance of authentic taiko drums alongside the delicate tones of bamboo flutes and the ethereal sounds of the koto. And of course, be prepared for their awe-inspiring centerpiece: a 350-pound mother drum that will quite literally make the earth tremble beneath your feet! *L.A. Weekly* says, "This ain't your mama's taiko, but it may be your hip, younger cousin's."

On Wednesday, June 12 at 3:00 PM is **Let Love Be Your Guide**. Called "the family-music genre's most outspoken and eloquent advocate" by Time Magazine, GRAMMY® Award-winning musician Dan Zanes and Haitian-American music therapist and jazz vocalist Claudia Zanes have been collaborating musically since their first meeting in

2016. Their distinctive all-ages electric folk sound is now enriched by the addition of jazz singer Tyree Austin. With electric guitar, three voices, percussion, flute, and trombone, their music intertwines the sounds of early rock and roll, jazz vocals, gospel, Haitian folk, sea shanties, and summer camp sing-alongs. This eclectic mix is delivered with enthusiasm and an open invitation for people of all ages to join in the fun. In what could be described as a relaxed yet subtly educational party atmosphere, these Smithsonian Folkways recording artists create music that bursts with creativity and radiates a joyful optimism about life's greatest possibilities.

Buckle up for a magical journey, because on Friday, June 14 at 3:00 PM is **The Boy Who Could Sing Pictures**, by David Gonzalez. Adapted from Seymour Leichman's enchanting tale *The Boy Who Could Sing Pictures*, we meet Luca, son of the famed jester Bustelo. Luca's talent transcends expectations; his singing conjures breathtaking visions, unveiling the profound truths of the world and its inhabitants. Get ready to be carried off by this captivating tale and a tapestry of music woven from the works of Villa-Lobos, Piazzolla, Bach, and Beethoven, alongside original compositions by Daniel Kelly. This experience promises to captivate, stir emotions, and ignite inspiration – a performance not to be missed! Deepak Chopra stated, “David Gonzalez speaks with courageous humanity and brilliant creativity – his poetry and stories uplift the spirit and inspire wonder.”

These performances are presented in conjunction with McCallum Theatre Education's Summer Institute for Educators and mark the beginning of the 2024-2025 Aesthetic Education Program, which places the arts at the center of inquiry-driven learning experiences that include classroom workshops and attendance at McCallum performances and exhibits. Teachers and students who partner with McCallum are encouraged to be curious, ask questions and rigorously explore works of art to awaken imaginative learning as part of the core curriculum. Approximately 300 hundred classrooms will partner with McCallum Theatre Education under the umbrella of this program in 2024-2025. These school and classroom partnerships are made possible thanks to generous support from individuals, municipalities and foundations that support McCallum's mission to educate in and through the arts.

For more information about McCallum Theatre's Aesthetic Education Program, please [click here](#).

### **About McCallum Theatre Education**

Since its launch in 1997, McCallum Theatre Education has served over one million students, educators and community members with performances and arts education experiences. In close partnership with local education agencies, McCallum makes the arts available and accessible to youth in the area through its dynamic education programs. In addition, projects like **Palm Desert Choreography Festival** and **Open Call Talent Project** serve as powerful vehicles for developing artists and present exciting and affordable performances open to the general public.

McCallum Theatre Education seeks to enhance the role of the arts by inspiring greater awareness of their educational, cognitive, emotional, and spiritual power. By encouraging an active and experiential study of the arts, McCallum Theatre Education advances the belief that all human beings are inherently creative. The programs developed are designed to build on that creativity by equipping individuals with the skills necessary for meaningful, life-long engagement with the arts and an understanding of their essential contribution to enlightened citizenship.

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**Buyer Beware!**

*The McCallum Theatre Box Office, phone center, and website,  
are the **only** authorized outlets for tickets to performances presented at the theatre.  
Tickets purchased from any other sources, such as brokers or secondary market websites,  
are purchased at consumer's own risk and cannot be guaranteed as valid.*