Introducing Ray Gargano

Ray Gargano is an arts education leader with more than twenty years of experience both in the classroom and in arts centers. He comes to the LBC from the Overture Center for the Arts in Madison, Wisconsin, where he most recently served as the Director of Programming and Community Engagement. Before that, he served as the Director of Education and Engagement at the Victoria Theatre Association in Dayton, Ohio; as Director of the Orange County Arts Education Center in Orlando, Florida; and as the Assistant Director of Arts Education for Playhouse Square Foundation in Cleveland, Ohio. Ray is currently serving as the board president of International Performing Arts for Youth (IPAY) and has served on the Kennedy Center’s Partners in Education Advisory Committee, a partnership program in which LBC also participates.

Prior to his tenure in arts administration, he spent eight years as a high school teacher in English, drama, speech, and journalism. In addition, he has served as an adjunct professor instructor at Notre Dame College, the University of Akron, and Miami University of Ohio, teaching education and technology integration, public speaking, and arts management.

“Luther Burbank Center has such a strong foundation of arts education programming already in place; I’m excited to move to an area and work in a center so dedicated to enriching its community through the arts and through education.” — Ray Gargano
Artists in the Schools: Music Matters

Last fall Luther Burbank Center piloted an Artists in the Schools program focused on learning to play the ukulele. The 12-week arts integrated project served 4th and 5th grade students at Lincoln Elementary School in Santa Rosa. The first six weeks of the project was all about learning to play ukulele, an instrument that was new to the 91 participating students. Once they learned to play, each of the four classes collaborated to write an original song connected to a subject they were studying. Songs connected to social studies, math, and science. The program culminated in a fantastic live performance in front of parents and peers. “LBC has a commitment to providing in-depth learning in the arts to students. We are excited about this program and look forward to continuing it,” LBC Director of Education and Community Engagement Ray Gargano said. Students and teachers alike loved the program. Teachers found students to be more engaged in the integrated subject and students enjoyed composing and performing an original song. Plans are in the works to continue the program next fall.

Music for Schools

Instruments Available for Loan

Does your school have a music program? Are there students who are unable to play because they don’t have an instrument? If you answered yes to either of these questions, read on!

During the 2016-17 school year, LBC’s Music for Schools provided 491 instruments to students in 38 different schools and organizations. Instruments are loaned to students free of charge for the entire school year.

“It is truly a pleasure to work with local school music teachers to provide instruments to those students who need them,” says Tracy Sawyer, who manages the program. “We know we are making a difference to school music programs and in the lives of the children who are given the opportunity to learn to play music. This is no small thing.”

Annual Instrument Drive at Montgomery Village

The annual instrument drive on May 13th was the best yet! We received instruments for the Music for Schools instrument lending library that we clean, repair and then loan to students who need them. Without free instruments provided by Music for Schools’ many students wouldn’t be able to participate in school music programs.

A BIG thank you to the school bands and orchestras who came out to perform!

Waldo Rohnert Elementary Band Students  
Cali Band  
Windsor High School String Orchestra  
Mark West District Music Students

Elsie Allen High School Jazz Band  
Hillcrest Middle School Jazz Band  
Windsor String Orchestra  
The Royal Kalamata Uke-estra

For more information about the Music for Schools instrument lending library for your school, contact Tracy Sawyer at 707.800.7529 or tsawyer@lutherburbankcenter.org.
Sneak Peek: 2017-18 School Shows

Sneak a peek at what’s coming soon!

We have at least 23 fantastic performances planned in 2017-2018 geared to specific grade levels, with educational and entertaining experiences for students pre-kindergarten through high school. Plus, all shows align with your overall teaching objectives using Common Core Curriculum. This is just a sneak peek at what’s to come! *Program information and dates are subject to change.

Look for our Education Brochure and order form available in early August. Visit lutherburbankcenter.org later this summer to view the final schedule and download program materials, including study guides.

**GRADES PK-2**

Go, Dog. Go! by Childsplay
Thursday, October 12, 2017
P.D. Eastman’s classic book comes to life in a frolicking musical dog party with cars, hats, audience participation, and even a wild game of ball. Plus this hilarious visual spectacle manages to sneak in some important lessons about life between innings.

Chicken Dance by ArtsPower
Monday, October 16, 2017
Two colorful barnyard chickens, Marge and Lola, will not put up with the antics of a bully. They set out on a mission to win first prize in the barnyard talent contest, no matter how challenging, in this musical based on the book by Tammi Sauer.

**GRADES K-6**

Sewam American Indian Dance Company
Tuesday, October 17, 2017
History and tradition come to life in the dances and customs of the Plains Indians. Back by popular demand, this is a true favorite for students and teachers alike!

**GRADES 1-6**

Ben Franklin: America’s First Citizen with Patrick Garner in association with TheaterworksUSA
Monday, November 6, 2017
With Patrick Garner leading the way as the legendary founding father, students have an opportunity to take the stage as Benjamin Franklin demonstrates how a life of self-discipline inquiry, public service, and a genuine love of life led to international fame and the gratitude of an entire nation.

Super Scientific Circus
Tuesday, November 7, 2017
Using circus skills, magic tricks, boomerangs, bubbles, and bullwhips, this amazing duo returns to our stage, to demonstrate and explain complex scientific principles, including friction, inertia, static electricity, and magnetism.

Preschool/Early Elementary
Elementary
Elementary/Middle School
Middle School/High School
Elementary through High School
La Belle by Imago Theatre
Wednesday, November 15, 2017
From the creators of FROGZ and ZooZoo, Imago Theatre’s brings an all new tale to life based on Beauty and the Beast with their unique brand of masked puppet theater. Set aboard a steamship circa 1920, this production, filled with moving gears, fascinating effects, and puppets, tells the unlikely love story of a coal stoker and a passenger.

Golden Dragon Acrobats
Monday, January 22, 2018
Back by popular demand, the Golden Dragon Acrobats present a show of breathtaking skill and spellbinding energy.

Posada Navideña by Compañía Mazatlán Bellas Artes
Friday, December 8, 2017
Featuring traditional Mexican folkloric dance and music, this performance—back by popular demand, celebrates the wonderful folk culture of Mexico during the Christmas season.

Hangin’ with the Giants by JazzReach
Tuesday, January 30, 2018 at 9:30am
Meet Jazz music’s greatest personalities in this multimedia presentation with a charismatic host and live musicians. With tunes from Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Dizzy Gillespie, and more, no one can help but tap their feet and clap their hands along with this show-stopper, back by popular demand!

Alphabet Rockers
Wednesday, January 17, 2018
Alphabet Rockers create dynamic hip hop music for younger ages. With songs about the days of the week, bullying, colors, and eating healthy, this group makes learning fun and interactive!

Yes Indeed! by JazzReach
Tuesday, January 30, 2018 at 11:30am
Instill a greater appreciation, awareness, and understanding of the history of the blues in your students with this interactive program showcasing the blues as the core element of all indigenous American music, including R&B, funk, gospel, rock, and hip hop. Back by popular demand!

How I Became a Pirate by Dallas Children’s Theater
Thursday, February 22, 2018
Jeremy Jacobs joins Captain Braid Beard’s band of comical pirates for fun adventure on the high seas, but Jeremy soon learns that home and family are treasures you can’t find on any map, in this swashbuckling musical journey based on the popular book.
Pete the Cat
by TheatreworksUSA
Monday, February 26, 2018
Pete the Cat is sent to live with the Biddle family, and the minute Pete walks in the door, he gets the whole family rocking—except for Jimmy who just has too much on his mind to welcome a silly new pet. But together they tackle a problem in this musical based on the popular books.

The Velveteen Rabbit
by The Pushcart Players
February 2018
A young boy’s love and a touch of magic help transform the Velveteen Rabbit from a favorite plaything into a real rabbit. Together they embark on exciting imaginary adventures in this musical re-telling of one of America’s favorite storybooks.

The 13-Story Treehouse
by CDP Theatre Producers
Tuesday, March 6, 2018
Andy and Terry live in a 13-Story Treehouse that has everything: a bowling alley, a secret underground laboratory, and self-making beds! Watch as the silly adventures come to life with live action, puppetry, music, and animation. Based on Andy Griffiths’ New York Times Bestseller.

Henry & Mudge
by TheatreworksUSA
Thursday, March 15, 2018
Henry just moved from the city to a new house in the country, but luckily, he’s got Mudge, a great big, 182-pound canine buddy, with whom he can share all kinds of adventures in this delightful musical based on the best-selling books series.

The Giver
by Lois Lowry
Tuesday, March 13, 2018
In a dystopian world, 12-year-old Jonas is selected to receive the memories of a far different life. Back by popular demand, this one-person adaptation uses verbatim portions from Lois Lowry’s acclaimed novel.

Petra & the Wolf
by Lionheart Youth Theatre with Glass Half Full Theatre and Mother Falcon
Tuesday, April 8, 2018
Inspired by the classic Peter and the Wolf, this new story of mischievous but fearless Petra, the granddaughter of the fabled Peter, and a threatening wolf focuses on sharing our earth with animals. With captivating large-scale puppetry and an instrumental score written and performed live by the awesome symphonic rock group, Mother Falcon.

Preschool/Early Elementary
Elementary
Elementary/Middle School
Middle School/High School
Elementary through High School
School Shows

**Mr. Popper’s Penguins**

**Mr. Popper’s Penguins**  
by Casa Mañana  
**Thursday, April 19, 2018**

Painter and decorator by day, Mr. Popper spends his time dreaming of Antarctic adventures and is astounded when a penguin is delivered to his doorstep! With original songs and penguin puppets, this delightful, action packed musical is based on Richard and Florence Atwater’s popular book.

**Click, Clack, Moo**  
by TheatreworksUSA  
**Wednesday, April 25, 2018**

Back by popular demand! Farmer Brown is at the mercy of his typing cows who use his granddaughter’s computer to declare a strike. Will Farmer Brown give in to the animals’ demands? Find out in a hilariously “moooo-ving” musical about negotiation and compromise, based on the Caldecott Honor Book by Doreen Cronin and Betsy Lewin.

**Versa-Style Dance Company**

**April 2018**

Los Angeles-based hip hop dance sensation, Versa-Style breaks through color lines by bringing diverse groups together. In this special performance for students, showcases the history of hip hop culture, demonstrating freedom of expression and individuality, hard work, self-discipline, and dedication.

**Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site**

by Bay Area Children’s Theater  
**Monday, May 7, 2018**

A world premiere musical based upon the best-selling book. Bedtime is approaching, but Crane Truck, Cement Mixer, Dump Truck, Excavator, and Bulldozer find preparing for bed is one tough job! Will they ever get some shut-eye before tomorrow’s day of work?

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**Story Pirates**

**Thursday, May 1, 2018**

Improv comedy gets an educational twist as the Story Pirates create outlandishly funny sketches and mini-musicals based on audience suggestions that leave students and teachers howling in the aisles. Back by popular demand!

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**Sneak Peek!**  
**Education programs are ON SALE**

**Aug. 9 at 9:00am**
Art of Dessert Success!

Raising $500,000+ in support of our Education and Community Engagement programs

Art of Dessert, the LBC’s annual fundraising event to support all of our Education and Community Engagement programs was held Saturday, April 8, and raised a record-breaking $500,000+. The “Fund-a-Need” portion of the live auction received a $75,000 matching challenge by Lytton Rancheria-Lytton Band of Pomo Indians that helped raise another $143,000!

THANK you!

Luther Burbank Center for the Arts wishes to thank the following for their support of $1,000 or more for our Education and Community Engagement programs since April 1, 2016.

Amaturo Family Foundation, Inc.
Karen and Mike Bergin
Ann and Gordon Blumenfeld
Denis and Margaret Brown
George and Sue Bull/Schwab Charitable Fund
Mary Cardaras and Francesca Fifis
Carmen and Perri Castaldi
Linda and Carlos Chavez
Luciano and Danielle Dominguez Billy
Joanne Dow
DJ and Monique Drennan
Sydnee Dupree
Herb and Jane Dwight
Dawn Gonzalez
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A special thanks for the very generous support of the Ernest L. and Ruth W. Finley Foundation for this year’s Evert Person ArtReach and Evert Person Bus Fund programs.
New Song Music Camp
June 12 – 16, 2017  ·  9am – 3pm
For students entering 3rd – 6th grades

Missoula Children’s Theatre
Auditions: Monday, June 19, 2017  ·  10am – 12pm
For students entering 1st – 12th grades

COME SEE THE SHOW!
Alice in Wonderland
by Missoula Children’s Theatre
Saturday, June 24, 2017  ·  2pm & 4:30pm  ·  East Auditorium