

# Mondavi Center Arts Education

## 19-20 CUE Sheet for Teachers

### Ladysmith Black Mambazo

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2020

11AM | Jackson Hall

Recommended for grades K–12

### Visual & Performing Arts Standards

The newly revised California Arts Standards provide guidance toward a common goal: for all California students to fully participate in a rich and well-rounded arts education. The standards are based on the **artistic processes** of **creating; performing/producing/presenting; responding; and connecting**. Our school matinees correspond to **responding** and **connecting**.

K-Adv.MU:Re7.1; K-5.MU:Re7.2; 6-8.MU:Re7.2.a; 6-8.MU:Re7.2.b; K-8.MU:Re8; K-8.MU:Re9; K-8.MU:Cn10; K-8.MU:Cn11; Nov-Adv.MU:H.Re8; Nov-Adv.MU:H.Re9; Nov-Adv.MU:H.Cn10; Nov-Adv.MU:H.Cn11; Nov-Adv.MU:E.Re7.1; Nov-Adv.MU:E.Re7.2; Nov-Adv.MU:E.Re8; Nov-Adv.MU:E.Re9; Nov-Adv.MU:E.Cn10; Nov-Adv.MU:E.Cn11

### Common Core

The Common Core broadens the definition of a “text,” viewing performance as a form of text, so students are experiencing and interacting with a text when they attend a performance. Seeing live performance provides rich opportunities to write reflections, narratives, arguments, etc.

RL 4-12.2; RL 4-12.3; RL 4-12.6; RL 4-12.7; RL 4-12.9; RI 4-12.2; RI 4-12.3; SL 4-12.2

### Learn More:

[Ladysmith Black Mambazo website](http://www.mambazo.com)  
(www.mambazo.com)

[Songs of PEACE & LOVE for Kids & Parents Around the World](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLfqHn7pFwFnzVA-YerK6ipMYEenEpSxiB) (www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLfqHn7pFwFnzVA-YerK6ipMYEenEpSxiB)

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Ladysmith Black Mambazo is one of the world’s most popular a cappella vocal ensembles. In this show, the group draws from its album *Songs of PEACE & LOVE for Kids & Parents Around the World*, which was nominated for Best Children’s Album at the 2017 Grammy Awards. Expect songs like “Love Your Neighbor,” “Everything’s So Stupid!” and “Old MacDonald Zulu Style” as Ladysmith Black Mambazo enchants with uplifting harmonies and plenty of laughter, too.

South Africa’s Ladysmith Black Mambazo was assembled in the early 1960s by Joseph Shabalala, then a young farm boy turned factory worker. He took the name **Ladysmith** from his hometown, which lies in the province of kwaZulu Natal, halfway between the city of Durban (where members of the group live today) and Johannesburg. The word **Black** being a reference to the oxen, the strongest of all farm animals, Joseph’s way of honoring his early life on his family’s farm. **Mambazo** is the Zulu word for chopping axe, a symbol of the group’s vocal strength, clearing the way for their music and eventual success.

The group borrows heavily from a traditional music called isicathamiya (is-cot-a-ME-Ya), which developed in the mines of South Africa, where black workers were taken by rail to work far away from their homes and their families. Poorly housed and paid worse, the mine workers would entertain themselves after a six-day week by singing songs into the wee hours on Sunday morning. When the miners returned to the homelands, this musical tradition returned with them.

During the 1970s and early 1980s Ladysmith Black Mambazo established

themselves as the most successful singing group in South Africa. In the mid-1980s, the American singer/songwriter Paul Simon famously visited South Africa and incorporated the group’s rich tenor/alto/bass harmonies into his famous *Graceland* album—a landmark recording that was considered seminal in introducing world music to mainstream audiences. A year later, Simon produced Ladysmith Black Mambazo’s first worldwide release, *Shaka Zulu*, which garnered the group their first Grammy Award, in 1988, for Best Folk Recording. Since then the group has been awarded three more Grammy Awards.

In addition to their work with Paul Simon, Ladysmith Black Mambazo has recorded with numerous artists from around the world and provided soundtrack material for several films including Disney’s *The Lion King II: Simba’s Pride*.

A favorite of the late Nelson Mandela, Ladysmith Black Mambazo traveled with the future South African president when he went to Norway to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. One year later they were singing at the inauguration of the newly elected president. After many more special appearances with Mandela, he proclaimed the group South Africa’s Cultural Ambassadors to the World.

After leading the group for more than 50 years, Joseph Shabalala retired and passed the leadership torch to his four sons, all of whom joined Ladysmith Black Mambazo in 1993. Singing of peace, love and for people to live in harmony, they will carry the group into the future for decades to come.

# Think About It

Dear Students,

- 1 **Before the performance:** How do you think the performers will interact with one another and the audience while singing?
- 2 **During the performance:** Are the performers interacting as you expected? How do their songs make you feel?
- 3 **After the performance:** Do you think singing music is a good way to celebrate a culture? Why or why not?



## MC Fun Facts:

- The outside walls of the Mondavi Center are made from sandstone from India that is 1.8 billion years old.
- What look like fossils in the sandstone tiles are really iron and manganese crystal dendrites.
- The building sits on 200 pillars to keep the sounds and vibrations of the freeway and trains from being heard or felt inside the theatre.
- The ceiling curtains in Jackson Hall weigh 2,200 pounds each.

## What is expected of student audiences at the matinee:

- To facilitate starting the performance on time, get a drink of water and use the restroom before entering the seating area.
- Enter the auditorium quietly and take your seats immediately (note that all matinees have reserved seating).
- Show courtesy to the artists and other guests at all times.
- Demonstrate appreciation for the artists' work by applauding.
- Refrain from making unnecessary noise or movements.
- Please eat lunch before or after the performance. Food is not allowed in the theatre.
- Use information learned from the pre-matinee discussion to enhance the performance experience.
- Please do not photograph or record the artists.

### Please no talking during the show.

A theatre is a charged space, full of energy and anticipation. When the house lights (the lights that illuminate the audience seating) go down, the excitement level goes up! Theatres are designed so that the voices of the singers and actors and the music of the musicians can be heard. But this also means that any sound in the audience, whispering, speaking and moving about, can be heard by other audience members and by the performers. Distractions like these disrupt everyone's concentration and can spoil a performance.

### Watch attentively.

The performers on stage show respect for their art form and for the audience by doing their very best work. By watching attentively the audience shows respect for the performers. Appreciation can be shown in many different ways, depending upon the art form and the culture(s) of the people in the audience. For instance, while the audience at a dance performance may sit quietly, other types of performances may invite audience participation.

### Show appreciation by applauding.

Applause is the best way for audience members to share their enthusiasm and to show their appreciation for the performers. Applaud at the end of a performance! Sometimes the audience will clap during a performance, as after a featured solo. Audience members may feel like laughing if the action on stage is funny, crying if the action is sad, or sighing if something is seen or heard that is beautiful.

## Mondavi Center Arts Education

Arts Education provides CueSheets for all performances in the Mondavi Center 2019–20 School Matinee Series. They are intended to help teachers prepare their students for the school matinee that they will attend at Mondavi Center, UC Davis.

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Support provided by



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