

SINFONIA MEXICANA

MARIACHI

YOUTH ACADEMY

Volume 1 - Issue 2

MAY 2012

Sinfonia Mexicana of San Bernardino established the Mariachi Youth Academy in February 2009 at the Sturges Theatre for the Performing Arts as an opportunity for area youth to learn and perform Mariachi music and to give them an understanding of its origins and cultural significance.

The mission is to establish a continuing and comprehensive course of study that will challenge and enhance the student's ability to read music, master their instruments and enhance stage presence through the art of performing Mariachi music. The goal is to prepare and encourage academy students to further their musical education. The program instills responsibility, discipline and stresses the advantages of higher education.

February of 2011, we started our first beginner classes for students who did not have any prior musical experience. Students must be 8-12 years of age, and have a desire to learn music and study their lessons. Our educational curriculum is to teach music fundamentals and theory, and proper care and tuning of their instrument. In less than a year, our students have progressed very rapidly. Our dedicated instructors have done an outstanding job. We are very proud that we are utilizing some of our outstanding performing level students, and that they have spent a lot of time helping beginner students prepare for their performances.

Many of our students have subsequently graduated from our program and we are proud many have continued on to universities and colleges. Currently, we have approximately 55 students in various levels. If you have a child between 8-12 years of age, with no musical experience, or a student that already knows music/Mariachi, please call Sinfonia Mexicana. Beginner classes will be starting soon. Experienced students will go through a short audition/evaluation for evaluating their level of experience. For information, call Sinfonia Mexicana.



Oscar Tostado

Director – Mariachi Youth Academy

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

JAVIER TORRES

My name is Javier Torres and I am a Junior at Serrano High School in Phelan, California. I grew up slightly detached from my Mexican Heritage except for family gatherings and parties. I listened to classical music and tried to avoid Mexican music completely because it seemed loud and noisy. I confused different styles of music with Mariachi because I heard them simultaneously, which ultimately produced an untrained ear that could not distinguish between different styles. I began playing piano and learning theory at the age of four under the guidance of various Russian doctors of music, and that became the only type of music I wanted to enjoy. However, after my cousins joined a Mariachi I listened to them play at family parties and I began to grow interested in Mariachi. I learned a few chords on the Vihuela and my mom then hired a teacher to come to our house and teach my sister and me how to play Mariachi music. I was reluctant to learn at first because I feared it would lower my piano abilities. I started learning the Guitarron and quickly learned all the fingerings and it became a part of me. I advanced quickly and began playing with my cousins, who began teaching me more complex music.



One day, the Mariachi group I was in, heard about the Sinfonia Mariachi Youth Academy opening and we decided to give it a try. Sure enough, I was interested and became a member of the Sinfonia Youth Mariachi. Although I had a strong foundation in music performance and theory, the academy has taught me so much that I could not have learned playing only piano. It taught me teamwork and how to incorporate my sound and creativity to a group setting. The joy I received from working with others to make music inspired me to join the school band. The academy also expanded my foundations for music. Mariachi is a collection of many different styles ranging from folk to jazz. This diversity increased my musical creativity and ability to improvise, as well as a broader understanding of music. Although I learned to apply music theory to fields of music other than classical, the Sinfonia Mariachi Youth Academy mainly brought me closer to my Mexican background through the study of music. I saw the beauty in the music and what it represents for the Mexican culture, which increased my appreciation of my heritage.

I continue to work hard in music and I recently completed my final Music Teachers Association of California Certificate of Merit evaluation in piano performance and theory. My schooling has been very successful and I am in the process of researching universities that I would like to attend. My future goals are to attend Stanford University and become an Aerospace Engineer, but music will always remain an important part of me. The Mariachi Youth Academy has taught me hard work, determination and teamwork, values that apply to all aspects of life and success.



Mariachi Youth Academy

“Teach your students to read music. If you teach them a song, they will learn that song. If you teach them to read, they will learn a million songs.”

– Noe Sanchez, Oct. 22, 1996, *Mariachi Music Research Guide*

The Sinfonia Mexicana Mariachi Youth Academy has performed with some of the world's best Mariachis and shared the stage of the California Theatre of the Performing Arts with world-renowned vocalists and classical conductors. The Mariachi Youth Academy has performed at the House of Blues in Anaheim, CA and is the only Mariachi youth group to have performed with the San Bernardino Symphony Orchestra. The group has also performed in many community events.

Maestro, Jeff Nevin, is Sinfonia Mexicana's Music Director of Youth Programs.

Rafael Palomar, is the lead instructor of music, vocals and performances, is a 23-year former vocalist and lead guitarist with Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlan.

Instructor, Samuel Nolasco, is the former trumpet player for Mariachi de Uclatán.

Martin Barboza-Zarate, is the lead instructor for educational curriculum.

With these world-class musicians/instructors guiding the program, the Mariachi Youth Academy is poised to be a nationally recognized learning institution for the advancement and promotion of the arts.



Jeff Nevin



Rafael Palomar



Samuel Nolasco

The Sinfonia Mexicana Mariachi Youth Academy is made possible by financial assistance from:

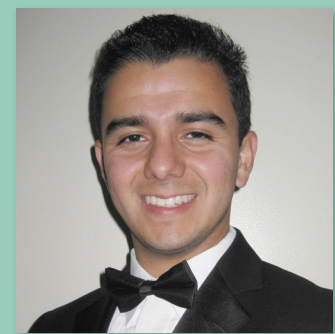


A Special Thank You to our Adopt a Student Mariachi Program Sponsors:

Sophie Arias
Rosemarie Armendariz
ATPS All Theatrical Production Services
U.S. Congressman Joe Baca
Bishop Gerald R. Barnes
Jerry & Brenda Bean
Juanita & Donovan Bigelow
Tony & Gloria Bocanegra
Joe & Joy Boswell
Richard Carnero
Assemblymember Wilmer Amina Carter

Daniel Castro Bail Bonds
Fred & Mary Chavez
Richard & Christina Garcia
Drs. Ernest & Dorothy Garcia
Daniel & Mary Frances Gomez
Graciano & Trini Gomez
Oscar & Shirley Gonzales
Supervisor Josie Gonzales
Tony Gonzales
Art Guerrero
Juan & Martha Guzman

Esperanza Luna-Campa
Councilperson Virginia Marquez
Maestro Jeff Nevin
Felix & Elizabeth Padron
Robert & Maria Saenz
Mary Tenorio
Dr. Gary & Beverly Thomas
IATSE Union Local 614
1st Valley Credit Union
Frances Vasquez



Martin Barboza-Zarate

Martin has been playing the violin for fifteen years. A graduate from California State University in San Bernardino (CSUSB), Martin received his Bachelor's degree in Music Performance with a Minor in Recording Arts. Martin's inspiration in the violin came from his father, Martin Barboza, Sr., who was his first violin teacher. Martin also studied with Mr. Hipolito Puentes for three years. During his first quarter at CSUSB, Martin studied with Mr. Adrian Dumitresou. In the Winter of 2007, Martin began studying with Mrs. Karen Thurman Palmer. Martin has been performing with the CSUSB Chamber Orchestra as first chair for the past four years. Martin has also been performing mariachi music with various groups. As one of the instructors for Sinfonia Mexicana's Mariachi Youth Academy, Martin has devoted his talent in teaching young emerging students the culture of Mexico's mariachi music. Martin has had the privilege in appearing in *Our Family Wedding* (2010), and recorded the music for the documentary *With Great Power: The Stan Lee Story* (2010). Martin has developed amazing skills and technique on the violin throughout the past years. His love and devotion to music is an essential part while he performs and teaches. Martin hopes to someday be a member of a symphony orchestra.

On behalf of students of *Sinfonia Mexicana Mariachi Youth Academy*, we invite you to become involved as a sponsor of this worthwhile program. Your financial investment will be a motivational stepping stone for our youth as they pursue education and career goals. *Adopt a Student Mariachi Sponsorships* are available for one year or 2 years. A one-time gift or donation for our Scholarship Fund is also welcomed.

For further information, please contact Sinfonia Mexicana at 909 884-3228 or e-mail anthony@sinfoniamexicana.com

SINFONIA MEXICANA
562 West Fourth Street
San Bernardino, CA 92401

Tel (909) 884-3228
Fax (909) 884-3210

www.sinfoniamexicana.com