

SINFONIA MEXICANA MARIACHI YOUTH ACADEMY

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MAY 2013

In February of 2009, The Sinfonia Mexicana established the Mariachi Youth Academy. We have been in existence for four years now and the Academy is operating at its full design. Currently we have approximately 70 students in all three levels.

Beginner classes are designed for students that have no prior musical knowledge. These classes are for students eight years and older. The only requirements for beginners are: a desire to learn music/mariachi, complete their homework/assignments and practice, and practice. Beginner students do not start playing any instruments until they pass several tests that insure they have learned basic music fundamentals and theory. They also start with the basics on knowledge of their instruments and singing.

Intermediate classes are for students that have passed all beginner classes and testing or they can show through an evaluation by our instructors that they meet our minimum requirements of music fundamentals and knowledge of their instrument. Intermediate students also begin learning about Mariachi history and culture.

Advance/Performing level students must pass all the intermediate requirements, testing and/or pass an audition/evaluation by at least two of our instructors. Advance students continue learning more advanced music fundamentals and theory, and complex music scores are taught. Singing as soloists, harmonizing and group singing is continually refined, and showmanship and stage presence is also part of the instruction. Advance/Performing level students are constantly being challenged to higher levels of achievements.

Ultimately, our goal is to continually challenge the student at their individual learning curve and experience. If a student can pass all the minimum requirements for the next level the student is moved up. In the same respect, if a student is struggling to keep up, instructors can move a student back down or have them attend both classes.

At every level, the Academy's directors, instructors and board continually stress the importance of continued education. To reinforce this goal, our Academy staff and Sinfonia Board Members have established a scholarship fund specifically for our students. Last year, we awarded several thousand dollars to our students that are college/university bound.

The Mariachi Youth Academy's 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. Our program instills responsibility, discipline and stresses the advantages of a college education.

Along with our excellent instructors and the extraordinary support of our Board members, sponsors and parents, the Mariachi Youth Academy is set on a path of success. I believe the Academy's mission is definitely on track and we are continually working on a long-term commitment of education and culture to our youth and our community.



Oscar Tostado
DIRECTOR
Mariachi
Youth Academy

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

JESSICA ORTIZ

My name is Jessica Ortiz and I am a junior at San Bernardino High School. In addition to my busy life with school and music, I enjoy playing soccer and have been playing since I was five years old. I currently play on the varsity squad at my high school.

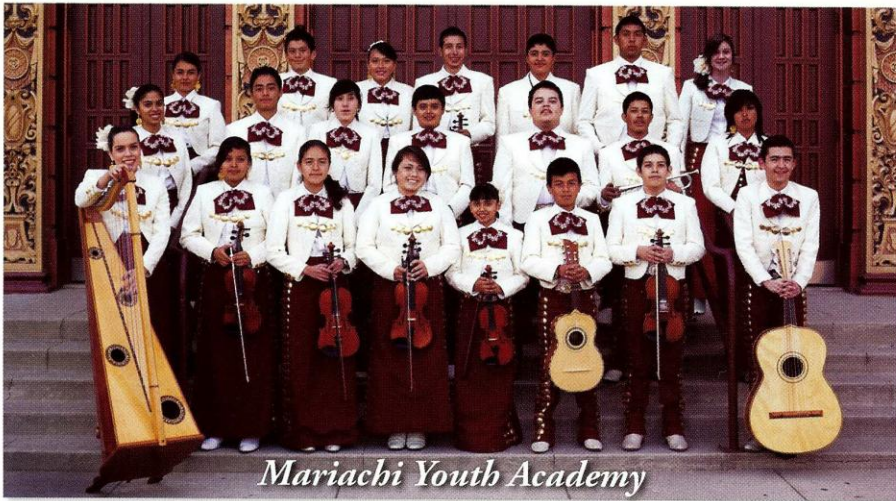
I began with violin lessons when I was ten years old. After my parents learned about the Sinfonia Mariachi Youth Academy they enrolled both me and my brother Pablo. That was four years ago. As a result of my time spent in the youth academy I have learned about music theory and how to sing. While I am grateful for all I have learned in the academy, I am just as grateful to my parents who have really motivated me every step of the way. There really is so much to talk about when it comes to what the academy has to offer, but one thing that stands out for me is the fact that I have gained so much confidence in myself as a result of performing in front of large audiences.

I really appreciate that this program exists because it allows those who want to learn how to read music, sing and play an instrument correctly not only the basic fundamentals of doing so, but the opportunity to do so in the first place. It's an added bonus that the instructors are great at what they do and make learning such an enjoyable experience.

Being in the academy has also provided me with so many different opportunities such as performing as an opening act for some of the greatest mariachi groups throughout the world like Sol de Mexico and Mariachi Vargas, to name a few. We have also performed at many community events which has exposed me to so many great events in our community.

Once I graduate from high school, I plan to attend a university. My goal is to attend Cal State San Bernardino or UC Riverside and study to become a Veterinarian, but wherever I end up and whatever career choice I make with my life, I plan to continue with my music.





Mariachi Youth Academy

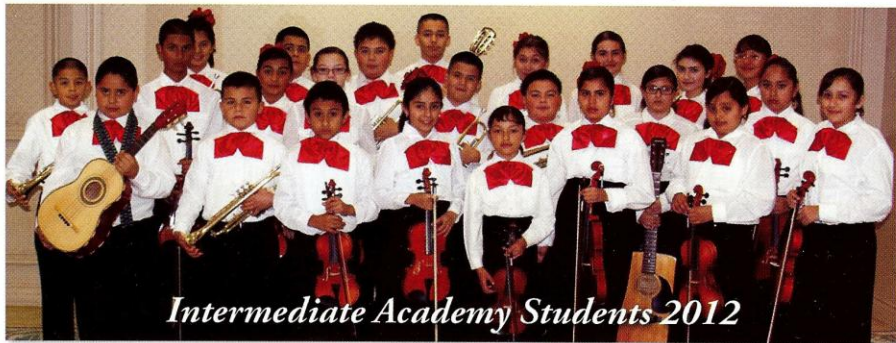
“Teach your students to read music. If you teach them a song, they will learn that song. If you teach them to read, they will learn a million songs.”

– 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.

With world-class musicians/instructors – Maestro Jeff Nevin, Rafael Palomar, Samuel Nolasco, Martin Barboza-Zarate and Jonathan Palomar-Villagran – guiding the program, the Mariachi Youth Academy is poised to be a nationally recognized learning institution for the advancement and promotion of the arts.



Intermediate Academy Students 2012

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:

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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. A one-time gift or donation for our Scholarship Fund is also welcomed.

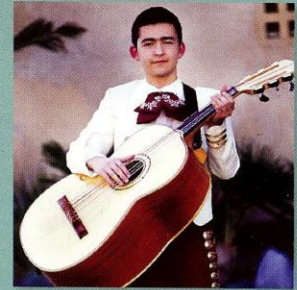
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**SINFONIA
YOUTH ACADEMY
SCHOLARSHIP
RECIPIENTS 2013**



JAVIER TORRES
Computer Science
Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo

“The teamwork I learned in Mariachi, paired with the perseverance from piano, combined to ultimately strengthen my dedication to my other passion: engineering.”



DIANA RAMIREZ
Biology - CSUSB

“I think of myself as a caring and giving person who would like to give back to my community one day by becoming a doctor.”



MIRIAM RAMOS
Forensic Science - SBVC

“My career goal is to study Forensic Science. My passion for creativity includes drawing, painting, singing and performing.”