



Schedule at a Glance

Mon., Nov. 30 @ 2 pm	Plans are announced for the 26th Annual Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza
Tues., Dec. 1 @ 9 am	Learn how to play the harp with Mariachi Vargas' V́ctor ́lvarez - Part 1
Tues., Dec. 1 @ 2 pm	Explore ways to engage mariachi students during the pandemic
Tues., Dec. 1 @ 4 pm	Mariachi Vargas' harp player V́ctor ́lvarez chats with Leon Camacho
Tues., Dec. 1 @ 6 pm	Listen to Jonathan Clark interview V́ctor ́lvarez about his personal musical journey
Wed., Dec. 2 @ 9 am	Learn more about the harp with Mariachi Vargas' V́ctor ́lvarez - Part 2
Wed., Dec. 2 @ 2 pm	View a live presentation on legendary trumpeter Miguel Mart́nez
Wed., Dec. 2 @ 6 pm	Arturo Vargas shares his personal mariachi journey with Jonathan Clark
Wed., Dec. 2 @ 8 pm	Check out Arturo Vargas' performance of his " El Pastor " from MVE25
Thurs., Dec. 3 @ 9 am	Watch Part 3 of harp tutorial series with Mariachi Vargas' V́ctor ́lvarez
Thurs., Dec. 3 @ 2 pm	Learn about mariachi-related career opportunities in the fine arts
Thurs., Dec. 3 @ 4 pm	Robert Ĺpez shares his stories as the first Mexican American to join Mariachi Vargas
Thurs., Dec. 3 @ 6 pm	Vargas trumpeter Agust́n Sandoval shares his personal musical saga
Thurs., Dec. 3 @ 8 pm	View Mariachi Vargas' spectacular " Popurri de Vicente Fernandez "
Fri., Dec. 4 @ 9 am	Watch Part 4 of harp tutorial series with Mariachi Vargas' V́ctor ́lvarez
Fri., Dec. 4 @ 2 pm	Hear from experts on how to write, record and register original mariachi music
Fri., Dec. 4 @ 4 pm	Preview Agust́n Sandoval 's new mariachi trumpet book
Fri., Dec. 4 @ 6 pm	Listen to Jonathan Palomar share his story on how got to Mariachi Vargas
Fri., Dec. 4 @ 8 pm	Check out Mariachi Vargas' popurri " Rancheras de Antaño "
Fri., Dec. 4 @ 8 pm	View Mariachi Vargas' fantastic performance of " El Caporal "
Sat., Dec. 5 @ 12 pm	Tributo al legendario trompetista Miguel Mart́nez Miguel Mart́nez

Sat., Dec. 5 @ 7 pm Watch the 26th Annual Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza [National Vocal Competition](#)

SCHEDULE WITH DESCRIPTIONS

Monday, Nov. 30 @ 2 pm – Plans are announced for the 26th Annual Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza

The 26th Annual Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza will go virtual this year. An exciting rundown has been scheduled with live panel discussions, pre-recorded performances, educational tutorials, audio and video podcasts and the much-anticipated Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza National Mariachi Vocal Competition. Mariachi Vargas members have worked diligently with the MPR team to develop these materials for the purpose of keeping students motivated as they continue to develop their skills and knowledge of mariachi music in the face of these challenging times.

Tuesday, Dec. 1 @ 9 am – Learn how to play the harp with Mariachi Vargas' Víctor Álvarez - Part 1

Víctor Álvarez, harpist for Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán, introduces students to the fundamentals of harp technique, explaining and demonstrating hand positions, fingerings, intervals, arpeggios and bass lines. He teaches basic exercises, in ascending and descending form, to be practiced up and down the three registers of the instrument. The tutorial starts with Víctor performing a piece of "El Cascabel."

Víctor Álvarez, arpista del Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán nos demuestra ejercicios básicos para la iniciación al arpa folklórica mexicana.

Tuesday, Dec. 1 @ 2 pm – Explore ways to engage mariachi students during the pandemic

Everyone has experienced challenges during this pandemic. Hear from college and university mariachi directors about some of the challenges they've faced, what they've done to keep students engaged, how they've implemented virtual learning tactics and which successful strategies they would consider implementing permanently in their programs.

Tuesday, Dec. 1 @ 4 pm – Mariachi Vargas' harp player Víctor Álvarez chats with Leon Camacho

Víctor Álvarez, harpist for Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán, sits down with Leon Camacho and talks about his musical career. Víctor Álvarez has an impressive résumé that includes a bachelor's degree in music education from the prestigious Universidad Veracruzana and a master's degree in music technology from the Universidad Filadelfia de México. He has received numerous awards in several countries for his diverse talents and accomplishments as a highly skilled musician and performer. Víctor is also an accomplished pianist and just completed his first year as Mariachi Vargas' harp player.

Tuesday, Dec. 1 @ 6 pm – Listen to Jon Clark interview Víctor Álvarez about his personal journey

California-based mariachi historian Jonathan Clark chats with Mariachi Vargas harp player Víctor Álvarez. Víctor has an impressive résumé that includes a bachelor's degree in music education from the prestigious Universidad Veracruzana and a master's degree in music technology from the Universidad Filadelfia de México. He has received numerous awards in several countries for his diverse talents and accomplishments as a highly skilled musician and performer. Víctor is also an accomplished pianist and just completed his first year as Mariachi Vargas' harp player.

Wednesday, Dec. 2 @ 9 am – Harp Tutorial with Víctor Álvarez of Mariachi Vargas - Part 2

Víctor Álvarez, harpist for Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán, introduces students to the fundamentals of harp technique, explaining and demonstrating hand positions, fingerings, intervals, arpeggios and bass lines. He teaches

basic exercises, in ascending and descending form, to be practiced up and down the three registers of the instrument. The tutorial starts with Víctor performing the traditional jarocho piece “El Siquisirí”

Víctor Álvarez, arpista del Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán nos demuestra ejercicios iniciales de bajeo en el arpa folklórica mexicana.

Wednesday, Dec. 2 @ 2 pm – View a live tribute on legendary trumpeter Miguel Martínez hosted by Jonathan Clark with invited guests Jon Vela, José Hernández, and Álvaro Paulino

Beyond any doubt, Miguel Martínez (1921–1914) is the most influential trumpet player in the history of mariachi music. From becoming Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán’s first trumpet soloist in the early 1940s to popularizing the trumpet duet as a member of Mariachi México de Pepe Villa in the early 1950s, Martínez virtually wrote the book on the art of the mariachi trumpet. It is his horn that can be heard on films and records by virtually all the famous ranchera singers of the golden era. In the 1990s, now as a senior statesman of mariachi music, Don Miguel became an ubiquitous figure at U.S. mariachi festivals, where he received countless awards and recognitions.

Jonathan Clark, editor of Miguel Martínez’s autobiographical *Mi Vida, Mis Viajes, Mis Vivencias: Siete Décadas en la Música del Mariachi*, hosts a tribute to the great maestro on Wednesday, Dec. 2, at 2 pm CST. Invited guests include Texas mariachi educator John Vela, who brought don Miguel to his very first U.S. mariachi festival in 1992; Los Angeles-based José Hernández, leader of Mariachi Sol de México and a lifelong Miguel Martínez devotee; and Álvaro Paulino, mariachi activist who organized a tribute to Don Miguel in New York City only a week before the maestro’s demise at age 93.

Wednesday, Dec. 2 @ 6 pm – Arturo Vargas shares his personal journey in mariachi music

Wednesday, Dec. 2 @ 8 pm – Check out Arturo Vargas’ performance of his “El Pastor” from MVE25

Thursday, Dec. 3 @ 9 am – Harp Tutorial with Víctor Álvarez of Mariachi Vargas - Part 3

Víctor Álvarez, harpist for Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán, introduces students to the fundamentals of harp technique, explaining and demonstrating hand positions, fingerings, intervals, arpeggios and bass lines. He teaches basic exercises, in ascending and descending form, to be practiced up and down the three registers of the instrument. The tutorial starts with Víctor performing a beautiful piece of “El Ahualulco.”

Víctor Álvarez, arpista del Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán, nos demuestra la ejecución de acordes con sus respectivas inversiones.

Thursday, Dec. 3 @ 2 pm – Learn about Career Opportunities in Fine Arts related to Mariachi Music

This segment features Alicia Covarrubias, Michael Acevedo and Cynthia Muñoz discussing career opportunities for students interested in fine arts. The focus is on mariachi music and the popularity of this genre throughout the Southwestern United States. Alicia is the Mariachi Director at San Antonio College and Assistant Mariachi Director at Fox Tech High School. Michael is the Mariachi Director at the University of Texas San Antonio and Northside Independent School District. Cynthia is producer of the Annual Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza and president of Muñoz Public Relations. The segment is moderated by journalist Patricio Espinoza and edited by Leon Camacho for the Southwest Independent School District’s 6th Annual College, Career & Military Exploration Day.

Thursday, Dec. 3 @ 4 pm – Robert López shares his journey as first Mexican American to join Mariachi Vargas

Robert López is the first Mexican American to join Mariachi Vargas in its 122-year history. The California native made his mark on the mariachi world as a vocalist and violinist during his 10-year career with Mariachi Sol de

México de José Hernández. Prior to joining Mariachi Vargas in 2018, Robert recorded on several albums with Mariachi Sol de México and Mariachi Los Camperos, and even had an opportunity to jam out with Lady Gaga. Since joining Vargas, Robert has accompanied the international superstar Luis Miguel on his *México Por Siempre* tour. In this interview, he talks about how he's made a career as a member of the world's greatest mariachi. This video podcast was recorded by Muñoz Public Relations (MPR) — producers of the annual Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza — with support from Gonzaba Medical Group and H-E-B, sponsors of our annual mariachi music festival. Special thanks to MPR team member Leon Camacho who interviewed Robert on this video in October of 2020 during Mariachi Vargas' first drive-in concert, in San Antonio, Texas.

Thursday, Dec. 3 @ 6 pm – Agustín Sandoval shares his personal journey as a trumpeter with Mariachi Vargas

Thursday, Dec. 3 @ 8 pm – View Mariachi Vargas' spectacular "Popurri de Vicente Fernandez"

Friday, Dec. 4 @ 9 am – Harp Tutorial with Víctor Álvarez de Mariachi Vargas - Part 4

Víctor Álvarez, harpist for Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán, introduces students to the fundamentals of harp technique, explaining and demonstrating hand positions, fingerings, intervals, arpeggios and bass lines. He teaches basic exercises, in ascending and descending form, to be practiced up and down the three registers of the instrument. The tutorial starts with Víctor performing a beautiful piece of “El Jarabe Loco.”

Víctor Álvarez, arpista del Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán nos demuestra "El Jarabe Loco", aplicando ejercicios básicos de arpa folklórica mexicana.

Friday, Dec. 4 @ 2 pm– Writing, recording and registering music at 2 PM

Are you interested in recording music? Learn from leaders in the music business about writing, recording and registering original content. Panel members to include Latin Grammy award-winning sound engineer Ernie González, original song-writer Marcos Zárate and song registration guru Sam Salinas. Knowledge is power and creating original content is key to expanding our musical efforts.

Friday, Dec. 4 @ 4 pm – Discover information about Agustín Sandoval's new mariachi trumpet book

Friday, Dec. 4 @ 6 pm – Listen to Jonathan Palomar share his story on how he joined Mariachi Vargas

Friday, Dec. 4 @ 8 pm – Check out Mariachi Vargas' popurri “Rancheras de Antaño”

Friday, Dec. 4 @ 8 pm – View Mariachi Vargas' fantastic performance of “El Caporal”

Saturday, Dec. 5 @ 7 pm – Watch the 26th Annual Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza National Vocal Competition

As a continuation of our desire to keep youth engaged through these challenging times, the **Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza National Vocal Competition** hosted a nationwide search in October that attracted top talent from elementary to college-level students. Hundreds of vocalists auditioned by video submission, and 35 talented students from across the United States were selected to compete. Students from Texas, Nevada, Arizona, Utah and California will vie for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in three categories in the only competition judged by members of the world-renowned Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán. Only one student will be named **Grand Champion Vocalist of the Year** and will represent the Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza in 2021.