

MARIACHI VARGAS To Perform In Austin For First Time



One of the world's best mariachi band will introduce the Texas capital to the ultimate Mexican musical experience when Mariachi Vargas takes the Bass Concert Hall stage for one night only on Saturday, March 5, 2005. Tickets for this much-anticipated show, presented by Ford Motor Company, are on sale now.

Mariachi Vargas has earned the title of "El Mejor Mariachi Del Mundo" thanks to more than a century of distinguished performances. Based in Mexico City, the 12-member ensemble toured with Linda Ronstadt on her "Canciones de Mi Padre" tour and has just completed a recording of traditional ballads with Mexican superstar Luis Miguel.

Now in their 5th generation, Mariachi Vargas has been featured in more than 200 films and music videos. Under the direction of Maestro Rubén Fuentes for the past five decades, they have become widely recognized as the world's best mariachi musicians, performers who have defined Mexico's musical legacy while spreading the genre's popularity in the United States and around the world.

Mariachi Vargas' performance with the Guadalajara Symphony was featured in the PBS special "Mariachi: The Spirit of Mexico". The group has also been profiled in internationally aired television specials on the Univision and Telemundo networks.

Music lovers experiencing Mariachi Vargas live for the first time are in for a night to remember. Traditional Mexican songs such as *boleros*, *rancheras*, *sones*, *huapangos* and the ever-popular *popurrís* (medleys) are given the signature Mariachi Vargas sound thanks to the thoughtful arrange-

ments of Musical Director José "Pepe" Martínez.

Martínez is especially proud of his incredibly beautiful arrangement of Italian opera tenor Andrea Bocelli's "Por Ti, Volaré." The show-stopping performance of this elegant piece has moved people to tears and brought crowds to their feet.

Boasting a rich and textured sound featuring stringed violins, guitars, trumpets and smooth, passionate voices, the all-male group has an extensive library of original and arranged music to consider, including pieces from the group's recent CD, *Romántico - Boleros*, from its first recording of a mariachi Mass, *Misa Panamericana*, and from a new collaboration with Latin pop star Luis Miguel.

Mariachi Vargas is no stranger to Texas. For several years, thanks to Ford Motor Company, Mariachi Vargas has been performing annually at sold-out events in McAllen and San Antonio, where the group headlines the state's largest Latin music festival of its kind.

Tickets for Mariachi Vargas in Austin are on sale now and prices range from \$20 to \$100. The concert is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased at the University of Texas Performing Arts Center (PAC) Ticket Office, Bass Concert Hall; at the Frank Erwin Center Ticket Office and at area H-E-B stores. To charge by phone, call 512-477-6060 (1-800-982-2386) or go online to TexasBoxOffice.com.

For general information, call the PAC ticket Office (Monday - Friday, Noon to 6 pm) at 512-471-1444 or toll free at 800-687-6010.