

Valley Symphony Orchestra And Mariachi Vargas Score Smashing Success

Upper Valley Ford, Lincoln Mercury Dealers Sponsor Historic Event

by Bill Keltner, La Feria Feature Editor

When the Valley Symphony Orchestra teamed up with the Mariachi Vargas, billed as "The World's Best", one could be sure that the combined forces would produce a unique and spectacular show—they did.

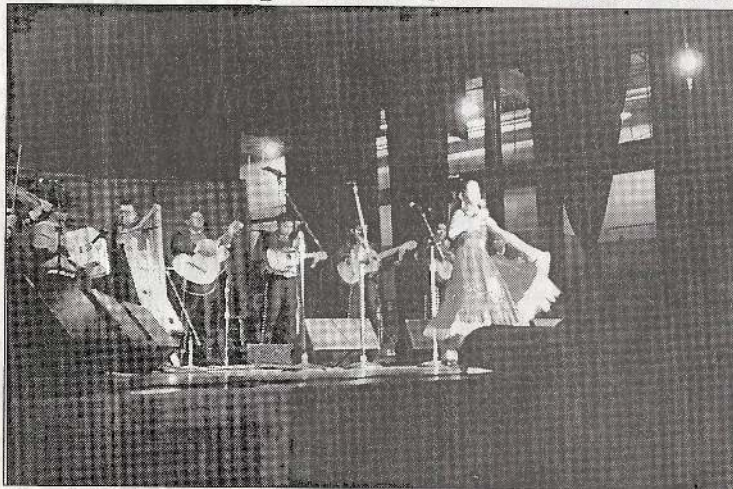
Fans of both the Mariachis Vargas and the Valley Symphony Orchestra were treated to this rare melding of the vibrant musicianship of the greatest Mariachis with the richness of a full concert orchestra.

It was an historical first. Orchestra conductor, Dr. Peter Dabrowski, and the tal-

orchestra blended beautifully with sharp staccato trumpet work of the Mariachi. The conductors of both groups overcame any language differences with the universal language of music to the delight of the audience.

The classical pairing of the Mariachi and the VSO was made possible through cultural efforts of the Ford Motor Company, whose motto is: "We don't just build cars we build communities."

The Ford Division, Lincoln Mercury and Ford Credit Co., have joined together to celebrate and cherish the cultural



9 Year old Victoria Acosta held the audience spellbound during her sizzling performance.

ries of favorite Mariachi numbers to an appreciative audience. The University of Texas—Pan American was the recipient of First Place in the College Level competition at the 2000 San Antonio extravaganza. LA FERIA NEWS spoke with several members of the UTPA mariachi between sessions. A number of music major students came to study music at Edinburg solely because of the fame and reputation of the Mariachi and Music department at the University. They came from all over the state to study at UTPA and get their experience and degrees in

ton at Wortham Center October 6, with the first-time pairing with the Orchestra.

They will next perform in San Antonio November 16-18, 2001 at the Municipal Auditorium for a three-day mariachi celebration, filled with workshops, group and vocal competitions, culminating in a grand concert billed as: "Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza".

The program, "MARIACHI VARGAS EN CONCERTO", was ably introduced by Masters of Ceremonies, Miriam Martínez and Octavio Sánchez, on-air news personalities from KNVO-TV.

The opening performance of ACT 1 of the concert program was ably presented by the ROMA HIGH SCHOOL MARIACHI NUEVO SANTANDER under the direction of Yamil Yunes. This group won first place last year in the 2000 Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza.

Victoria Acosta then stepped to stage center and absolutely owned the audience as she belted out one fabulous number after another. This nine-year old wonderchild was chosen "Best of the Show" last year at the same 2000 Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza held in San Antonio. This was her



UTPA Musicians, Eloy Garza from Roma and Fernando Aguilar from South Padre Island who chose the Edinburg University because of the fame of the mariachi program.

Rio Grande Valley Premier Performance. The UTPA Mariachi with director Dr. Dahlia Guerra from Edinburg next presented a fabulous se-

music because of the musical achievements of the department.

After the intermission, *Continues on Page 3*



Photo Processing by T.N.T. Photography

ented mariachi of 12 musicians worked together hand and glove as though this were a routine affair.

The soaring strings of the

The first Mariachi music serenade took place in Hous-

Valley Symphony cont.



Maria Priscilla Sosa, McAllen I.S.D. Mariachi Director at Rowe Memorial High School with one of the 12 student volunteers helping with the performances

ACT II Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán took charge with a crowd-pleasing program of all the traditional mariachi music from the heartland of Mexico. Their repertoire includes the bolero, polkas and corridos, although the favored form is the bolero ranchera—a chugging “blues-y” Ballad. Almost all the musicians doubled on vocals.

Maria Priscilla E. Sosa, Mariachi Director of McAllen Rowe Memorial High School was on hand

with 12 of her students to assist the Mariachi Vargas. This is their second time to work with the renowned musical group on visits to McAllen.

Paulette Méndez, Press coordinator with Muñoz Public Relations Company, explained how the Ford Motor Company is reaching out to the Spanish community with

It is thought the word “Mariachi” originated in Mexico during the Napoleonic period of 1864 to 1867,

“Their music will transport you to a magical place and time of romance and revolution that honors Latino family, culture and tradition”, Méndez said, and thanked LA FERIA NEWS for being part



Glenda Boykin, office manager for the Valley Symphony Orchestra with volunteers at the Vargas Mariachi performance.

these touring extravaganzas with the world-famous MARIACHI VARGAS...

“In doing so,” she said, “We are promoting education and culture for the Hispanic-American community, and we found no better way than to treat our audiences to this world-renowned group of musical ambassadors from Mexico.”

Mariachi music itself is more than 100 years old and yet it remains relevant today.

of this special event. She was right—it was a grand performance when the French hired the ensembles to play at weddings. “Mariachi” being a Spanish version of the French word “marrage” according to the most popular scholar’s theory on the origin. mance that thrilled the jam-packed Auditorium from start to finish.

If you missed it—there is always next year. But, don’t miss it, you hear?

