for professional development as well as for enjoying performances from some of mariachi's top performers.

For a more complete list, see the MENC Mariachi September Newsletter, or visit www.mariachi.org.

Las Cruces International Mariachi Festival
November 8–12, 2006, Las Cruces, New Mexico

This year marks the 13th year of the Las Cruces International Mariachi Conference. From 1994 to 2006, the conference mission has focused on elevating an awareness and appreciation for Mariachi and Ballet Folkloric art forms, promoting student participation in our public-school and community-based Fine Arts programs, and delivering an instructional workshop curriculum based on the National Standards.

This year’s conference festivities not only offer educational workshops in mariachi music, voice, and folkloric dance, but also an educational resource expo, two concerts, and a park festival. This year’s Spectacular Concert features Walt Disney World's Mariachi Cobre, Alicia Villarreal, Mariachi Divas from Los Angeles, and El Paso's own Mariachi Los Arrieros.

For more information, visit the Las Cruces International Mariachi Conference Web site at www.lascrucesmariachi.org or the Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce at www.lascruces.org. You can also contact Mack Ruiz at mr1@cfi.rr.com or 407-729-6538.

Ford’s Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza
November 30–December 3, 2006, San Antonio, Texas

Celebrate the music of Mexico in the Alamo City with a tradition that spans five generations and more than 100 years during a concert featuring the Mexico City–based Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán. One thousand mariachi students gather during Ford Motor Company’s Annual Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza to participate in the largest mariachi group and vocal competitions in the U.S.A.

“Serenata en el Rio,” mariachi workshops, a mariachi mass, and school and community performances are part of the celebration. For a complete schedule of events, log onto www.mariachimusic.com, or contact Cynthia Muñoz at cynthia@munozpublicrelations.com or 210-225-3353.

15th Annual Christmas Mariachi Festival
December 9, 2006, US Airways Center, Phoenix, Arizona

This lively event features Mariachi Sol, Mariachi Estrella, and Angeles Ochoa. For more information, call 800-637-1006, or visit www.eliaseventertainment.com