

# Texas' largest Mariachi Music Festival attracts thousands to the Alamo City



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Miembros del Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán, Extravaganza. Auditorio Municipal en San Antonio, Texas. Estados Unidos de América. Federico Torres, Trompeta y coordinador 1966; Steeven Sandoval, Violín 1998; Daniel Martínez, Violín, 1985; Gustavo Alvarado, Trompeta, 1991; Fernando Martínez, Violín, 2000; Alberto Alfaro, Violín 2000; José 'Pepe' Martínez, Violín, Director Musical, y arreglista 1975; Arturo Vargas, Guitarra 2003; Alberto Alfaro, Violín 2000; Julio Martínez, Arpa 1996; Gustavo Alvarado, Trompeta 1991; Enrique de Santiago, Guitarrón 1989; Víctor Cárdenas, Vihuela 1960 y Federico Torres Trompeta y coordinador 1966.

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Texas' largest and longest running mariachi music event of its kind is preparing for the 2008 festival in San Antonio November 30 through December 6, 2008. The 14th Annual Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza is a 7-day mariachi music festival with a Christmas-themed Mariachi Serenade on the Riverwalk and an opening mariachi Mass at the historical San Jose Mission.

The largest and most competitive mariachi group and vocal competitions are held during the festival at the Municipal Auditorium as well as a mariachi-themed art exhibit at the Centro Cultural Aztlán. Highlighting the event is a concert featuring the world renowned and Mexico City based Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán who celebrates 111 years of mariachi music tradition this year.

Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán is a 12-piece group made up of some of the most talented voices and musicians in all of Latin America. The group mesmerizes audiences throughout the world with their unique arrangements of traditional mariachi sones, huapangos, boleros, rancheras and classical selections. Mariachi Vargas has recorded more than 75 CDs and has been featured in over 200 films and music videos. Mariachi Vargas will come to a near completion of a 20-city US tour in San Antonio December 6. The group is known for recording with hundreds of artists including Luis Miguel on his Grammy Award-winning CD Mexico en la Piel and Linda Ronstadt during her Canciones de mi padre tour. More than 15,000 people will participate in Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza events November 30 through December 6 at various locations throughout the city.