Members of Mariachi Vargas perform Saturday night at Municipal Auditorium during the Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza.

Mariachis play with verve

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The 2007 Ford Motor Co.'s Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza that unfolded Saturday night at Municipal Auditorium ran with high emotion, from fear and excitement to pride and joy.

Almost a dozen mariachi troupes from elementary level to the world's best — Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán — performed the heartland music of Mexico with verve and passion, delighting the capacity crowd of students, parents, instructors and music fans.

The crowd cheered and applauded even as the 12-member Mariachi Vargas, the silver metallic trim on their dark blue charro outfits glinting under the spotlights, began to stride on stage.

Keyword: Blogs
For more mariachi news, photos, interviews and a list of competition winners, check out Ramiro Burr's Latin Notes.

Though they played mostly classics, they played with enthusiasm and energy. They powered into the chestnut “Rancho Grande,” made famous by the late Tito Guizar, with youthful power and vigor.

Student troupe winners in various categories at the elementary, middle, high school and university levels preceded the mariachi heavy-hitters on stage.

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