

Mariachi fest plans whirlwind of activity

Extravaganza to include competitions, workshops, music.

BY RAMIRO BURR

EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

The 2007 Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza season is coming up soon and promises serenades, an art exhibit, workshops and the highlight concert featuring the world's best — Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán.

Tickets for the concert, scheduled at Municipal Auditorium, are on sale at all Ticketmaster outlets. Tickets, registration and more details are available at (210) 225-3353.

Also performing are Azucena, Mariachi Los Galleros and the winners in the high school and university competition.

Admission to many of the events leading up the main concert are free.

A week of festivities mark the 2007 Ford Motor Co. Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza, which kicks off at noon Nov. 25 with a Mariachi Mass at Mis-

sion San Jose. A new event, the Mariachi Art Exhibit/Reception, is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Nov. 27 at Centro Cultural Aztlan, where it will run through Dec. 2.

A Noche de Cultura performance will feature Julio Martínez on the harp at the Instituto Cultural de Mexico at 7 p.m. Nov. 28, followed by a Serenata en el Rio, with dozens of local mariachi troupes serenading tourists along the Rivercenter Mall Lagoon at 6 p.m. Nov. 29.

Mariachi Workshops are scheduled to start at 8 a.m. Nov. 30 at the Convention Center.

Mariachi group competitions are set to begin at 5 p.m. Nov. 30 at the Municipal Auditorium, with the Mariachi vocal competitions to start at 9 a.m. Dec. 1 at Municipal Auditorium.

For more details, go to www.mariachimusic.com.

rburr@express-news.net