

# MARIACHI

## EXTRAVAGANZA

*Las Vegas*

**Celebrating  
Mariachi Music Excellence**

**March 8, 2025**

# MARIACHI EXTRAVAGANZA *Las Vegas*

March 8, 2025

Dear Patrons,

After 30 years of celebrating the finest mariachi talent, the San Antonio-based Mariachi Extravaganza is proud to partner with the University of Nevada, Las Vegas School of Music to present the inaugural **Mariachi Extravaganza Las Vegas**. This exciting new chapter would not be possible without the support of **Isrea Butler, Stephen Blanco, Lori Cobo**, and the entire **UNLV team**, whose dedication has provided young artists with a world-class stage to showcase their talents.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the **performers** for their passion and dedication, the **parents** and **directors** for their unwavering support, and **Mariachi Revolución** along with all participating groups for their hard work leading up to tonight's show. A special thank you to our featured guest, **Jonathan Palomar**, whose extraordinary voice continues to inspire us all.

A heartfelt thanks to our presenting sponsor, **KHS America Alianza Académica**, for your continued support of mariachi education, and to **La Tremenda Radio, Telemundo Las Vegas**, and **Mexican Consul Patricia Cortez Guadarrama** for championing this event. We are also grateful to **MSG Group** and **Edward Marsh of Tower 51** for their contributions toward scholarships awarded to vocal competition winners. The Las Vegas community's warm embrace of this festival means the world to us.

Most importantly, thank you, **our audience**, for your presence and support of young artists and tonight's celebration of mariachi music. The Mariachi Extravaganza remains committed to **promoting higher education, cultural preservation, and providing young artists a national platform to shine**.

Enjoy the show!



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Cynthia Munoz  
Producer, Mariachi Extravaganza

# MARIACHI

## EXTRAVAGANZA

*Las Vegas*

### CONCERT PROGRAM

Master of ceremonies: Katia Gutierrez, Telemundo Las Vegas



### COMPETITION WINNERS

These outstanding groups and vocalists earned a spot in tonight's show by placing first in the Mariachi Extravaganza Competitions earlier today. More than 300 students from 7 different states and Canada participated in the inaugural Mariachi Extravaganza Las Vegas.



### GRAND CHAMPIONS

Every year in San Antonio, the Mariachi Extravaganza crowns one competitor as the "Best in the U.S. Grand Champion Vocalist". Tonight you will witness award winning performances by former champions Kaylee Bucio from Utah (2019), and Nayelli Pena (2022) and Lorraine Garza from Texas (2024).



### JONATHAN PALOMAR

Jonathan Palomar, one of the greatest vocalists in mariachi history, headlines the event. Formerly a key member of the world-renowned Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán, Jonathan's powerful voice and emotional depth have made him a beloved figure in mariachi music across the globe. Tonight, he will be accompanied by UNLV's Mariachi Revolution.



# JONATHAN PALOMAR

Jonathan Palomar is a singer and guitarist from Mexico City. Born into a musical family from Ameca, Jalisco, he started playing music at a young age. His first music teacher was his father, Don Rafael Palomar, who taught him both singing and guitar. At the age of eight, he expanded his training with private lessons in piano and guitar. At 17, he joined the Escuela Libre de Música in Mexico City, where he studied classical singing and guitar.

In 2017, he was invited to join Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán (the best mariachi in the world). Since then, Jonathan has had a busy touring schedule in Mexico, the U.S., Canada, Europe, South America, and Asia, as well as recording projects. He participated in Luis Miguel's "México por Siempre" tour in 2018, 2019, and 2023. The tour won both the Latin Grammy and the International Grammy. Palomar has performed with Mariachi Vargas in over 450 concerts worldwide, including iconic venues such as: El Palacio de Bellas Artes, Auditorio Nacional, Teatro Degollado, the UN Auditorium in Geneva, Switzerland, and even the White House in Washington, D.C.

Currently, Jonathan resides in San Antonio, Texas, where he serves as the Artistic Director of the Mariachi Extravaganza Conference (the largest of its kind in the world) and teaches music at educational institutions for students and teachers in Mariachi programs through nonprofit organizations. At the end of 2023, Jonathan decided to retire from Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán to focus on his solo career and further his musical studies at Our Lady of the Lake University, which generously awarded him a full scholarship for this purpose. He also continues to work as an educator of traditional Mexican music, sanctioned by UNESCO as one of the most important cultural heritages of Mexico.

# MEET THE JUDGES OF THE VOCAL & GROUP COMPETITONS

JONATHAN PALOMAR, JIMMY CUÉLLAR & ADRIAN MENDOZA

**Jimmy Cuéllar** is a proud alumni of UNLV where he studied music composition. He is a former member of the legendary Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano and the current director of Mariachi Garibaldi de Jaime Cuéllar. He is a three-time Grammy Award-winning musician, composer, and arranger who is dedicated to preserving traditional mariachi music while embracing innovative styles. Cuéllar's versatile talent has led him to perform on NPR's Tiny Desk with pop star Camila Cabello, further showcasing his ability to bridge traditional mariachi with contemporary music. Under his dynamic leadership and creative vision, Mariachi Garibaldi continues to captivate audiences in both the U.S and Mexico with their show *Fiestas de Mexico*. Mariachi Garibaldi is currently touring with Miguel Peña's Ballet Folklórico del Rio Grande and will be performing *Fiesta Sinfónica* con Mariachi Garibaldi on Saturday, March 22, at the Segerstrom Concert Hall in Costa Mesa, CA.



**Adrian Mendoza** is a highly respected trumpet player based in Las Vegas and known for his exceptional skill and dedication to mariachi music. From 2013 to 2018, he toured and recorded with the acclaimed Mariachi Sol de México and was nominated for a Latin Grammy. Adrian has also performed with the world-renowned Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán during the Luis Miguel tour, further solidifying his reputation as a top-tier mariachi musician. Currently, he serves as a master trumpet instructor for Clark County ISD, where he is deeply committed to nurturing young talent and promoting mariachi education throughout the district. His passion for teaching is complemented by his family's strong musical roots. His first teacher was his own grandfather and his wife is a mariachi director at Chayanne High School and a former member of the trailblazing all-female ensemble Mariachi Reyna de Los Angeles.

# VOCAL COMPETITION PARTICIPANTS

## Elementary School Category

Alessandra Gutierrez	Voorhies Elementary School	Bakersfield, CA
Bryan Malanche	Sandy Elementary	Sandy, UT
Alexia Orta	Yes Prep North Central Elementary	Houston, TX
Yamileth Arellano	Wallace Stegner Academy	Kearns, UT
Emiliano Rosales Meza	Meza St. Mark Catholic Elementary School	Mississauga, ON

## Middle School Category

Cristaly Leal	Zapata Middle School	Zapata, TX
Brandon Malanche	Mount Jordan Middle School	Sandy, UT
Carla Beltran	K.O. Knudson Middle School	Las Vegas, NV
Argennis Gonzalez	John C. Fremont Middle School	Las Vegas, NV
Aithye Mariche	Mount Jordan Middle School	Sandy, UT

## High School Category

Francisco Iniguez-Hinojosa	Desert Pine High School	Las Vegas, NV
Brisa Leon-Martinez	River Hill High School	Elkridge, MD
Saul Alexander Merino	Chaparral High School	Las Vegas, NV
Michelle Meraz	Rio Grande City High School	Rio Grande City, TX
Zayden Longoria	Sam Houston Math/Science/Tech Center	Houston, TX
Yaritsel Salinas	Grolla High School	La Grolla, TX
Betsy Garcia	Las Vegas High School	Las Vegas, NV
Carolina Reyes	Las Vegas High School	Las Vegas, NV
Elizabeth Hernandez	Del Sol Academy of The Performing Arts	Las Vegas, NV
Kaly Garcia	Rio Grande City High School	Rio Grande City, TX
Leylanie Rodriguez	Grolla High School	La Grolla, TX
Cecilia Martinez	Rio Grande City High School	Rio Grande City, TX
Israel Martinez	East Career and Technical Academy	Las Vegas, NV
Amberlyn Cruz	Rio Grande City High School	Rio Grande City, TX
Yuri Pardo	Seguin High School	Seguin, TX
Nicole Lillingston	Arleta High School	Pacoima, CA
Reina Ley	Benjamin Franklin High School	San Tan Valley, AZ
Aliah Maldonado	La Joya High School	La Joya, TX
Kimberly Jaramillo	Granger High School	West Valley City, UT
Genesis Jimenez	Las Vegas High School	Las Vegas, NV

## College/University Category

Gabriela Cruz	Texas Christian University	Fort Worth, TX
Gemanereida Barragan Cruz	Portland State University	Portland, OR
Siumy Coreas	University of Houston	Houston, TX
Jenika Montes	University of Texas Rio Grande Valley	Valley Edinburg, TX
Jocelyn Betancourt	University of Texas El Paso	El Paso, TX
Irving Chavez Martinez	University of Nevada Las Vegas	Las Vegas, NV
Joselin Garcia	University of Nevada Reno	Reno, NV
Matthew Gideon Perkins	Texas A&M University Corpus Christi	Corpus Christi, TX
Felicia Soto	Palo Alto College	San Antonio, TX
Joselyn Gutierrez	Nevada State University	Las Vegas, NV

# GROUP COMPETITION PARTICIPANTS

## Middle School Category

Mariachi Los Bravos	JD Smith Middle School	Las Vegas, NV
Mariachi Los Cadetes	Roy Martin Middle School	Las Vegas, NV
Mariachi Los Pumas	K.O. Knudson Academy of the Arts	Las Vegas, NV
Mariachi Alas Doradas	Keller Middle School	Las Vegas, NV

## High School Category

Mariachi Joya	Las Vegas High School	Las Vegas, NV
Mariachi Grolla de Plata	Grolla High School	La Grolla, TX
Mariachi Cascabel	Rio Grande City High School	Rio Grande City, TX



# UNLV'S MARIACHI REVOLUCION

Mariachi Revolucion is a vibrant and dynamic ensemble dedicated to the rich musical traditions of Mexico. As part of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, the group blends classical and contemporary mariachi styles, showcasing the passionate rhythms, harmonies, and melodies that define the genre. Composed of talented student musicians, Mariachi Revolucion performs both traditional and original compositions, representing the cultural diversity and artistic excellence of the university.

Under the direction of Stephen Blanco, the group has become a vital part of the Las Vegas arts scene, performing at local events, festivals, and concerts. Through their music, Mariachi Revolucion not only preserves the cultural heritage of mariachi but also innovates within the genre, creating memorable experiences for their audience while fostering a sense of community and pride. Mariachi Revolucion has had the honor of performing for President Joe Biden during his visit to Las Vegas and is excited to open its full-scale mariachi program within the School of Music. They are expected to release their debut album later this year.

# THANK YOU SPONSORS!



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# 31<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL MARIACHI EXTRAVAGANZA

DECEMBER 4-6, 2025

SAN ANTONIO, TX

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Save  
the  
Date





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**DEPOT**

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**Guitarras Clasicas**



**Guitarrones**

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**MARIACHI DEPOT**

**3614 Maryland Pkwy Ste 105**

**Las Vegas, NV 89122**

**702-724-3146**

**Only 4 blocks from UNLV**

Save  
the  
Date

MARIACHI  
EXTRAVAGANZA

VOCAL SUMMER CAMP

June 23 - 27, 2025

[MARIACHI.MUSIC.COM](http://MARIACHI.MUSIC.COM)

MARIACHI EXTRAVAGANZA LAS VEGAS  
PRODUCTION TEAM

Cynthia Munoz	Co-producer	Isrea Butler	Co-producer, UNLV
Jonathan Palomar	Artistic Director	Stephen Blanco	Event Consultant, UNLV
Sandra Guevara	Operations Manager	Leon Camacho	Associate Producer

Mayra Sustaita

Executive Assistant

Rocio Silva

Executive Assistant

Lori Cobo

Executive Director, UNLV

Shaun Franklin-Sewell

Director of Marketing, UNLV

Lynn Ware

Technical Director, UNLV

Joy Montano

Guest Relations Manager, UNLV




# We Celebrate You

AT KHS AMERICA, WE BELIEVE THAT  
**MUSIC IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF LIFE.**

COMPARTIMOS **TU PASIÓN.**



  
*H. Jimenez*

 JUPITER.

*XO*

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 KHS America

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