

NOVEMBER 18, 2022

28<sup>th</sup>  
ANNUAL  
MARIACHI  
EXTRAVAGANZA

PRESENTED BY



# 28th ANNUAL MARIACHI EXTRAVAGANZA

November 18, 2022

Welcome. Tonight's show is dedicated to some very special people who have passed on this year. First is Maestro Rubén Fuentes, who was at the helm of Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán for more than 60 years. As violinist, composer, arranger and director, he is considered the most influential musical figure in the history of mariachi music. We also lost Heriberto "El Cura" Molina, considered perhaps the most influential mariachi singer of all time. A vocal soloist and violinist for Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán for three decades, his voice is featured on over 100 recordings by that group. He participated in San Antonio's first mariachi music festival in 1979 and subsequent events until his retirement from Vargas in 1983.

The third passing that occurred this year was that of mariachi director Donato Alberto Ávila. Albert was the director for Mariachi Azul at Fremont Professional Development Middle School in Las Vegas, Nevada. He changed many lives through his love for teaching mariachi music, and raised the prominence of local mariachi programs through his endless dedication. And finally, my father, Jesús "Chuy" Muñoz recently passed. For 27 years, he was the biggest fan of the Mariachi Extravaganza and was part of our MPR team and the many concerts we produced all over Texas for so many years. He will be missed greatly, along with so many others who are close to our hearts and are no longer with us.

For this reason, it's crucial that we continue supporting the next generation of young artists, while introducing mariachi music to new audiences. Cecilia Ballí did this recently with her November 6 article titled "Mariachi Country," published in the *New York Times Magazine*. Thank you, Cecilia, for bringing mariachi music to the forefront of mainstream American media with your intricate detailing of the Mariachi Extravaganza competitions.

And finally, we give a very special warm welcome to "La excelencia de México", Mariachi Nuevo Tecalitlán, from Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico. Thank you for sharing your beautiful music at this year's 28th Annual Mariachi Extravaganza. Now sit back, and relax, and enjoy the show!

Cynthia Y. Muñoz

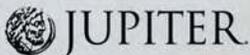
Producer, 28th Annual Mariachi Extravaganza  
President, Muñoz Public Relations



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# MARIACHI LOS PAISANOS



## THE MUSIC AND TRADITION OF MEXICO

Since its establishment, Mariachi Los Paisanos has become a staple of UTSA's identity as a university. The ensemble performs in the San Antonio metro area, as well as on campus, at special UTSA Athletics events, and during commencement. Participation is open to students of all majors!

For more information, please visit [music.utsa.edu](http://music.utsa.edu)



# Concert Program



### Cynthia Muñoz, Host

As a child, Cynthia Muñoz played mariachi music and competed in San Antonio's first mariachi music festival in 1979. She founded Muñoz Public Relations, and in 1995, produced her first mariachi music festival. Now in its 28th year, the Mariachi Extravaganza has impacted the lives of many and is one of the most important of its kind in the world.



### National Competition Winners

The Mariachi Extravaganza National Competitions attract the most talented mariachi groups and vocalists in the nation. Tonight's award-winning performances from top winners is a testament to the hard work and dedication from directors, students, parents and entire communities.



### Mariachi Aztlán

#### The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Founded by Dr. Dahlia Guerra, and co-directed by Francisco Loera, Mariachi Aztlán has proven themselves as an outstanding college/university mariachi nationwide. The group has traveled throughout Mexico, Canada and the U.S. as musical ambassadors and is currently accompanying Aída Cuevas in her "Yo Creo que es Tiempo" tour.

### INTERMISSION



### Mariachi Nuevo Tecalitlán

Commonly referred to as "La excelencia de México," Mariachi Nuevo Tecalitlán (MNT) has been one of the most prominent mariachi groups of all time. The group is based in Guadalajara, Jalisco and has been in existence for 57 years. MNT was originally founded in 1965 by the late brothers José "Pepe" Martínez, Sr. and Fernando Martínez, Sr. The fifteen-member ensemble is made up of accomplished musicians and vocalists and performs under the direction of Fernando Martínez.

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# The Extravaganza

The Mariachi Extravaganza is one of the most important mariachi music festivals in the world. It is an annual event that has taken place in San Antonio for 28 consecutive years. The multi-day music festival celebrates the culture and history of Latin music and utilizes the mariachi music platform to promote higher education and cultural preservation among Hispanic youth.

The Mariachi Extravaganza hosts three competitions: the National Mariachi Group and Vocal Competitions, and the Original Songwriting Competition. All three lead up to the concert featuring "La excelencia de México" Mariachi Nuevo Tecalitlán and competition winners. This is the first year Mariachi Nuevo Tecalitlán takes part in the Mariachi Extravaganza and judges the competitions. The success and longevity of the event stems from the tireless commitment and hard work from the mariachi community nationwide. For nearly three decades, this annual event has had a positive impact on the lives of thousands of students. It has helped catapult careers of young artists and is the largest distributor of scholarships, grants and prizes to award winning mariachi groups and vocalists in the U.S.

Higher education has been a major focus of the Mariachi Extravaganza since its inception. Through the Extravaganza, students are introduced to colleges and universities with mariachi music programs. Many graduate from college and return to their communities to teach mariachi music in the schools. This cycle contributes to the continuous growth and strength of mariachi music programs and the high caliber of performances presented during the Mariachi Extravaganza.

The Mariachi Extravaganza continues to have an important cultural and social impact in Hispanic communities throughout the United States.

Mark your calendars for the 29th Annual Mariachi Extravaganza November 9-11, 2023.



# MARIACHI AZTLÁN

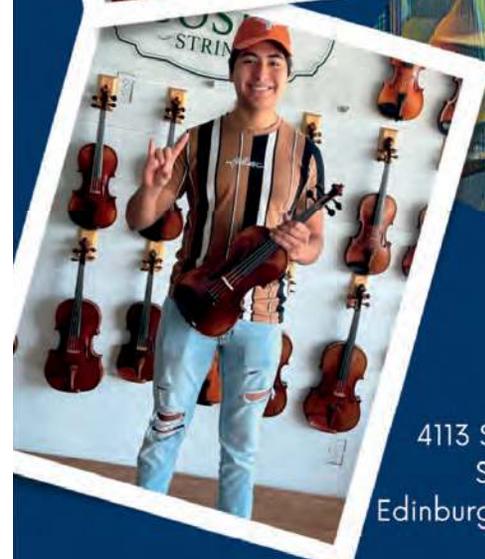
Since its founding in 1989, the University of Texas Río Grande Valley's Mariachi Aztlán has been captivating audiences throughout Mexico, Canada and the United States. Under the direction of Dr. Dahlia Guerra and Prof. Francisco Loera, they travel as musical ambassadors representing the beauty of Hispanic music and its cultural traditions. In recognition of the group's excellence, in 2010 they were invited by President Obama to perform at the signing ceremony of an executive order renewing and enhancing the federal Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics.

In collaboration with the Houston Grand Opera, Mariachi Aztlán premiered the stage production of *Cruzar la Cara de la Luna*, the world's first mariachi opera, in 2010, as well as a second performance of that production in 2013 with the Lyric Opera of Chicago. Mariachi Aztlán also premiered the mariachi opera *El Pasado Nunca Se Termina* with the Chicago Lyric Opera in 2015. Other national performances include those as guest artists at mariachi festivals in Tucson, San Diego and Chicago. Other concerts include appearances at the Hollywood Bowl, John F. Kennedy Performing Arts Center, Smithsonian Folklife Festival, and a recent

performance at the Santa Barbara Bowl with "La Reina del Mariachi" – Aída Cuevas. Mariachi Aztlán has performed with symphony orchestras in the United States and Mexico, including performances with south Texas's Valley Symphony Orchestra, as well as in Monterrey, Pachuca and Tampico. The group has served as guest clinicians at San Antonio's Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza, Albuquerque's Mariachi Spectacular and other national workshops.

Mariachi Aztlán is currently touring with Mexico's top female ranchera artist Aída Cuevas in her "Yo Creo Que Es Tiempo" tour in 22 sold-out performances across the United States. This is quite a feat for UTRGV as it demonstrates the level of expertise and performance excellence that exists at the collegiate level.

Mariachi Aztlán has been a long-time participant of San Antonio's Mariachi Extravaganza, where they have won the National Group Competition multiple times, accompanied guest artists and performed as an opening act throughout the years. Their dedication to the continuous growth and development of mariachi music is widely recognized and deeply appreciated.



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# MARIACHI NUEVO TECALITLÁN



## LA EXCELENCIA DE MÉXICO



The identity of a country is not measured by the extension of its territory, but rather by the quality of its people and its traditions. Mexico is tequila, culture and hospitality; but above all, it is the mariachi: Mexico's most representative music.

Founded by José "Pepe" Martínez and his brother Fernando, Mariachi Nuevo Tecalitlán was born in 1965 in Guadalajara, Jalisco. It quickly became recognized as one of the finest mariachis in the country. Since then, thanks to the group's inexhaustible effort and talent, Mariachi

Nuevo Tecalitlán has conquered the most remote corners of Mexico and beyond and earned the title of "Best Mariachi in Jalisco."

Mariachi Nuevo Tecalitlán just released their latest album *Mexico creo en Ti* in October this year. This is one of over 50 albums the group has recorded in its six decades of existence.

Over the past half century, Nuevo Tecalitlán has participated in concerts with numerous symphony orchestras in Mexico and abroad; mariachi festivals

in Chicago, New York, Miami, Texas, Hollywood, Albuquerque, Los Angeles and Las Vegas; performances in Ecuador, Guatemala, Chile, Korea, China, Germany, Spain, and the United States; and accompanied artists such as Vicente Fernández, Filippa Giordano, Alejandro Sanz, Lila Downs, Raúl Di Blasio, Río Roma, tenors Ramón Vargas and Javier Camarena, and Prince Royce, just to name a few.

For the past six years, Mariachi Nuevo Tecalitlán has worked extensively with students from South Texas. Thanks to its

affiliation with Texas A&M International University (TAMIU) in Laredo, the group has strengthened mariachi educational programs through teaching and performances within the statewide TAMIU festival.

Mariachi Nuevo Tecalitlán, "*La excelencia de México*," makes its debut appearance in San Antonio at tonight's 28th Annual Mariachi Extravaganza. The Extravaganza extends a warm Texas welcome to this outstanding group with six decades of tradition.



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# 2022 NATIONAL MARIACHI GROUP COMPETITION

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

## Middle School

Mariachi Toro	A.J. Briesemeister Middle School	Seguin, TX
Mariachi Juvenil	Chapa Middle School	Kyle, TX
Mariachi Azul	Fremont PDMS & Academy of Medical Sciences	Las Vegas, NV
Mariachi Alas Doradas	Keller Middle School	Las Vegas, NV
Mariachi Los Gavilanes	Monaco Middle School	Las Vegas, NV
Mariachi Juvenil Santander	Ramiro Barrera Middle School	Roma, TX
Mariachi Escandón	Roma Middle School	Roma, TX
Mariachi Los Camperos	Simon Middle School	Kyle, TX
Mariachi Del Campo	Wallace Middle School	Kyle, TX

## High School

Mariachi Encendido	Del Sol Academy of the Performing Arts	Las Vegas, NV
Mariachi Juvenil Azteca	Edcouch-Elsa High School	Edcouch, TX
Mariachi Grulla De Plata	Grulla High School	Rio Grande City, TX
Mariachi Azteca	James "Nikki" Rowe High School	McAllen, TX
Mariachi Diamantes Estelares	Judson High School	San Antonio, TX
Mariachi Los Coyotes	La Joya High School	La Joya, TX
Mariachi Internacional	Las Vegas Academy of the Arts	Las Vegas, NV
Mariachi Joya	Las Vegas High School	Las Vegas, NV
Mariachi Los Lobos	Lehman High School	Kyle, TX
Mariachi Nuevo Halcón	Los Fresnos High School	Los Fresnos, TX
Mariachi Oro	McAllen High School	McAllen, TX
Mariachi Los Tigres Del Sur	Raymond & Tirza Martin High School	Laredo, TX
Mariachi Cascabel	Rio Grande City High School	Rio Grande City, TX
Mariachi Nuevo Santander	Roma High School	Roma, TX
Mariachi Santander JV	Roma High School	Roma, TX
Mariachi Matador	Seguin High School	Seguin, TX
Mariachi Nuevo Cascabel	Sharyland High School	Mission, TX
Mariachi Nuevo Cascabel JV	Sharyland High School	Mission, TX
Mariachi Diamante Rojo	Sharyland Pioneer High School	Mission, TX
Mariachi Leyenda De Oro	Southwest Legacy High School	San Antonio, TX
Mariachi Sol De Oro	Valley View High School	Hidalgo, TX
Mariachi Juvenil Sinfónico	Veterans Memorial High School	San Antonio, TX
Mariachi Los Cougars	West Campus High School	San Antonio, TX

## College/University

Mariachi Plata	College of Southern Nevada	North Las Vegas, NV
Mariachi Javelina	Texas A&M University-Kingsville	Kingsville, TX
Mariachi Los Paisanos	The University of Texas at San Antonio	San Antonio, TX



# 2022 NATIONAL MARIACHI VOCAL COMPETITION

## SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

### Elementary / Middle School

Alan Aguilar	Patrick Henry Middle School	Houston, TX
Allyson Contador	Barrientes Middle School	Edinburg, TX
Yessenia Cruz	Veterans Middle School	Rio Grande City, TX
Samuel Garza	Ramiro Barrera Middle School	Roma, TX
Sophia Garza	Memorial Middle School	Mission, TX
Francisco Hinojosa	Monaco Middle School	Las Vegas, NV
Marianna Rowan	Uvalde Dual Language Academy	Uvalde, TX
Eduardo Antonio Treviño	Autumn Creek Elementary	Humble, TX

### High School

Lesly Arauz	Del Sol Academy of the Performing Arts	Las Vegas, NV
Jelayna Barrera	Roma High School	Roma, TX
Matthew Cavazos	Edcouch-Elsa High School	Edcouch, TX
Abril Cisneros	Del Sol Academy of the Performing Arts	Henderson, NV
Dana Flores	Gruella High School	Rio Grande City, TX
Yuliana Flores	La Joya High School	La Joya, TX
Arleth Garcia	Gruella High School	Rio Grande City, TX
Gianna Gonzalez	St. John Paul II Catholic High School	Cibolo, Texas
Carlos Guevara	Sharyland High School	Mission, TX
Jessica Halilí	Las Vegas High School	Las Vegas, NV
Anali Hinojosa	Gruella High School	Rio Grande City, TX
Jiada Ortiz	Weslaco East High School	Weslaco, TX
Nayelli Pena	Gruella High School	Rio Grande City, TX
Melody Quiroz	Rio Grande City High School	Rio Grande City, TX
Taytum Rangel	Seguin High School	Seguin, TX
Angelina Rodriguez	Edcouch-Elsa High School	Weslaco, TX
Carolina Rodriguez	Gruella High School	Rio Grande City, TX
Dayanara Salinas	Roma High School	Roma, Texas
Melanie Torres	Las Vegas Academy of the Arts	Las Vegas, NV
Gabriela Villasana	Fox Tech High School	San Antonio, TX

### College/University

Deborah Carillo-Barquero	College of Southern Nevada	North Las Vegas, NV
Natalie Carmona	The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley	Edinburg, TX
Oswaldo Chacon	The University of Texas at San Antonio	San Antonio, TX
Elma Garcia	Texas State University	San Marcos, TX
Roxeth Gonzalez	Texas A&M Corpus Christi	Corpus Christi, TX
Sofia Gonzalez	Texas State University	San Marcos, TX
Alejandra Hernandez	College of Southern Nevada	North Las Vegas, NV
Jose Mejia	College of Southern Nevada	North Las Vegas, NV
Jenika Montes	The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley	Edinburg, TX
Michael Padilla	College of Southern Nevada	North Las Vegas, NV

# CONGRATULATIONS

## 2022 Original Songwriting Competition Finalists!

José Barraza Barrón	<i>El Son de la Guitarra</i>	Fort Worth, TX
Nathan Fernández	<i>Oveja</i>	Edinburg, TX
Claudia García	<i>Poder</i>	Los Angeles, CA
Eric González	<i>Un Baile</i>	Seguin, TX
Carlos Maldonado	<i>Quisiera</i>	San Marcos, TX
Olympia Peña	<i>La Pitayera</i>	Santa Clarita, CA
Victor Pichardo	<i>Son a Mi Amor</i>	Chicago, IL

For almost three decades, the Mariachi Extravaganza has contributed to the preservation of the mariachi music genre by hosting what are now some of the most contested mariachi group and vocal competitions in the world. In efforts to continue the development and preservation of Mexico's signature musical genre, the Mariachi Extravaganza added the Original Songwriting Competition to its program. We hope that this platform will encourage the next generation of mariachi musicians to get involved in songwriting and arranging to preserve the mariachi music genre through generations to come. Congratulations to the 28th Annual Mariachi Extravaganza Original Songwriting Competition finalists.

## Production Team

<b>Cynthia Muñoz</b>	<i>Producer</i>
<b>Sandra Guevara</b>	<i>Assistant Producer</i>
<b>Leon Camacho</b>	<i>Production Manager</i>
<b>Grace Smelser</b>	<i>Publicist</i>
<b>Andrea Daniela</b>	<i>Production Assistant</i>
<b>Gabriel Rodríguez</b>	<i>Audio Engineer</i>
<b>Daniel Meléndrez</b>	<i>Monitor Engineer</i>
<b>Frank Burton</b>	<i>Lighting Engineer</i>
<b>Mike Ochoa</b>	<i>Lighting Engineer</i>
<b>Robert Herzik</b>	<i>Art Director</i>
<b>Isaiah Matthews</b>	<i>Videographer, Solarshot</i>
<b>Chavis Barron</b>	<i>Videographer, Solarshot</i>
<b>Julian Arizola</b>	<i>Assistant</i>
<b>Alejandra Guzmán</b>	<i>Assistant</i>

## Volunteers

*Thanks to our volunteers for your support of the Mariachi Extravaganza!*

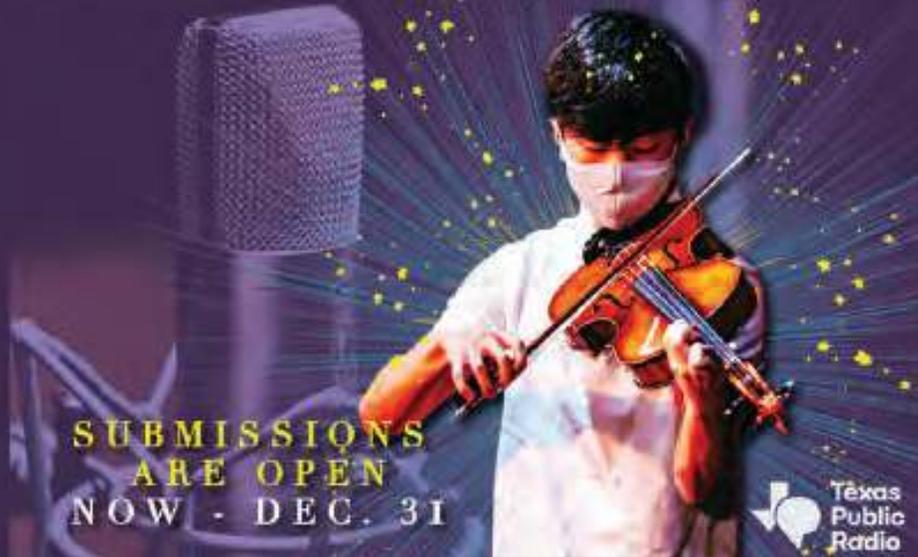
Rose Arizpe	Alexa Posas*
Jackelyn Barrera*	Chave Resendez
Isabella Caballero	Gabriela Resendez
Juan De La Cruz	Ovidio Resendez
Stacy De La Cruz	Patricia Resendez
Eileen Falcon	Sarah Rocha
Jeremy Faulkner	Cindy Rodriguez
Silvia Gamon	Isabella Rodriguez
Luis Garcia	Jizelle Rodriguez*
Veronica Guedea	Maggie Rodriguez
Peter Herrera	Mayra Stille
Mateo Muñoz	Ashley Treviño*
Mellanie Olivares*	

\* Former Grand Champion Winners

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# IN MEMORIAM

TONIGHT'S SHOW IS DEDICATED  
TO THE FOLLOWING, AND TO ALL THOSE  
WHO LOST LOVED ONES IN 2022



**Rubén Fuentes**

Musician/Composer, Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán  
Mexico City, Mexico

February 15, 1926 – February 5, 2022



**Heriberto "El Cura" Molina**

Vocalist/Violinist, Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán  
Pico Rivera, California

December 4, 1930 – September 29, 2022



**Donato "Albert" Ávila**

Mariachi Director, Mariachi Azul  
Fremont Professional Development Middle School  
Las Vegas, Nevada

October 22, 1982 – October 20, 2022



**Jesús G. "Chuy" Muñoz**

MPR Team Member, Mariachi Extravaganza  
San Antonio, Texas

September 10, 1932 – October 22, 2022

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