

W ON THE STAGE

BESTBETS

PERCUSSION FESTIVAL: The eighth annual Del Mar College percussion festival begins with a concert at 7:30 p.m. today by the Meehan/Perkins Duo. The event continues from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday featuring solo percussionists and ensembles in Wolfe Recital Hall, Del Mar College East, Ayers at Kosar Streets. Information: 698-1214.

MUSIC: Corpus Christi Live!

presents Jesse Cook at 7:30 p.m. today at Del Mar Richardson Performance Hall. Featuring exotic rumba flamenco with world music and percussion. Cost: \$12-\$36. Information: 698-2226, or www.delmar.edu/richardson

ROMANTIC RACHMANINOV: Maestro John Giordano, Corpus Christi Symphony Orchestra and guest artist Celeste Golden present a classical concert featuring

the music of Rachmaninov, Rossini and Mozart at 8 p.m. Saturday at the Performing Arts Center, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Cost: \$30-\$60. Information: 877-286-6683.

CONCERT BAND: Del Mar College concert band performs at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Martha Luigi Auditorium, Rockport-Fulton High School, 1801 Omohundro St., Free. Information: 698-1214.

HORN ENSEMBLE: Horn Ensemble under the direction of Jennifer Sholtis will perform at 8 p.m. Wednesday in the Recital Hall, Texas A&M University-Kingsville. Free. Information: 361-593-2803.

CONCERT: Del Mar College Concert Band presents "Masterworks for Winds," at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at Richardson Performance Hall, Del Mar College East, Baldwin and Ayers. Free. Information: 698-1608.

BY SUSAN TALLANT
Special to the Caller-Times

A world-renowned mariachi group is heading for American Bank Center's Selena Auditorium on Saturday as part of the Coastal Bend Area Mariachi Festival, a celebration of Mexican cultural arts through mariachi music.

Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán, celebrating its 110th anniversary during the festival, has recorded more than 60 CDs and has been featured in more than 200 films.

The group also has recorded with hundreds of musicians including Latin artist Luis Miguel on his Grammy award-winning CD "Mexico en la Piel" with Linda Ronstadt during her "Canciones de Mi Padre" tour and was featured in "Mariachi: The Spirit of Mexico" on PBS.

"This is cultural education," said Juan Jose Sanchez, Dia del Mariachi coordinator. "It's not just four fat guys singing at a restaurant anymore."

The festival, promoting higher education among Hispanic youths, also brings 35 competing ensembles from across the state and New Mexico and 44 vocalists.

Student mariachis will participate in Dia del Mariachi workshops during the event and compete for a chance to be

Mariachi celebration



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a part of the opening act for the Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán concert.

"We have full ensembles in classical music style," Sanchez said. "It's a great style of music and performing art."

One high school perform-

ing at the event, Zapata High School, is known to be the best in the nation, Sanchez said.

"We've got everything here. We've covered all of our bases," Sanchez said. "It is wonderful to bring a cultural

art to South Texas."

Sanchez said the best part of his job is helping the public understand this style of music, which he adores.

"I am not a musician, or a singer," Sanchez said. "I just love to listen to the music."

IF YOU GO

WHAT: MARIACHI VARGAS DE TECALITLÁN PERFORMANCE

WHEN: 7:30 P.M. SATURDAY

WHERE: AMERICAN BANK CENTER SELENA AUDITORIUM

COST: \$21.50 TO \$101.50

INFORMATION: 881-8499; WWW.TICKETMASTER.COM

WHAT: COASTAL BEND AREA MARIACHI FESTIVAL

WHEN: TODAY AND SATURDAY. SCHOOL MARIACHI GROUP PERFORMANCES: 8 A.M. TO 3 P.M. TODAY; VOCAL AND GROUP PERFORMANCES: 5 TO 10:30 P.M. TODAY; MARIACHI WORKSHOPS: 9 A.M. TO NOON SATURDAY

WHERE: AMERICAN BANK CENTER SELENA AUDITORIUM

COST: FREE
INFORMATION: 210-225-3353 OR WWW.MARIACHIMUSIC.COM

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