

Mexican mariachi group to appear with symphony

The Monitor

McALLEN — A renowned mariachi group from Mexico City will perform with a local symphony Saturday.

Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán, directed by Pepe Martinez, is scheduled to appear with the Valley Symphony Orchestra, directed by Maestro Peter Dabrowski, at 8 p.m. Saturday at the McAllen International Civic Center.

The fifth annual Rio Grande Valley concert by the mariachi group will help support their latest release, *Mariachi Vargas Sinfónico*, which features the group playing with the *Orquesta Filarmónico del*

Estado de Querétaro.

Cynthia Muñoz, the show's producer, said the group mixes traditional mariachi music with an orchestral sound.

"The reason they're really known is because of their versatility," Muñoz said. "They play traditional mariachi songs, but they add so much to it."

The 12-member group, established in 1897, has seen five generations of musicians go through its program. It has more than 800 albums to its credit, Muñoz said.

The band has recorded several albums with major solo artists and accompanied Linda Ronstadt on her *Canciones De Mi Padre* tour during the mid-

1980s, Muñoz said.

The University of Texas-Pan American Mariachi and the Mariachi Nuevo Santander de Roma High School also are scheduled to perform at the event.

Advance copies of *Mariachi Vargas Sinfónico*, scheduled for release early 2002, will be available at Saturday's performance, Muñoz said. For more information, call 686-4221.

Jr. Roundup intends to educate, recruit

LINN — The 14th annual Jr. Roundup, hosted by La Muñeca Cattle Company, is scheduled for 9 a.m. Saturday.

The Roundup brings together members of the Edinburg High School FFA program to help teach the public about their contributions, according to La Muñeca owner Carlos Guerra.

The event is also used as a way to encourage students to join the group, he said.

"It's an educational event for the public," Guerra said. "It teaches them about FFA and leadership."

Saturday's events include speakers on showmanship, selection of cattle, judging and what families can expect from an animal project, Guerra said.

He said participants would also have an opportunity to judge cattle and goats at the event.

Contestants whose animals are participating in the events will compete for \$750 in prize money, Guerra said.

He said members of La Muñeca Futurity — students who bought their cattle from La Muñeca Cattle Company — will compete for a \$3,000 prize.

Door prizes will be given away, and refreshments will be

Mc Allen Monitor
October 2001