



12/03/2006

Nixon singer competes for Mariachi Vargas spot SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

If she hits all the right notes, then Fabiola Rivera could be singing with the Mariachi Vargas during the holidays. The J.W. Nixon Vidal M. Treviño Magnet School student traveled to San Antonio on Saturday to compete in the Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza.

She hopes to bring home the top prize, which includes an appearance with the world famous Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlan.

When she takes the microphone, Rivera will be singing a song about a dying woman entitled "Tata Dios."

Rivera will be dressed in the traditional floral costume of Yucatan.

She will be one of 12 singers vying for the prize.

The competition is part of the Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza, a week-long celebration of mariachi music and mariachi music sponsored by Ford Motor.

The extravaganza includes community and school presentations, a serenade on San Antonio's famed Riverwalk, mariachi student workshops, mariachi group and vocal competitions, and a grand evening concert featuring the world renowned Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlan.

The Nixon senior is the daughter of Arturo and Rosario Rivera.

She credits her father who plays the piano for her interest in music.

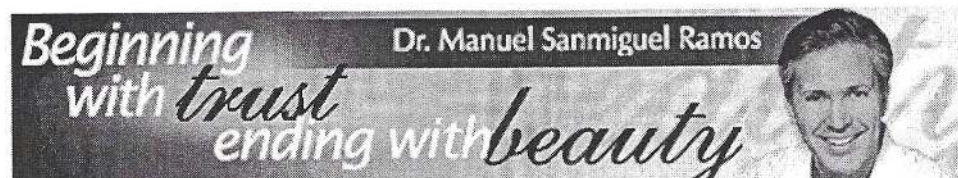
"I remember he taught me to sing when I was two," Rivera said. "He would stand next to the piano and make me sing a bolero 'Contigo en la Distancia.'"

Rivera plays the guitar and is a member of the J.W. Nixon High School award-winning band where she plays the saxophone.

She plans to study music and science at the University of Texas at San Antonio upon her graduation from high school.

"I am very grateful to my teacher, Mrs. Alejandra Rodriguez, because she is the one who opened me up to this musically. I have so much from her," Rivera said.

For more information, contact the LISD Office of Communications at 795-3295.



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