

CONEXIÓN

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Eva Mendes: 'I feel I'll take on the responsibility of showing the world a whole different kind of Latin woman.'

— www.thinkexist.com



la onda

21

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CONEXIÓN

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The seven-day Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza kicks off Sunday, Nov. 30, with daily events following until the Dec. 6 concert by 'el mayor mariachi del mundo.'

This is the 14th year that the Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza has come to San Antonio, and there are several free events included in the weeklong extravaganza to enjoy.

This is the extravaganza's schedule of events:

Sunday, Nov. 30

Opening Mariachi Mass
Noon
Mission San Jose, 6710 San Jose Drive
Free admission

Monday, Dec. 1

Official Kick-Off Press Event
2 p.m.
St. Anthony Hotel, 300 E. Travis St.
Free admission

Tuesday, Dec. 2

Mariachi Art Exhibit Reception
5:30 p.m.
Centro Cultural Aztlan, 1800 Fredericksburg Road, Ste. 103
Free admission

Wednesday, Dec. 3

Noche de Cultura
7 p.m.
Instituto Cultural de México, 600 HemisFair Plaza
Free admission

Thursday, Dec. 4

Serenata en el Rio
5:30 p.m.
Rivercenter Mall Lagoon, 849 E. Commerce St.
Free admission

Friday, Dec. 5

Mariachi Workshops
8 a.m.
Municipal Auditorium, 100 Auditorium Circle
Free admission; preregistration required

Friday, Dec. 5

Mariachi Group Competitions
5 p.m.
Municipal Auditorium, 100 Auditorium Circle
\$7 at the door will also get you into Saturday's Vocal Competition

Saturday, Dec. 6

Mariachi Vocal Competitions
9 a.m.
Municipal Auditorium, 100 Auditorium Circle
\$7 at the door

Saturday, Dec. 6

Mariachi Book Reading
2 p.m.
Borders, 255 E. Basse Road, Ste. 350
Free event

Saturday, Dec. 6

Mariachi Vargas Concert
7:30 p.m.
Municipal Auditorium, 100 Auditorium Circle
Tickets, ranging from \$20-\$100, available at ticketmaster.com or by calling (210) 224-9600



LM OTERO/Associated Press

Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlan will perform Dec. 6 at Municipal Auditorium.

Annual mariachi extravaganza about much more than music

Event sings the praises of higher ed

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The Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza is more than just a concert by the world's greatest mariachi group.

It's a week of activities, many of them free, that celebrate the artistry and tradition of mariachi music, including an art exhibit, mariachi workshops and student performances.

The extravaganza kicks off Sunday, Nov. 30, with a mariachi Mass at Mission San José and culminates with a Dec. 6 concert by the world-renowned

Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlan at Municipal Auditorium.

The Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza, now in its 14th year in San Antonio, is also about education.

"We make a conscious effort to use Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza to promote higher education among Latinos," says Cynthia Muñoz, producer and promoter of the annual mariachi event.

Mariachi workshops at area schools and student contests in which young mariachi musicians and vocalists compete to be named among the best in the country are just some of the ways the annual event promotes education.

By watching college mariachi musicians perform, younger mariachi students can aspire to attend college to continue

studying the musical genre.

Since the 1990s, there has been an increase in mariachi classes in high schools and universities, even in places where mariachi music might seem unexpected, such as the Ivy League school Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

At this year's extravaganza, more than 1,000 students will compete in categories ranging from elementary to college and university level.

"From the very beginning of this event, we wanted to encourage Latino kids to seek an education, not necessarily to become professional mariachi musicians, but to know what opportunities are out there," says Muñoz, who has performed mariachi music since she was 11.