

On the stage

Mariachi band with 114-year heritage will play at Del Mar

By Michael Wright
Special to the Caller-Times

Mariachi's past, present and future will hit the stage in Corpus Christi on Saturday as the world famous Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán headlines the fourth annual Sparkling City Mariachi Festival.

Billing itself as "el major mariachi del mundo" (the best mariachi in the world) Mariachi Vargas is a 13-piece band that plays the beloved Mexican folk music and mixes it with symphonic elements. They will play at Del Mar College's Richardson Performance Hall.

The band has been together for 114 years, said the show's producer Cynthia Munoz, and includes current members

Mariachi

derives from the French term "marriage," or wedding, and arose from the rule of Maximilian I, who ruled Mexico as a puppet of Napoleon III in the mid-19th Century.

who have been playing with the group for the past 40 years.

The band's performance caps a day of vocal and instrumental competition among area high school musicians.

Munoz said the festival is crucial to keeping the music alive.

"They really feel like the future of this 100-year plus tradition of Mexican folk music is being carried by students in the United States," she said. "The concert is really interesting

because this is an event that attracts multiple generations. We'll see young kids attending this event with their parents and grandparents."

The mariachi competition will run throughout Saturday and features students from H.M. King High School in Kingsville, Moody High School and other schools throughout the area.

See MARIACHI, B

IF YOU GO

What: Sparkling City Mariachi Festival
Where: Richardson Performance Hall at Del Mar College

When: Vocal contest is Friday, Mariachi contest runs throughout Saturday. Concert begins at 7:30 p.m.

Cost: Ticket prices for the Saturday evening concert range from \$20 to \$100 and are available online at www.delmar.edu/richardson and through the Richardson Performance Hall Box Office Tuesdays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Information: contact the Box Office at 698-2225.

Hot 5 Singles

1. "Rolling In the Deep"
Adele
2. "The Edge of Glory"
Lady Gaga
3. "Give Me Everything"
Pitbull feat. Ne-Yo, Afrojack & Nayer
4. "The Lazy Song"
Bruno Mars
5. "E.T."
Katy Perry
feat. Kanye West

Albums

1. "21"
Adele
2. "Turtleneck & Chain"
The Lonely Island
3. "Lovestrong"
Christina Perri
4. "Goblin"
Tyler, The Creator
5. "American Idol Top 4 Season 10"
Various Artists

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MARIACHI

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The winners will end up on stage at 7:30 p.m. with the Mariachi Vargas.

Munoz said Corpus Christi will host fans from across the state.

"They have a real core audience of mariachi aficionados that will go everywhere to see them," she said. "There will be people flying in from San Antonio, they're coming in from Dallas, from Austin."

The band formed in 1897 in Tecalitlán, Jalisco, the same place mariachi music was born.

It began to flourish after the Mexican Revolution in 1910 facilitated more movement from rural to urban areas.

While many mariachi groups have picked up mainstream influences and mariachi has spread

into American music from George Strait to Lady Gaga, Mariachi Vargas has taken a very conservative approach, Munoz said.

Originally, the group consisted of a guitar-like instrument, a violin and a harp, but as the years progressed, more instruments were added. While the brass instruments that give the music its signature sound made their first appearances in the genre in the 1940s, it wasn't for another decade that Mariachi Vargas added the trumpets.

Saturday's concert will be more orchestral than folk, Munoz said.

The 13 members will sound more like 70.

At the center of that sound is the music hall itself, according to Munoz, who notes it has undergone a multimillion-dollar renovation.

"They spent that money in the right place," she said. "It's got amazing sound and light."

CLUBS

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VARIETY

CORPUS CHRISTI

BREWSTER STREET ICE HOUSE:

1724 Tanchua St., 884-2739. Today: 9 p.m., Guns 4 Roses: The Ultimate Guns N' Roses Tribute Experience. Free. Saturday: 9 p.m., Metal Shop. Cost: \$10.

CASSIDY'S IRISH PUB: 601 N. Water St., 884-7873.

DOCTOR ROCKIT'S: 709 N. Chaparral St., 884-7634. Today and Saturday: 10 p.m. to 2 a.m., EMT. Cover: \$6. Sunday: 10 p.m. to 2 a.m., Blindfold. Cover: \$4. Wednesday: 10 p.m. to 2 a.m., Goodnight Ave. Cover: \$4.

EXECUTIVE SURF CLUB: 309 N.

Water St., 884-7873. Today: 8 p.m., Cruise Control. No cover. Saturday: 8 p.m., Rankin Twins. No cover. Wednesday: 8 p.m., Open mic night. No cover. Thursday: 8 p.m., Startesboro Revue. No cover.

GARAGE BAR & GRILL: 15013 Farm-to-Market 624, 387-8212. Wednesday: 9 p.m. karaoke. No cover. Thursday: 6 p.m., Texas Holdem. No cover. Friday: DJ. Saturday: DJ. No cover.

IT'LL DO SALOON: 4125 Gollhier

Road, 855-2766. Saturday: 9 p.m., Third Coast Rhythm Section and Mando. No cover. Thursday: 7 p.m., Roy Tipton. No cover.

LANDRY'S SEAFOOD HOUSE: 600 N. Shoreline Blvd., 882-6666. Today: 6 p.m., Bushbullit. No cover.

MARTINI BAR: 6601 Everhart Road, 814-2010. Thursday: 9:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., Latin Talk. No cover.

PELICAN LOUNGE: 14330 S. Padre Island Drive, 949-8222. Saturday: 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m., Cruise Control. No cover.

POETS RESTAURANT: 4825 Saratoga Blvd., 991-4574. Monday: 6 to 8:30 p.m., Monday, Destiny with Debra Scott and Kevin Hill. No cover.

TWEETY'S SPORTS BAR & GRILL: 4710 Kostoryz Road, 854-7400 or 353-3004. Today: 9 p.m., Hip Hop Show with Dark Street. No cover. Saturday: 9 p.m., Good-Nite Avenue. No cover.

PORT ARANSAS

BACK PORCH: 132 W. Cotter St., 361-749-2800. Today: 8 p.m., Mike Blakely y Los Yahoos. No cover.

Saturday: 8 p.m., W.C. Clark. No cover. Thursday: 8 p.m., Six Market Boulevard. No cover.

TARPON ICE HOUSE: 321 N. Alister St., 230-3583. Today-Sunday: All day annual music bash. Cost: \$5/each day.

Compiled by Tina Vasquez

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