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WILLIAM LUTHER/STAFF

Members of Mariachi Vargas perform Saturday night at Municipal Auditorium during the Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza.

Mariachis play with verve

BY RAMIRO BURR
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

The 2007 Ford Motor Co.'s Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza that unfolded Saturday night at Municipal Auditorium ran with high emotion, from fear and excitement to pride and joy.

Almost a dozen mariachi troupes from elementary level to the world's best — Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán — performed the heartland music of Mexico with verve and passion, delighting the capacity crowd of students, parents, instructors and music fans.

The crowd cheered and applauded even as the 12-member Mariachi Vargas, the silver metallic trim on their dark blue charro outfits glinting under the spotlights, began to stride on

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Student troupe winners in various categories at the elementary, middle, high school and university levels preceded the mariachi heavy-hitters on stage.

stage. Though they played mostly classics, they played with enthusiasm and energy. They powered into the chestnut "Rancho Grande," made famous by the late Tito Guizar, with youthful power and

rburr@express-news.net