Mariachi fest plans whirlwind of activity

Extravaganza to include competitions, workshops, music.

By Ramiro Burr

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The 2007 Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza season is coming up soon and promises serenades, an art exhibit, workshops and the highlight concert featuring the world's best—Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán.

Tickets for the concert, scheduled at Municipal Auditorium, are on sale at all Ticketmaster outlets. Tickets, registration and more details are available at (210) 225-3353.

Also performing are Azucena, Mariachi Los Galleros and the winners in the high school and university competition.

Admission to many of the events leading up the main concert are free.

A week of festivities mark the 2007 Ford Motor Co. Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza, which kicks off at noon Nov. 25 with a Mariachi Mass at Mission San Jose. A new event, the Mariachi Art Exhibit/Reception, is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Nov. 27 at Centro Cultural Aztlan, where it will run through Dec. 2.

A Noche de Cultura performance will feature Julio Martínez on the harp at the Instituto Cultural de Mexico at 7 p.m. Nov. 28, followed by a Serenata en el Rio, with dozens of local mariachi troupes serenading tourists along the Rivercenter Mall Lagoon at 6 p.m. Nov. 29.

Mariachi Workshops are scheduled to start at 8 a.m. Nov. 30 at the Convention Center.

Mariachi group competitions are set to begin at 5 p.m. Nov. 30 at the Municipal Auditorium, with the Mariachi vocal competitions to start at 9 a.m. Dec. 1 at Municipal Auditorium.

For more details, go to www.mariachimusic.com.

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