



Elaine Rinaldi, Founder & Artistic Director

MAD FOR MARIACHI

Thank you for spending your Sunday afternoon with Orchestra Miami!

Today's program introduces us to the rich history and traditions of Mariachi and its influence on culture around the world! We have a performance by Homestead-Miami Mariachi Conservatory, led by the world renowned Mariachi "Los Mora Arriaga"

Homestead-Miami Mariachi Conservatory

Led by "Los Mora Arriaga"
and supported by members of **Orchestra Miami**

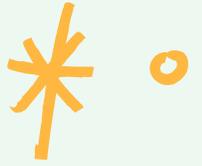


Here are the pieces you will enjoy today!

La Bikina
La Culebra
La Bamba
Como La Flor
Una Página Más
Qué Chulada de Mujer
La Llorona
Como Quien Pierde/Libertango
El Cascabel



WHAT IS MARIACHI?



Mariachi is an unmistakable symbol of Mexico and Mexican culture

The word "Mariachi" can mean two things: a specific style of traditional Mexican folk music and the musical groups who play it. Mariachi groups are known for their unique blend of strings, brass, and folk instruments, as well as their eye-catching attire. These ensembles are recognized worldwide for expressing their rich cultural traditions through their exceptional music and coordinated outfits!



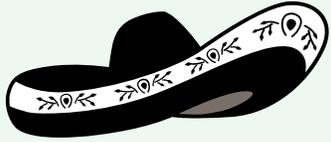
Mariachi groups are the life of the party, often performing at fun celebrations like birthdays, weddings, and special events. Mariachi music holds deep cultural significance in Mexican heritage and is considered a symbol of national pride. Even though it started in Mexico, you can now find Mariachi groups all around the world, and it's loved by many people!

Fun Facts:

- Mariachi is a genre of traditional Mexican music, originating from the **western regions of Mexico**
- The music dates back to the **1700s**
- The first recording of Mariachi was in **1903**
- Most recognized as a standing ensemble with elaborate matching outfits
- Instruments include: **Violin, Trumpet, Guitarrón, Vihuela, and Guitar**
- Mariachi singers are famous for their passionate and expressive singing



THE HISTORY OF MARIACHI



The origins of “Mariachi” are unclear...

The history of Mariachi is rich and spans several centuries, evolving from regional folk celebratory music to becoming an international symbol of Mexican culture. It's not exactly known when or where Mariachi music first began, but it's believed to have originated in the 1700s in the countryside of the western regions of Mexico (Jalisco, Colima, and Nayarit).

There's no evidence on the origins of the word “Mariachi,” but many believe it to be indigenous to Mexico and from the now-extinct indigenous language, *Coca*, of central Jalisco.

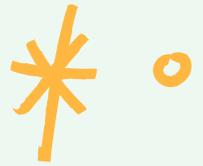
In the 1700s, Mariachi was the heart and soul of small-town celebrations, featuring lively tunes from a 4 person ensemble consisting of violins, guitars, and a harp. That's right, the traditional Mariachi group was all strings and no brass! These early groups typically wore plain white clothes and had little concern for matching, which is very different from the flashy attire seen today.

A 100 years would go by before trumpets were introduced into Mariachi bands. Thanks to European influence and the transition from rural to urban performances, it was a natural evolution to swap out the harp for the trumpet, adding an electrifying touch to the traditional Mariachi ensemble!

It wasn't until the Golden Age of Mexican cinema (1930s-1950s) that Mariachi gained mainstream attention. Mariachi bands became a staple in films, contributing to their iconic image and popularizing the genre.

Today, Mariachi continues to evolve while maintaining its cultural roots. It remains a dynamic and beloved genre, celebrated not only in Mexico but also around the world, captivating audiences with its lively performances and cultural resonance.





THEN AND NOW

INSTRUMENTATION

Early Mariachi

Modern Mariachi



Mariachi groups in the 1700-1800s were predominantly a 4-person all-string ensemble. Instrumentation varied based on the region but commonly included: violin, vihuela, guitarrón, and harp.



Modern Mariachi groups feature a blend of string and brass instruments, with the Trumpet which has become a staple of the ensemble. Depending on the size of the party, the group can vary from 4 to 12 people and even more!

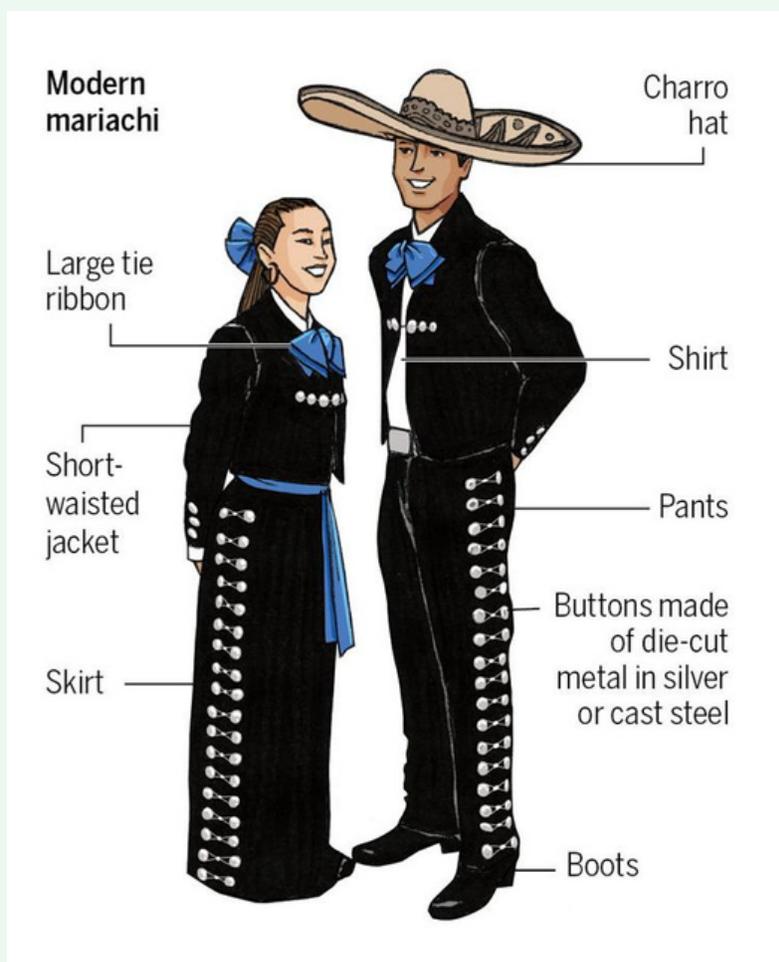


THEN AND NOW

CLOTHING

Traditional Mariachi

Modern Mariachi



Practical and functional attire suited for their agricultural communities.

The plain white clothing was common and reflected the simplicity of rural life.

Elaborate and matching with other band members. Based on the *Traje de Charro*, the attire of the cowboys of Jalisco.



THE MUSIC OF MARIACHI

THE MELODIC INSTRUMENTS



Trumpet

The trumpet(s) serves as a melodic leader, harmonic supporter, and rhythmic powerhouse. Its bright and bold sound adds a powerful quality to the ensemble.

The trumpet is crucial to the rhythmic drive, its accents and rhythmic punctuations contribute to the lively and festive character of Mariachi.

Violin

The violin(s) serves as a melodic leader, harmonic support, and improvisational voice. With the expressiveness of the bow, the violin is able to mimic the emotion of the singer. Using special techniques such as *vibrato*, *slides*, and trills, the violin can infuse character into their playing.



Vocals

The vocals in a Mariachi group play an important role in expressing the feelings and story of the music. These singers are known for their passionate delivery and folkloric quality, and are responsible in helping audiences connect to the music on an emotional level.





THE MUSIC OF MARIACHI

THE RHYTHM SECTION

The Guitarrón, Vihuela, and Guitar together are commonly referred to as the rhythm section or *las armonías*

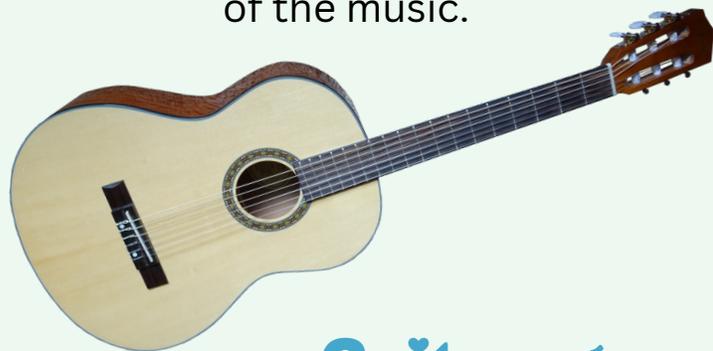
Vihuela

The *Vihuela* is a traditional Mexican folk instrument and a rhythmic force, playing complex strumming patterns. It's a small, high-pitched guitar and has only 5 strings. It adds brightness to the group and is the primary rhythm instrument.



Guitar

The classic 6-string guitar is right in the middle, size-wise and tone-wise, between the high-pitched Vihuela and bass sounds of the Guitarrón. It's a versatile instrument that provides both rhythmic and harmonic support while also contributing to the melody of the music.

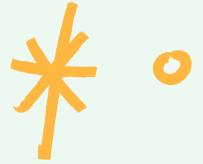


Guitarrón

The *Guitarrón* is a traditional Mexican folk instrument and the most iconic part of the Mariachi group! It's the bass of the ensemble and uses cool techniques such as percussive strumming and tapping on the wooden body to help drive the rhythm.

The *Guitarrón* is a very large, deep-bodied six-string acoustic bass guitar.





WOMEN IN MARIACHI

For roughly 200 years, *from the 1700s to mid-1900s*, Mariachi was a male-dominated genre. Mariachi musicians often traveled from one small town to another performing at parties, and at the time it was not considered an acceptable environment for women. Up until the 1960s, it was rare to see female Mariachi musicians. Thanks to the women's liberation movement of the 1960s and 70s, women in Mariachi became more popular, especially in the United States!

FAMOUSE WOMEN IN MARIACHI



Rosa Quirino

Rosa Quirino, *pictured on the left*, was a courageous woman and pioneer of female Mariachi musicians. In 1903, at just 13 years old, she was the first known female to join an all-male Mariachi group! She eventually led her own Mariachi group and paved the way for women in the genre.

The First All-Women Mariachi Group

The group pictured on the right is known as **Adelita y Su Mariachi de Muchachas**. They were the first known all-female mariachi group. They formed in 1948 in Mexico City.





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MAD FOR MARIACHI

QUESTIONS FOR AFTER THE CONCERT

- You heard songs today from the music genre Mariachi. Do you like the unique sounds of Mariachi? Why or why not?
- What was your favorite part of the Mariachi group? Was it the music? The instrumentation? The outfits? Why?
- After learning about the traditional folk instruments in a Mariachi group, did you see any of those instruments on stage? If so, which ones?
- Can you name all the instruments you saw? Which one was your favorite and why? And did you notice what role it played in the ensemble?
- Now that you know about the history of Mariachi clothing, did you notice the clothing of the performers in today's concert? Can you describe their outfits? Were they matching?
- Out of all the songs you heard today, which one was your favorite? Why?
- Thank you for coming and have a great rest of your day!

