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Mariachi and Ranchera Music Resources

by Bob Diaz



Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlan in performance at El Teatro Degollado, Guadalajara Mexico, 2006. photo by Bob Diaz

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Bibliographies and Research Guides

- [Academic References](#) (Mariachi Publishing). A useful bibliography of articles, books and dissertations about mariachi and ranchera music.
- [Recent Books about Mariachi Music.](#) A select list of recently published and readily available books about mariachi music. Includes titles in English and Spanish.
- [Mariachi Bibliography](#) by Noe Sanchez. This is a very useful list of articles, books, theses and dissertations. To acquire this material, visit your local library's interlibrary loan department.
- [Mariachi Music Article and Site Collection.](#) (The Mariachi Connection). An interesting and varied collection of fulltext mariachi related articles, websites and other documents.
- [Researching Mariachi Music](#), by Noe Sanchez. This research guide is a useful starting point for researching mariachi music. MENC Mariachi Newsletter, January, 2008.

Biographical Resources

- [Allmusicguide.com](#) Provides biographical information on mariachi groups and ranchera singers. Includes song lists, discographies.
- [Answers.com](#). An all-purpose reference source that provides biographical information on groups and performers.
- **Billboard Guide to Tejano and Regional Mexican Music.** By Ramiro Burr. New York : Billboard Books, 1999. Available at [UA Fine Arts Library](#) and at various branches of the [Pima County Public Library](#). Also available at [Amazon.com](#). A one-of-a-kind resource useful for finding biographical information on Tejano, Norteno, and Mariachi/ranchera musicians from the U.S. and Mexico. Includes birth and death dates and some discographical information.
- [Mariachi Groups](#). (Bob Diaz's Mariachi and Ranchera Music Resources)
- [La Fiesta Del Mariachi's Artist Biographies](#). Includes biographies of eight Ranchera performers: Pedro Infante, Javier Solis, Lola Beltran and Amalia Mendoza, Silvestre Vargas, Jose Alfredo Jimenez, Miguel Aceves Mejia and Tito Guizar.
- [El Mariachi.com's Mariachi Artists Page](#). Provides biographical information on major Mexican Ranchera and popular singers. Linked to Wikipedia.
- [Ranchera Singers by Bob Diaz](#). Provides links to biographies, artist websites, filmographies, audio and video clips
- [El Sitio Del Mariachi's Biografias Page](#). Provides biographies of eighth major artists and composers: Pedro Infante, Maria de Lourdes, Lucha Villa, Javier Solis, Lola Beltran, Jose Alfredo Jimenez, Miguel Aceves Mejia and Antonio Aguilar.

Blogs and Bulletin Boards

- [Forums](#). (Elmariachi.com) Includes a classifieds section and a forum devoted to mariachi music.
- [Mariachi Forum](#). A discussion group on mariachi issues, including events, performance technique, etc.
- [MariachiMusic.com Blog](#) Provides updates on new releases and events connected with San Antonio's annual Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza.
- [Mariachi's Hat: Celebrating the Mariachi Tradition](#) This site, created by Andres Garcia, includes announcements of festivals, concerts and conferences as well as articles and interviews on topic of interest to those who love mariachi music. It is also part of a larger effort to develop a comprehensive, up-to-date mariachi directory, [Serenata Mariachi](#).

Cancioneros/Song Lyrics

- [Cancionero Mexicano Online](#) This online resource contains lyrics to many classic rancheras. See the norteno section as well as the sones and ranchera sections for relevant songs.
- [Mariachi Lyrics](#) (Mariachi4u). An alphabetical listing of hundreds of song lyrics.
- [Mariachi Song Lyrics](#) (Elmariachi.com) This site includes lyrics for over 350 boleros, corridos, sones, rancheras and other songs typically performed by mariachi groups.
- [Song Lyrics](#) (Fiesta del Mariachi) Includes lyrics to a variety of song, including rancheras, boleros and corridos. Searchable by song title as well as by browsing entire list.

Conferences and Festivals

Events Calendars:

- [Mariachi Events and Conferences](#) (Covers events in the state of Texas).
- [Serenata Mariachi's Calendar of Mariachi Events](#) A new site that contains up-to-date information about events taking place throughout the country.

Annual Conferences/Festivals:

- [Encuentro Internacional del Mariachi y la Charrieria](#). Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico. Late August, early September.
- [Las Cruces International Mariachi Conference](#). High quality annual festival with lots of educational opportunities, concerts and other events. Early November.
- [Mariachi USA](#) Annual event takes place every June in Los Angeles.
- [Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza](#) (San Antonio TX). This annual event takes place in mid-November immediately after the Las Cruces International Mariachi Conference, and attracts visitors from all over the world.
- [Las Vegas International Mariachi Festival](#). Annual event that takes place in early September. Produced by Elias Entertainment.
- [Mariachi Spectacular de Albuquerque](#). Annual event that takes place every July.
- [San Jose Mariachi and Mexican Heritage Festival](#) . Occurs annually in late September. Produced by Linda Ronstadt.
- [Tucson International Mariachi Conference](#). Occurs near the end of the month every April. Includes workshops, student showcase performances, spectacular concert, Fiesta de Garibaldi, a mass service, among other activities. A benefit for La Frontera Community Mental Health Services.

Directories

- [Findamariachi.com](#) Booking agency for several mariachi groups and solo performers, including Mariachi Cobre and Los Arrieros.
- [Mariachi4u](#). A multi-purpose site that provides directories of mariachi groups in the U.S, Mexico and throughout the world.
- [Mariachi Groups Directory](#). An International directory of mariachi groups. Searchable by name, country and state.
- [Serenata Mariachi](#). This relatively new site is comprised of a directory CURRENT information about omariachi groups around the US. It also includes an up-to-date events calendar and a blog called [The Mariachi Hat](#).

Discographies and Filmographies

- [Experiencing Mariachi Music Aurally: Building a Student Listening Library](#). (MENC Mariachi Newsletter).
- [Discographies](#). (Fiesta del Mariachi). Links major Mexican recording artists, including vocalists and groups, to available works listed in Amazon.com.
- [Internet Movie Database](#).
- [Lucha Villa films and recordings: The Seventies](#)
- [Lucha Villa films and recordings: The Sixties](#)
- [Mariachi Vargas Discography](#). by John Vela. Lists all of this group's recordings and songs from the 50's to the present.

Education Materials and Resources

- [Analyzing Mariachi Traditional and Popular Song Forms](#) (Mariachi Publishing). This resource uses musical notation to describe various song forms, including boleros, rancheras, polkas and corridos.
- [Building a Successful Mariachi Program](#). A powerpoint presentation outlining how to start a mariachi program. Mention is made of many useful resources and links to other sources.
- [Foundations of Mariachi Education: materials, methods and resources](#). By William Gradante. Lanham, Md. : Rowman & Littlefield Education ; [Reston, VA] : Published in partnership with MENC, c2008- Available for purchase from [Amazon.com](#) and for checkout from the [University of Arizona Libraries](#). This brand new source is intended for individuals who teach mariachi music in the classroom. It includes chapters on teaching the various instruments and includes lots of musical examples.
- [Mariachi Class Method Book Recommendations](#). (Noe Sanchez).
- [Mariachi Curriculum](#). Developed by Noe Sanchez.
- [Mariachi Curriculum Resources](#) (VirtuosoMariachi.com) Includes sheet music arrangements and other teaching resources
- [Mariachi Education in Texas](#). Texas Music Office.
- [Mariachi Education Movement in the U.S.](#) by Jeff Nevin and Noe Sanchez.
- [Mariachi Master Apprentice Program](#). Sponsored by the City of San Fernando. An education program led by Nati Cano and Los Camperos.
- [Mariachi Standards](#). A list of songs students should know, compiled by the MENC National Mariachi Advisory Committee.
- [MENC Mariachi Curriculum](#) The resources listed on this web page have been suggested by the MENC
- Mariachi Advisory Committee.
- [MENC Mariachi Newsletter Archive](#). Provides fulltext access to a number of articles related to mariachi education.
- [MENC Mariachi Resources](#). Includes method books for elementary, middle and high school mariachi. Also has curricular resources.
- [Music Theory Book Recommendations](#). By Noe Sanchez.
- [Virtuoso Mariachi](#). by Jeff Nevin. Lanham, Md; Oxford: University Press of America, 2002. Available at the [UA Fine Arts Library](#) and from [Amazon.com](#). This book offers a wealth of information on the history of mariachi music as well as information about musical styles and technique employed in mariachi music.
- [The Positive Effects Of Mariachi On The Education of Hispanic Youth](#) by Andrés García and Gil Sperry, from the blog, [Mariachi's Hat](#).

History of Mariachi

- [Definition and History of Mariachi](#) (From the Latino Encyclopedia). A concise overview of mariachi music.
- [Historia Del Mariachi por Jose Hernandez](#). Reminisces by the leader of Mariachi Sol De Mexico, the first mariachi group to win a Grammy.
- [History of Women in Mariachi, The](#) This site offers a fascinating look at various female mariachi musicians going back to the 1940s to the present.
- [Horn of Plenty: Miguel Martinez](#). by Judi Blackwell. Discusses the influence that Martinez, trumpeter for Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlan, had on the sound of mariachi music.
- [An Interview with Miguel Martinez Part I](#). MENC Mariachi Newsletter.
- [An Interview with Miguel Martinez Part II](#). MENC Mariachi Newsletter.
- [Jonathan Clark's Mariachi History](#) A compilation of articles written by Clark, including encyclopedia entries, and interviews with musicians.
- [El Mariachi: simbolo musical de Mexico](#). By Jesus Jaurequi. México, D.F. : Santillana Ediciones Generales, c2007. Available at the [UA Fine Arts Library](#), and for purchase from [Amazon.com](#). Written in Spanish, this new book is a welcome addition to the scant literature available on mariachi music. It fills a huge void, in that it provides a thorough overview of the genre and includes lots and lots of graphics and photos.
- [Mariachi, Origen y Significado, El](#). por Patricial Alamilla. Essay on the history and significance of mariachi music.
- [Recuerdos del Mariachi Vargas del Tecalitlan, 1925-1939: Fragmentos de Mi Autobiografia](#). by Nicolas Torres Vasquez.
- [Sin Pena, Ni Gloria: Honoring Forgotten Mariachi Heros Who've Recently Passed On](#). by Jonathon Clark. MENC Mariachi Newsletter.

Instruments/Performance Practice

- [Armonia Son patterns for guitar and guitarron](#). (Jeff Nevin)
- [Arpa de Mariachi](#). by Sergio Alonso, Mariachi Los Camperos. Provides an historical overview of the mariachi harp. Includes bibliographic references
- [Basic Armonia Circulos for the Guitar and Guitarron](#). Jeff Nevin
- [Elements for Improving Vocal Performance](#). MENC Mariachi Newsletter.
- [Guitar Chords](#).
- [Mariachi Trumpet and Articulation Guide](#) (Mariachi Publishing).
- [Teaching Armonias](#). MENC Mariachi Newsletter.
- [Teaching Beginning Guitarron](#). MENC Mariachi Newsletter.
- [Teaching Mariachi Trumpet Technique to Mariachi Students](#). by Noe Sanchez, William Gradante, and Steve Carrillo. MENC Newsletter.
- [Teaching the Mariachi Harp](#). MENC Mariachi Newsletter.
- [Teaching the Mariachi Violin Section](#). MENC Mariachi Newsletter.
- [Teaching Vocal Technique to Mariachi Students](#). MENC Mariachi Newsletter.
- [Tuning/Strum Charts](#). (Mariachi Publishing).
- [Vihuela Chord Chart](#). (Mariachi Publishing).
- [Violin and Trumpet Voicing Guide](#). (Mariachi Publishing).

Ranchera Singers and Singing

- [La Fiesta Del Mariachi's Artist Biographies](#). Includes biographies of eight Ranchera performers: Pedro Infante, Javier Solis, Lola Beltran and Amalia Mendoza, Silvestre Vargas, Jose Alfredo Jimenez, Miguel Aceves Mejia and Tito Guizar.
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- ["Unruly Passion: Poetics, Performance and Gender in the Ranchera Song"](#) . by Olga Najera Ramirez. Book chapter in Chicana Feminisms: A Critical Reader. Duke University Press, 2003.

Tiendas/Stores

(sheet music, clothing, recordings, instruments)

- [Amazon.com](#). Premier one-stop online shopping source that carries mariachi and ranchera cds, dvds, and books, including out of print items.
- [Candelas Guitars](#). This site sells high quality, handcrafted guitars and other musical instruments.
- [Casa del Mariachi, La](#). Located in Los Angeles, this store specializes in charro and folkloric clothing.
- [Elmariachi.com store](#). Features cds and dvds of major popular Mexican singers and groups.
- [Instrumentos Morales](#). Located in Guadalajara, this company offers a variety of handcrafted mariachi instruments, including vihuelas, guitarras de golpe, guitarrones and arpas.
- [Lucida Guitars](#). Handmade guitars from Spain. Has a fine line of Spanish classical and flemenco guitars and traditional mariachi instruments.
- [Mariachi Connection, Inc](#). This site sells musical instruments, mariachi clothing, sheet music, videos, cds and other merchandise for musicians and students.
- [Mariachi Publishing Company](#). Sheet music site that provides traditional mariachi music transcriptions.
- [Mariachi Sheet Music](#). This online store sells musical arrangements written by Jorge Vargas, a leading mariachi educator and arranger in south Texas. Levels: beginner level to professional level.
- [MENC Mariachi Sheet Music Vendors](#) Provides links to a number of different vendors that sell mariachi arrangements and method books.
- [Mixta Publishing Company](#). A music book company dedicated to preserving the traditions of Mexican and Latino music.
- [Sandpiper Instruments](#). Makers of the Jalisco-style harp.
- [Santiago Violins](#). Makers of fine, handcrafted violins.

Web Portals

- [El Mariachi.com](#). One can find a variety of things here, including biographies of professional performers, an international directory of mariachi groups, a calendar of upcoming mariachi events,

song lyrics, and online discussion groups. Sheet music and recorded music are also available for sale at this site.

- [Fiesta del Mariachi](#) This site provides a mariachi directory, biographical and discographical information, song lyrics, links to related sites, and an online store.
- [Mariachi4u](#) An international directory of mariachi groups in the USA, Mexico and elsewhere. Also includes an online bulletin board and classified ads.
- [MENC Mariachi Education Site](#). This is a very useful resource for mariachi educators and anyone else interested in mariachi music. Of particular interest should be the archive of newsletters, that cover a broad array of topics.
- [Sitio del Mariachi, El](#). A Spanish-language website from Mexico that includes articles on mariachi history, a mariachi radio station, audio and video clips as well as biographies of a number of the best known ranchera singers.
- [VirtuosoMariachi.com](#). A website created by Dr. Jeff Nevin, performer, composer, and author of the book, "Virtuoso Mariachi".

Women in Mariachi

- [Female Mariachi Pioneers in Mexico](#) by Laura Sobrino in the MENC Mariachi Newsletter.
- [History of Women in Mariachi, The](#) by Leonor Xochitl Perez and Laura Sobrino. This site offers a fascinating look at various female mariachi musicians going back to the 1940s to the present.
- [A Look at the History of Women in Mariachi Music](#), by Laura Sobrino, in MENC Mariachi Newsletter, Nov. 2007.
- [Laura Sobrino: The Mariachi Queen](#). A biography of one of the U.S.'s pioneering female mariachis.
- [Laura Sobrino: Queen of the Mariachi Violin](#).
- [Mariachi Muchachas: Pink Trajes and All](#). (PuroMariachi.com) Excerpts from the article by Laramie Trevino and Alejandro Betancort, Latina Magazine. Dec 1996/Jan 1997.
- [Mujeres Mariachis: Y Ahora Quien es "El Rey"?](#) (excerpts) Hanley, Elizabeth. La Familia de Hoy. Sept. 1990 Vol.1 No. 4, Knoxville: Whittle Communications.
- ["Transgressing the Taboo: A Chicana's Voice in the Mariachi World,"](#) by Leonor Xochitl Perez, in *Chicana Traditions: Continuity and change*. University of Illinois, 2002.



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