



Chandler Center for the Arts welcomes you to the school-day performance of Jarabe Mexicano as they take their audience on a joyride through a versatile songbook of Mexican folk as well as rock & roll, Tex-Mex, Latin rock, and reggae-cumbia. Jarabe Mexicano's five members are bilingual with extensive backgrounds in music education. Performing on traditional Mariachi instruments accompanied by lively percussion, Jarabe's arrangements feature stunning harmonized vocals in Spanish and English. For the members of Jarabe, every performance, wherever they go, is an opportunity to create a deeper and more inclusive sense of family and community. As advocates for the arts and education and with a special commitment to underserved communities, Jarabe Mexicano strives to help bridge the frontiers between musical genres, diverse cultures, and generations.

These keynotes provide information, discussion topics, activities, and resources to use both before and after the performance. The materials are designed to help you integrate the show with learning objectives in many areas of the curriculum, including multiculturalism, Mexican history, folk instruments and music, storytelling, and relationships. During this performance, Jarabe strives to introduce listeners to the following topics to stimulate discussion and participation:

- Traditional Mexican and other Latin Instruments
- Traditional and Contemporary Latin Song Forms
- Historical Background of the Latin Songs and Genres
- Regional Differences in Presentation and Instrumentation

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INSTRUMENTATION OF GROUP:



Vihuela - The Mexican *vihuela*, named after the Spanish instrument used in the sixteenth century, is a small, deep-bodied rhythm guitar built in a similar fashion to the *guitarrón*, with a curved back. Its five strings are tuned similarly to a guitar, however, with a few strings tuned up, it is given a higher pitch much like a ukulele.

EXAMPLE: <https://youtu.be/O2glOK4jkig>



Guitarrón - The *guitarrón* serves as the main bass instrument for a modern mariachi. It is a large guitar-like instrument with a curved back, and six strings on a fretless neck. The top three strings are nylon and the bottom three are metal. Typically, *guitarrón* players double the bass notes by plucking two strings at once.

EXAMPLE: <https://youtu.be/r-7U0awqSEk>

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Requinto - The requinto is a small guitar used in Spain and Latin America. Requintos in South America tend to have a deeper body than Mexican ones, while the depths of Spanish ones are equal to that of a classical guitar. The Mexican requinto is about 18% smaller than a standard classical guitar. It is also tuned a fourth up from a standard guitar.

EXAMPLE: <https://youtu.be/8YKe86qMCVo>



Accordion - The accordion is a box-shaped musical instrument, informally referred to as a squeezebox. It has origins in Germany and is played in the *Norteño* music of Mexico.

EXAMPLE: <https://youtu.be/MKLhOjhmBXM>



Guira - The guira is a percussion instrument from the Dominican Republic used in merengue, bachata or other genres such as cumbia. It is made of a metal sheet (commonly steel) and played with a stiff brush.

EXAMPLE: <https://youtu.be/QUu1RL-XzDQ>

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Maracas – The maracas are a percussion instrument that are usually played in pairs, one in each hand by holding it from the edges so as not to block the vibration of the shell. As a Colombian instrument that is used to maintain rhythm or highlight rhythms, maracas can also make different sounds if played single. It can be hit with one hand by making a hard, deep noise or it might be shaken back and forth giving a lighter and echoing sound.

EXAMPLE: <https://youtu.be/synrohkGwAc>



Cajon – The cajon is a box drum, originating in Peru, and usually made with a thin plywood front or playing surface and metal shakers inside that percussion. It is usually played by slapping the front or rear with the hands, fingers, or sometimes tools such as brushes, mallets, or sticks.

EXAMPLE: <https://youtu.be/GWVOJ75xZpE>

GENRES:



Bolero: Although bolero is considered the first musical expression from Cuba that gained international exposure, the real popularity of this genre was built in Mexico during the 1940s and 1950s. Mexico is responsible for one of the most important traditions in the history of bolero: *The Trío Ensemble*. In 1944, three guitarists (two from Mexico and one from Puerto Rico) created the legendary *Trio Los Panchos*, one of the most essential bolero names in the history of this genre.

• **EXAMPLES:** <https://www.liveabout.com/boleros-playlist-of-classic-boleros-2141808>

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Cumbia: Cumbia originated in Colombia's Caribbean coastal region as well as in Panama, from the musical and cultural fusion of native Colombians and Panamanians. Cumbia began as a courtship dance practiced among the African population, which was later mixed with Amerindian dance steps, as well as with European and African instruments and musical characteristics. Cumbia is very popular in the Andean region, South America's Southern Cone region, and in Mexico. In some areas, it is more popular than salsa.



Colombia

- **EXAMPLES:** <https://www.allmusic.com/album/greatest-cumbia-classics-of-colombia-mw0000601770>

Ranchera: Ranchera is a genre of the traditional music of Mexico. It dates before the years of the Mexican Revolution. It later became closely associated with the Mariachi groups that evolved in and around the Mexican state of Jalisco.



Mexico

EXAMPLES: <https://www.liveabout.com/essential-ranchera-songs-2141934>

Mariachi: The two most prominent Mariachi regions were that of central Jalisco, which preferred two violins, vihuela, and guitarrón; and that of southern Jalisco and michoacán, which preferred two violins, harp, and *guitarra de golpe* (the original Mariachi guitar).

EXAMPLES: <https://open.spotify.com/album/7ynAgcVHO5LuUTQ8SkkG2L>

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LIST AS MANY INSTRUMENTS AS YOU CAN:















IF YOU COULD PLAY ANY OF THESE INSTRUMENTS, WHICH WOULD YOU CHOOSE AND WHY?

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**LABEL THE THREE AREAS OF LATIN AMERICA
THAT YOU LEARNED ABOUT BELOW:**

MEXICO COLOMBIA CUBA







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