

Mariachi Music Research Guide

by

Noé Sánchez

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The purpose of this paper is to provide a framework for conducting research in the field of mariachi music, keeping in mind that such research is by nature a continuing process of interpretation of information. My intention is to provide a guide for the student of mariachi music, emphasizing that the principles of this systematic approach may be applied in any manner deemed appropriate to the research project at hand, and do not necessarily have to be followed in the order presented.

Noé Sánchez October 22, 1996

Mariachi Music Research Guide – Noe Sanchez – Somerset ISD, San Antonio, TX

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RESEARCH STEPS

Step I—What are you researching?

This step is not difficult. Define the specific topic you are looking for and go to the library.

Step II—Where do I look in the library?

This is where the nitty-gritty starts.

1. Look in the card catalog for any books that might relate to your topic.
 - For mariachi purposes look under:
 - Mariachi
 - Mariachi Music
 - Mexican Music
 - Latin American Music
 - Popular Mexican Music
 - Folk Music
 - Music in general
 - Any other related music topic.
2. Look in the computer in the Library. (Caution!! Not all books in the library are in the computer system. That is why you should always start with the card catalog).
3. Once you find a book on your subject, look in the back in the bibliography. The bibliography will be your first big step in finding more information. Use the name(s) of books, articles, and authors to access more information about your topic.

Step III—Where else can I look?

There are times where you will not find any books on your topic. When that happens, look in the following:

1. Music Dictionaries, Encyclopedias, Reference Sections in the Library, etc.
 - Harvard Dictionary of Music
 - The New Groves Dictionary of Music and Musicians
 - Music Periodical Index
 - Magazines about Music (Computer & Book Form)
 - RILM (*Repertoire Internationale de Literature Musiciens*) Search/ CD ROM
 - Ask your Librarian
2. Dissertation Abstracts / CD ROM—Ask your Librarian.
3. OCLC Search—Ask your Librarian.
4. Records/CD's—Jacket Notes.
5. Personal interviews.
6. Internet.

Step IV—Once you find the sources, where can you get them?

A problem you will encounter when doing research is that once you have accumulated a number

of sources, the library may not have these books, articles, or recordings. If this is true, don't panic. Go to your library's **INTERLIBRARY LOAN LIBRARY'S DEPARTMENT (OFFICE)** and ask about acquiring these materials (Interlibrary loan cannot get records or CD's). The librarian there should be able to help you. Interlibrary loan is a service where libraries lend each other books. They help each other for the benefit of helping the researcher. There may be a limit of how many books one can acquire and a fee for this service, so ask your librarian.

OTHER IMPORTANT SOURCES (UNIVERSITIES) Latin American Music Centers

University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA)
Indiana University (IU)
University of Texas at Austin (UT) Benson Collection
Tulane University
Arizona State University
Florida State University
Library of Congress (Washington D.C.)
Catholic University of America
Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico (UNAM)
University of Illinois (Urbana)
Duke University
University of Notre Dame

OTHER SOURCES

- www.menc.org
- www.menc.org/mariachi
- www.VirtuosoMariachi.com/nmea.htm

MAJOR MARIACHI CONFERENCES

- San Antonio, TX
- Tucson, AZ
- Sweetwater, CA
- Albuquerque, NM
- Las Cruces, NM
- Guadalajara, Mexico

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METHODOLOGIES (Books and Sources published)

Guitar/Vihuela

Basic and Advanced Mariachi Guitar Strumming (VHS Video) Video by Jesús Hernández from "Mariachi Sol de México"

In this video, Mr. Hernández shows and demonstrates all of the traditional mariachi guitar rhythms. He demonstrates all the mánicos (strummings) in a slow and fast tempo. He also includes a portion on vihuela playing and all the vihuela chords in major and minor keys. (Sol de México website - <http://www.mariachi-sol.com/default.htm>)

Mariachi Strumming for Vihuela and Guitar by Carlos E. Martínez

This book covers the basic strummings, but does not go into the more difficult variations. Excellent teaching book. (The Mariachi Connection)

Vihuela Video (VHS Video) by René Benavídez IFCC (The Mariachi Connection)

The Vihuela Chord Chart Book by John Vela. (The Mariachi Connection)

Mariachi Method For Guitar by Michael Archuleta.

The Vihuela Book by René Benavídez. (The Mariachi Connection)

Teaching Mariachi in the Classroom by Yamil Yunes (The Mariachi Connection)

Has a section on Harp

Mariachi Armonía Method Book by Noé Sánchez (The Mariachi Connection)

Guitarrón

Método Práctico de Guitarrón by Natividad de Santiago González

Vol. I (2nd edition). No publisher or date given.

Availability: Request through Interlibrary Loan in any public library or can be downloaded from the internet on the Stanford University Mariachi website.

The Guitarrón Book Vol I by John Vela, c1992. Published by Southern Music Company.

Technical Studies for the Guitarrón

Unpublished book by John Vela

Guitarrón Book by Juan Ortiz, no date given.

Guitarrón Video (VHS Video) by René Benavídez IFCC

Beginning Guitarrón (VHS Video) by John Vela.

Violin

Mariachi Violin: Right and Left Hand Techniques by Laura Sobrino (Work in Progress)

(Mariachi publishing company website)

Any violin method book available for orchestra.

Trumpet

Mariachi Trumpet: Phrasing Techniques by José Hernández

(Work in Progress)

"Mariachi Sol de México"

Any trumpet method for band or orchestra.

Voice

Estudios básicos de canto para interpretar la canción mexicana 1st and 2nd volumes by Heriberto Molina "El Cura".

Availability: Request through the author.

Heriberto Molina (Mariachi Nochistlán)

El Mariachi Restaurant

650 N. Tustin Ave.

Orange, CA 92667

(714) 532-4001

(714) 771-4001

Exploring the Mariachi Voice (VHS Video) This video was done by the National Center for Voice and Speech, Denver-Colorado. José Hernández director for "Mariachi Sol de México" demonstrates several mariachi singing styles.

Availability: Request through José Hernández

Cielito Lindo Restaurant

1612 N. Santa Anita Ave.

South El Monte, CA 91733

(818) 442-1254

OTHER PUBLISHED RESOURCES ABOUT MARIACHI

Los Mariachis!: An Introduction to Mexican Mariachi Music by Patricia W. Harpole and Mark Fogelquist.

Danbury, CT: World Music Press, 1991.

World Music Press

P.O. Box 2565

Danbury, CT 06813

(203) 748-1131

Mariachi for Beginners: A Method Book for Teaching Mariachi Style Music to Elementary School Students by Mayrna Bowling.

Availability: Request through the author.

Mayrna Bowling
2051 S. Dobson #5-162
Mesa, Arizona 85202-6480
(602) 641-1818

The Handbook for Mariachi Educators by Jorge Vargas.
(The Mariachi Connection or Jorge Vargas Website).

Viva el Mariachi (VHS Video) José Hernández by Al González (2004) Documentary about mariachi music. Excellent for the classroom.
(The Mariachi Connection).

¡Echenle Con Ganas, Muchachos!™: A Mariachi Textbook Books 1-3 by William Gradante
[This is the only book that provides mariachi history lessons with assignments and tests.

--A must have book!]

William J. Gradante, Ph. D., Director
Mariachi Espuelas de Plata
Elder Middle School
709 Northwest 21st Street
Fort Worth, TX 76106
(817) 740-5450 office
wgradante@fortworthisd.net

MAGAZINES

MENC Mariachi Newsletter electronic newsletter - www.menc.org/mariachi

VARIOUS MARIACHI CLASS FORMATS

After school program

	A.	B.
M)	violins	M) violins/trumpets
T)	guitars & vihuelas	T) guitars/vihuelas/guitarrones
W)	trumpets	W) violins/trumpets
TH)	guitarrones	TH) guitars/vihuelas/guitarrones
F)	Everyone/alternate	F) Everyone/alternate

Days can be moved around for different instruments. Vocalize and sing everyday.

Middle School (6th, 7th, 8th)

Based on a six period day.

- | A. | B. |
|---|----------|
| 1. beginning violins | 1. Mixed |
| 2. beginning trumpets | 2. Mixed |
| 3. beginning guitars, vihuelas, guitarrones | 3. Mixed |
| 4. advanced violins | 4. Mixed |
| 5. advanced trumpets | 5. Mixed |
| 6. advanced guitars, vihuelas, guitarrones | 6. Mixed |
- Have full rehearsals after school, during advisory or study hall period.

6th Campus (if it applies) BEST SCENARIO

1. beginning violins
2. beginning trumpets
3. beginning armonias
4. beginning guitarrón
5. beginning armonias
6. beginning violins

You should divide the violins if you have more than 12 to a class. Otherwise, divide the class that has the most students.

Jr. High School (7th – 8th grade)

1. 7th violins
2. 7th trumpets
3. 7th armonías
4. 7th guitarrones
5. 8th Mixed mariachi (if too big, split into two classes)
6. Divide the class that has the most or start a mixed beginner class.

High School Mariachi

All classes mixed unless it is a beginner group. Then, try to group them like the Middle School or Jr. High.

VALUABLE RESOURCES FOR MARIACHI PROGRAMS

Violins

Antonio Strad Violin

All violin supplies can be purchased at this location including repairs.

San Antonio, TX 78216

(210) 349-9788

(210) 349-9789 fax
Guolian Zhou representative

B.J.'S Southside Music

3012 Pleasanton Rd
San Antonio, TX 78221
(210) 922-3000

The Mariachi Connection

2934 W. Commerce
San Antonio, TX
(210) 432-3655

Guitarrones

Jerry Starr (Also carries vihuelas and guitarra de golpe instruments)

411 61st Street S.W.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87121
(505) 836-1369

Aurelio Guerrero

(Mr. Guerrero distributes guitarrones and vihuelas to B.J's Southside Music as well as other stores who carry his instruments.)

917 Matamoros Ave
Nuevo Laredo, Mexico
011-52-87-12-65-00

MARIACHI CURRICULUM CONSULTANTS

William J. Gradante, Ph. D., Director

Mariachi Espuelas de Plata
Elder Middle School
709 Northwest 21st Street
Fort Worth, TX 76106
(817) 740-5450 office
wgradante@fortworthisd.net

John Vela

Mariachi Unlimited
1128 Cobblestone
Alice, TX 78332

ALL MARIACHI SUPPLIES

The Mariachi Connection

2106 W. Commerce
San Antonio, TX 78207
(210) 271-3655
(210) 271-3654 fax

Mariachi Publishing Company

P. O. BOX 1665
Whittier, CA 90609-1665
Website: www.mariachipublishing.com
Telephone: 310.594.9361
General email: mpc@sobrino.net
Laura Sobrino: laura@sobrino.net

INTERNET

Using any search engine just write mariachi (Refer to Researching Mariachi Music).

DISCOGRAPHY

Historical Recordings with notes on the history of mariachis written by Jonathan Clark.

Mexico's Pioneer Mariachis - Vol. 1

Mariachi Coculense "Rodríguez" de Cirilo Marmolejo 1926-1936
includes Cuarteto Marmolejo recordings from 1908
Folklyric 7011

Mexico's Pioneer Mariachis - Vol. 2

Mariachi Tapatío de José Marmolejo
Folklyric 7012

Mexico's Pioneer Mariachis - Vol. 3

Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán/Their first recordings 1937-1947
Folklyric 7015

Mexico's Pioneer Mariachis - Vol. 4

Cuarteto Coculense (1908 – 1909)
Folklyric CD 7036

The Earliest Mariachi Recordings 1906-1936 Vol. 1

Folklyric 9051

Mariachi Coculense de Cirilo Marmolejo 1933-1936 Vol. 2

Folklyric 9052

Music of Mexico

Sones Jarochos/Sones Huastecos C-208

All the above recordings can be purchased from

Arhoolie Records

10341 San Pablo Avenue
El Cerrito, CA 94530
(510) 525-2129

Several suggested Recordings

Recordando a Lucha Reyes

Canciones Mexicanas en la voz inolvidable de Lucha Reyes

RCA Two records in one 7 43212 22254 8 1994

15 Huapangos de Oro/Miguel Aceves Mejia/versiones originales

30 Exitos de Pedro Infante CBS 02C-70301

Jorge Negrete

Fiesta Mexicana/Jorge Negrete

RCA Two records in one 7 43212 22584 1994

Lola Beltran/Oro Puro Peerless 7502 1991

Cumbias con el Mariachi de Pepe Villa CBS DKC-80045 1988

Homenaje al Mariachi/Mariachi Sol de México EMI H4 7243 8
29021 4 0 1994

Mariachi Cobre Kuckuck 11095-2 LC2009 1992

Bailes Regionales de México/Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán

Budget line RCA 9607-20-RL 1962

Canciones de Siempre/Mariachi Los Camperos Peer 314 519 712 1992

Las Mañanitas/La Negra Vol 2. Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán

Two in one Orfeon 25CDF-712

15 Auténticos exitos de Javier Solís CBS CD-80282 1990

Lo Mejor de José Alfredo Jiménez 33 grandes éxitos
RCA 2254-2 RL 1987

Más Mariachi 23 éxitos Mariachi México de Pepe Villa
Mediterráneo MCD-10130 1993

Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán (Two in one)
De las mañanitas a las golondrinas
El Mejor Mariachi del Mundo
CMP 743212-223941

IMPORTANT MARIACHIS OF TODAY

Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán
Mariachi Cobre
Mariachi Sol de México de José Hernández
Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano
Mariachi México de Pepe Villa
Mariachi Los Galleros de Pedro Hernández
Mariachi América de Jesús Rodríguez de Hajar
Mariachi Oro Y Plata
Mariachi 2000
Mariachi Aguilas de América de Rigoberto Alfaro
Mariachi Tlaquepaque
Mariachi Reyna de Los Angeles (All Female)
Mariachi Las Perlitas Tapatías (All Female)
Mariachi Mujer 2000 (All Female)

IMPORTANT ARTISTS IN MARIACHI MUSIC

Men

Pedro Infante
Jorge Negrete
José Alfredo Jiménez
Vicente Fernández
Javier Solís
Gerardo Reyes
Miguel Aceves Mejía
Cuco Sánchez
Pedro Vargas
Alejandro Fernández
Pedro Fernández
Marco Antonio Muñoz

Women

Lucha Reyes
Lola Beltrán
Aida Cuevas
Lucha Villa
Estela Nuñez
Tanya Libertad
Linda Ronstadt
Rocío Dúrcal
Angeles Ochoa
Lucero
Beatriz Adriana
Amalia Mendoza

Pepe/Antonio/Luis/ Aguilar
Federico Villa
Juan Gabriel

Flor Silvestre
Vikki Carr
Yolanda del Río

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR MARIACHI TEACHERS

1. Inform students of your expectations at the beginning of the year.
2. Send out letters to parents of your expectations and requirements for participation in the mariachi program.
3. Label all instruments and cases/do an inventory of everything in your program.
4. Always give out contracts if the students are borrowing an instrument. Do not let students use an instrument without a contract.
5. Transcribe arrangements for your needs. If it is too hard, simplify it. If it is too easy, spice it up a little.
6. Always transcribe all the music including voice parts.
7. Teach your students to read music. If you teach them a song, they will learn that song. If you teach them to read, they will learn a million songs.
8. Teach them theory at least once a week.
9. When teaching beginner violins and guitarrones, use pin stripe tape in order to teach them positions.
10. Students must practice every day. What separates an amateur from a professional is that the professional has practiced more.
11. Give them voice lessons every day. Do not expect your students to sing well if they only practice their instrument.
12. Every mariachi student plays an instrument and sings.
13. Students should always have an extra set of strings in their case(s).
14. Teach your students professionalism. Never criticize negatively because your students will learn from your example.
15. Teach your students to respect others.
16. Teach your students how to play correctly, then worry about getting uniforms. There is nothing worse to see than a beautifully dressed mariachi that performs their repertoire poorly.
17. Attend mariachi conferences.
18. Visit other mariachi programs in your area. There is always something new to learn.
19. Keep contacts with other mariachi directors.
20. Always be honest. Don't make promises you cannot keep.
21. Play mariachi recordings to your students whenever possible. Some of your students may not know the standard mariachi repertoire.
22. If you have not taught your students how to do it, do not expect them to do it.
23. If they cannot learn a piece, ask yourself, "Is this arrangement too hard for them?" "Should I simplify it?" "Can I teach it to them in a different way?" Believe me, one of these is the right answer.
24. Never pass up a learning experience for your students. Remember, you are there for them. Students always come first.
25. Students should be encouraged to pass all classes. If they do not pass, they should not participate in outside school performances.

26. Teach your students responsibility.
27. Teach traditional mariachi music. If you do not, you are not doing your job. You may vary some music when they are more advanced, but there are endless amounts of traditional mariachi repertoire for your students.
28. Buy yourself a good set of repair/maintenance kits for your instruments. You will have to fix minor problems here and there.
29. Buy yourself a pitch pipe. This is especially good for performances.
30. Do not teach the students to tune their instruments until they are advanced. Don't waste their time and yours. Tune the instruments for them at least for the first two years.
31. When going on a performance, always have parent consent forms with emergency numbers.

MARIACHI SHOWMANSHIP

1. Melody should predominate a piece whether it is instrumental or vocal.
2. It looks unprofessional to practice parts on stage.
3. Express your song with normal gestures that express the words.
4. Always perform to your audience, never to yourself.
5. Talking on stage should never occur unless it is part of the act.
6. A MARIACHI PERFORMS AND INTERPRETS CERTAIN TYPES OF MEXICAN DANCES SUCH AS JARABES, SONES, ETC... A MARIACHI DOES NOT DANCE ON STAGE. A BALLET FOLKLORICO DANCES AND INTERPRETS THE MUSIC PLAYED BY THE MARIACHI.
7. Your repertoire should vary and should have smooth transitions from song to song.
8. Relax and enjoy the performance. Have fun.
9. Listen to all parts. Everyone is important.
10. Teach your mariachi to blend as one. A good mariachi can make a mistake and not be noticed because when it happens, everyone supports each other and the audience cannot tell that a mistake has occurred.
11. Your arrangements should be creative but within the style.
12. Practice entrances and exits
13. Always insist on proper posture.
14. Never give the audience the slightest notion that you are tired or not enjoying the performance.
15. There should be no intonation problems in your mariachi.

WRITTEN MARIACHI CURRICULUM GUIDES

1. Sweetwater, Chula Vista, California – Mark Fogelquist
2. Clark County, Las Vegas, Nevada – Javier Trujillo
3. Pueblo High School, Tucson Arizona
4. Roma I.S.D., Roma, TX
5. Somerset I.S.D., Somerset, TX – Noé Sánchez
6. Southwest I.S.D., San Antonio, TX – Nicque Ontiveros
7. San Antonio I.S.D., San Antonio, TX – Camille Bach

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- Introduction to Mariachi Performance
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- Class Voice
- String Class

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PROPOSED COURSES TO DEVELOP FOR UNIVERSITY STUDY

(To enhance current BM in music education)

1. Armonía Methods (Guitarrón, Guitar, Vihuela)
2. History and Repertoire of Mariachi Music
3. Arranging for the Mariachi Ensemble (6-12)
4. Mariachi Pedagogy
5. Private lessons in Guitarrón, Vihuela, and Guitar (Mariachi Style)

BM with a Mariachi Studies Minor

BM with a Mariachi Pedagogy Certificate

BM with Mariachi Music Specialization