

# INTERNET RESOURCES

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/mx.html>  
<http://www.inside-mexico.com>  
<http://www.earthyfamily.com/mexico-independence-day.htm>  
[http://www.ehow.com/about\\_5036272\\_instruments-used-mariachi-music.html](http://www.ehow.com/about_5036272_instruments-used-mariachi-music.html)  
<http://www.elmariachi.com/Library/History.aspx>  
<http://mariachi.org/>  
<http://www.mexonline.com/mexican-independence.htm>  
<http://wikipedia.org/wiki/Mariachi>  
[http://wikipedia.org/wiki/Mexican\\_independence](http://wikipedia.org/wiki/Mexican_independence)

# IMAGE SOURCES

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/mx.html>



Special thanks to the  
University Musical Society of Ann Arbor, MI  
and the University of California/Berkeley



CELEBRATING 200 YEARS OF MEXICAN INDEPENDENCE  
AND 50 YEARS OF  
MARIACHI LOS CAMPEROS DE NATI CANO

# VIVA Mexico! STUDY GUIDE



# WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO SEE TODAY?

Today you will see a performance of mariachi music by the Grammy award-winning group Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano. In this performance you will see the instruments listed on page 5. You will also hear the way the instruments are used to create the distinct mariachi sound. Mariachi Los Camperos wears the uniform of Jalisco horsemen, the "Traje de charro" (Traje = suit. Charro = Mexican cowboy).

## WHAT IS MARIACHI?

Mariachi is a genre of music originating in Mexico. The word "mariachi" can also be used to describe the ensemble playing the music.

Mariachi bands are made up of musicians playing the violin, trumpet, guitar, vihuela and guitarrón. There can be as many as eight violinists and two trumpets in one ensemble. Some ensembles also include the harp. Can you spot a harp while Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano is performing?



## HISTORY OF MARIACHI MUSIC



Before mariachi music as we know it today, people in Mexico played music using rattles, drums and clay flutes. When the Spanish brought their instruments to Mexico (violins, guitars, brass and woodwinds), mariachi music was formed. Mariachi is based on Western Mexican folk music.

Although music had been played in Mexico long before this time, it was not until the late 19th century that groups began to blend musical styles that created the sound of mariachi music as we know it today.



Mariachi ensembles are often hired to perform at festivities such as weddings, baptisms, quinceañeras (a coming of age celebration held on a girl's fifteenth birthday in Latin American cultures) and other festive occasions.

## WORD SEARCH

How many words can you find?

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| N | U | M | I | C | R | G | V | M | T | E | R |
| O | C | I | X | E | M | I | U | U | C | I | I |
| I | O | N | F | V | I | O | L | I | N | N | N |
| T | S | S | I | X | U | B | S | E | T | U | N |
| A | F | T | E | P | M | U | R | T | L | A | O |
| R | T | R | S | E | M | I | G | V | T | N | R |
| B | A | U | T | E | I | N | E | I | N | T | R |
| E | N | M | A | R | I | A | C | H | I | S | A |
| L | O | E | I | T | H | A | N | U | U | U | T |
| E | C | N | E | D | N | E | P | E | D | N | I |
| C | N | T | N | O | I | R | S | L | O | H | U |
| A | N | S | N | U | R | A | E | A | A | A | G |

CELEBRATION  
FIESTA  
GUITAR  
GUITARRON  
INDEPENDENCE  
INSTRUMENTS  
MARIACHI

MEXICO  
MUSIC  
NATI CANO  
TRUMPET  
VIHUELA  
VIOLIN



# INSTRUMENTS OF MARIACHI

## TRUMPET

Trumpets contribute to the distinctive mariachi sound and are used in many other types of music including classical, jazz and pop. In mariachi, trumpet players will sometimes use a mute to soften their instruments' sound.



## VIOLIN

In Mariachi music the violin is played the same way as in other types of music. The instrument is played using a bow of horsehair. The sound of the violin blends nicely with the other instruments to create the overall sound of mariachi.

## GUITARRÓN

The Guitarrón is an instrument unique and important to mariachi. It is used to give rhythmic foundation to the music as well as to provide the bass. The Guitarrón is thought of as the most essential instrument in a mariachi band.



## GUITAR

The type of guitar used in mariachi music is a standard one used in any popular music genre. The guitar supplements the rhythm of the mariachi band.



## VIHUELA

The Vihuela is not used by any genre of music other than mariachi. This instrument is slightly larger than a ukulele and is played by strumming with a thumb pick. The Vihuela adds to the rhythmic foundation.

## WORD SCRAMBLE

Can you unscramble the letters to find the words?

RTIUAG

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AHIRMAIC

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MEURPTT

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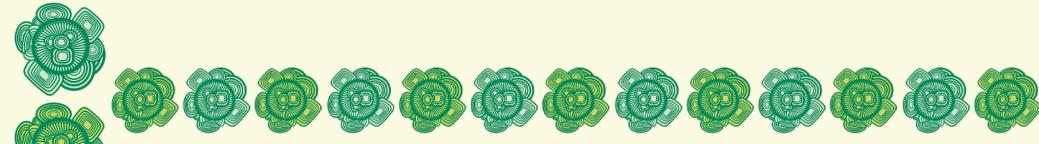
PDEEIDNENCEN

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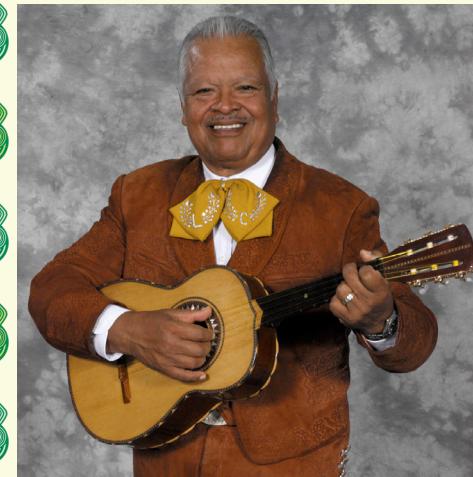


## WHO ARE MARIACHI LOS CAMPEROS?

Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano are a Grammy award-winning group who has shared the tradition of Mexican mariachi music with audiences throughout the world. Now in its 50 year anniversary, Los Camperos features the finest musicians from the United States and Mexico. Leading the band is Mexican born Natividad "Nati" Cano. He brought his talents and teachings to Los Angeles where he started Los Camperos 50 years ago. Los Camperos has collaborated with Linda Ronstadt, performing on her album *Canciones de Mi Padre*. Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano has recorded eight albums, including *cELLAbration! A Tribute to Ella Jenkins* which earned it a shared Grammy for "Best Musical Album for Children." Los Camperos is prominently featured in the documentary *Fiesta Mexicana* broadcast nationwide on PBS.



## WHO IS NATI CANO?



Nati Cano is a leader in mirroring and shaping the history of mariachi music. Mr. Cano was born in 1933 into a family of mariachi musicians of Ahuisculco, Jalisco. This rural town is much like the many other west Mexican communities that gave life to mariachi tradition. His career took him first to nearby Guadalajara, Mexico's second largest city, and then further away to Los Angeles. In Los Angeles, he and his group, Los Camperos, emerged as a major driving force of the mariachi music tradition in the United States and in Mexico as well. Nati's life goal has been to bring greater acceptance, understanding, and respect to the mariachi tradition as a whole, and to reach the widest possible audience with his music. Mr. Cano is both an NEA and USArtists Fellow.



# TAKE A LOOK AT MEXICO



## HISTORY OF MEXICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

In the early morning of September 16, 1810, Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, a Catholic priest from the village of Delores, brought together the native people of Mexico by ringing the bell of his church. He asked the people to rebel against the Spanish who had controlled Mexico for nearly 10 generations. He said to the Mexicans "Mexicanos, Viva Mexico!" (Mexicans, long live Mexico!). The revolution began.

In January of 1811 Father Hidalgo and his rebel army were captured while trying to flee the Battle of the Bridge of Calderón by escaping into the United States. On July 30, 1811, Father Hidalgo was executed by firing squad by the Spanish army. José María Morelos assumed leadership of the rebel army after Father Hidalgo's death. He led the army to capture many Mexican cities from Spanish rule but was later captured and executed in the year 1815.

For nearly a decade the battle of independence was fought. It was a bloody war that resulted in nearly 15,000 deaths on the Mexican side and 8,000 on the Spanish side. It was not until August 24, 1821 that the Treaty of Cordoba was signed, which gave Mexico its independence from Spain.

## CELEBRATING INDEPENDENCE DAY

Each year Mexican Independence Day is celebrated on September 16th - the day Father Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla gave his famous battle cry. The people of Mexico and Mexicans all around the world celebrate Mexican Independence Day much like the way Americans celebrate the 4th of July. They come together with friends, family and food to honor those who fought to give them their freedom.

The biggest celebration on Mexican Independence Day takes place in the Central Plaza of Mexico City. Here the President of Mexico reenacts Father Hidalgo's famous battle cry. There is a large crowd response with the shouting of "Viva Mexico!"

During this time of celebration, houses and buildings in Mexico can be seen decorated with the colors of the Mexican flag. Many houses display the Mexican flag proudly. In the main plaza of every town you can find traditional Mexican food and people dressed in traditional Mexican clothing. People of all ages go to these large fiestas where the sound of mariachi music can be heard.

2010 marks the 200th anniversary of Mexican independence.

### MEXICO'S FLAG

Mexico's flag has three vertical bands of green, white and red. The color green represents hope during the independence movement. White stands for purity, and red stands for the union and blood of its national heroes.

The flag also displays a coat of arms which is a symbol taken from Aztec legend. It is said that the gods advised the Aztecs to build their city in the place where they discovered an eagle with a snake in its beak perched on a cactus. Where they found the eagle and built their city is now known as Mexico City.



## MEXICO FUN FACTS

- Population 111,211,789 (July 2009 est.)
- Capital Mexico City
- Government Type Federal Republic
- Language Spanish 92.7% (2005)
- Terrain Varies from tropical to desert
- Agriculture Products Corn, wheat, soybeans, rice, beans, cotton, coffee, fruit, tomatoes, beef, poultry, dairy products, wood products
- Industries Food and beverages, tobacco, chemicals, iron and steel, petroleum, mining, textiles, clothing, motor vehicles, consumer durables, tourism

VIVA Mexico!