

Cue Sheet

Guides for
Teachers

Mariachi Christmas

Friday, December 15, 2023
10:15am

Questions to ask students **BEFORE** the performance

- What holiday traditions do you know of or celebrate? What do you do during those celebrations?
- Have you heard mariachi music played before? What are some characteristics of it?

Questions to ask students **AFTER** the performance

- What holiday traditions did you observe in the performance?
- What musical instruments did you see the band playing onstage?
- How was the mariachi music like or unlike other music you've heard?



About the Performance

Mariachi is more than just a style of music. It emerged out of a cultural revolution in Mexico and has come to represent the essence of Mexican heritage. Mariachi music is composed of sharply contrasting sounds; the sweet sounds of the violins stand out against the brilliance of the trumpets, and the deep strum of the guitarrón. The mariachis in this performance are accompanied by ballet folklórico dancers, who move to the music and rhythms played.

During the Schoolttime Series' Mariachi Christmas performance, students are invited to sing along, clap, and have fun with the musicians and dancers onstage. However, during solos, we ask that the audience wait to join in until the rest of the performers begin singing again.

We recognize that not all students celebrate Christmas. We see the show as a cultural showcase of the traditions of Mexico during the Christmas season. We encourage discussions about the diversity of family traditions from home to home and culture to culture, particularly during this festive season.



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Vocabulary

Aztlán (æts-lan) - the Aztec peoples' ancestral homeland

bolero (boh-LEH-ro) - moderate dance/popular song type in 4/4 time

corrido (coh-REE-doh) - a ballad that usually includes facts about historical events

ensemble (ON-sahm-bel) - a small musical group of voices or instruments

guitarrón (ghee-tah-ROHN) - large, portable acoustic bass instrument and member of the guitar family, with a V-shaped back, short neck, and six strings

juvenil (who-vuh-nil) - the Spanish word for "a young person" or "youth"

polka (POH-kuh) - a lively dance originally from Eastern Europe

ranchera (rahn-CHEH-rah) - a popular song type, with texts dealing with emotions such as love, or nostalgia for the land or people

son (sohn) - a lively instrumental/vocal/dance piece, characterized by the alteration of fast and slow rhythms

soné (SOH-nay) - the Spanish word for "sound"

vihuela (vee-HWAY-la) - a small member of the guitar family, with five strings, a V-shaped back, and short neck. The vihuela produces a high sound.

waltz (wa-ls) - a slow or moderate dance originally from Western Europe

Theater Etiquette

- Stay with your chaperone at all times.
- Remove hats or caps when inside.
- Put away mobile phones and other electronic devices. Use of photographic, video recording, audio recording, phones, and gaming devices is prohibited during performances.
- Allow everyone to enjoy the performance by remaining quiet, except when a response is requested by performers. Some shows are interactive, while others are not.
- Stay seated and do not kick or hit the seat in front of you.
- Request to leave the hall with an adult chaperone if you need to use the restroom or cool down. If you are being disruptive, an adult chaperone may escort you out of the theater. You may view the show on screens in the lobby or lower lounge until you are ready to return with your chaperone.
- Clap after the end of a song during a musical or other music performance. During a ballet or dance performance, clap at the end of the number.
- Remain in your seats after the applause at the end of the show until our House Manager dismisses you.

Click here!

Visit the show's page on our Schooltime Series website for more educational resources.

Facts about Popejoy Hall

- Popejoy Hall officially opened on October 1, 1966.
- The hall can seat up to 1985 people.
- Most walls inside the hall are not parallel or perpendicular to the stage. Curves, angles, and soft or textured surfaces scatter the sound throughout the hall so that audiences can hear performances better.
- Popejoy Hall has an orchestra pit which raises and lowers. It is the largest elevator in the building.
- The ceiling over the stage is three times the height of the curtain opening. Sets can be lowered into place by pulleys and raised high enough to be stored completely out of sight when not in use.