

Mondavi Center

ARTS EDUCATION 2011-12
TARGET SCHOOL MATINEE SERIES

CUE

Sheet for Teachers

Mariachi Sol de México de José Hernández Mariachi Christmas

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2011

11 AM • JACKSON HALL

Recommended for grades K-12



Dear Teachers:
We hope you will find this CueSheet helpful in preparing your students for what they will experience at the Mariachi Sol de Mexico de José Hernández School Matinee at the Mondavi Center. The CueSheet provides background information on this traditional ensemble and their performance.



Dancers from Jalisco, Mexico.



ABOUT

Mariachi music grew from humble beginnings over 200 years ago in the Jalisco highlands. It's recognized as an international symbol with its strong ties to the traditional and cultural customs of México.

Jóse Hernández represents the fifth generation of performers in his family line, establishing Mariachi Sol de México in 1981. This 14-member orchestrated mariachi ensemble consists of six violins, three trumpets, one Spanish guitar, one *vihuela* (a high-pitched, five-string guitar with a rounded back) and one *guitarrón* (rounded acoustic bass guitar).

The musicians perform while dressed in the traditional *traje de charro*, consisting of wide-brimmed hats (*sombreros*), embroidered waist-length jackets and tight-fitting wool pants slit at the ankle to allow for riding boots, the uniform of Jalisco horsemen.

The women dancing onstage wear brightly colored blouses and skirts while performing a basic set of steps called *zapateados* which involve percussive foot-stomping done in a counter-rhythm.

The musicians and dancers of Mariachi Sol de Mexico visit Mondavi Center to welcome the holidays in a colorful celebration of Mexico's Christmas traditions. Experience portions of the nine *posadas*, symbolizing Mary's nine months of pregnancy, and *pastorelas*, representing the shepherds journey to honor baby Jesus.

LEARN MORE:

<http://www.soldemexicoonline.com/>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Las_Posadas

<http://www.inside-mexico.com/featurenavidad.htm>



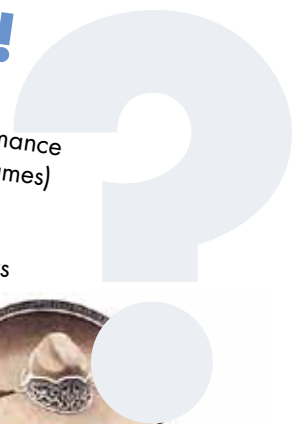
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think about it!

DEAR STUDENTS

- 1 Write a story about your impressions of the performance including what you saw (musicians, dancers and costumes) and what you heard (songs and instruments).
- 2 What were your feelings as you watched the dancers and listened to the music?
- 3 What did you like best about the performance and why?



ATTENDING THE THEATER

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF STUDENT AUDIENCES AT THE MATINEE:

- Please enter the auditorium quietly and take your assigned seat immediately (note that all matinees have reserved seating).
- Show courtesy to the artist and other guests at all times.
- Demonstrate appreciation for the artists' work by applauding at the appropriate times.
- Refrain from making unnecessary noise or movements.
- Please eat lunch before or after the performance; food is not allowed in the performance hall.
- Relate any information acquired from the pre-matinee discussion to the new information gained from the matinee.
- Please do not use flash photography.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT OF YOUR EXPERIENCE IN A PERFORMING ARTS THEATER:

A theater is a charged space, full of energy and anticipation. When the house lights (the lights that illuminate the audience seating) go down, the excitement level goes up! Theaters are designed so that the voices of the singers and actors and the music of the musicians can be heard. But this also means that any sound in the audience—whispering, rustling of papers, speaking and moving about—can be heard by other audience members and by the performers. Distractions like these upset everyone's concentration and can spoil a performance.

The performers on stage show respect for their art form and for the audience by doing their very best work. The audience shows respect for the performers by watching attentively.

Applause is the best way for audience members to share their enthusiasm and to show their appreciation for the performers. Applaud at the end of a performance! Sometimes the audience will clap during a performance, as after a featured solo. Audience members may feel like laughing if the action on stage is funny, crying if the action is sad, or sighing if something is seen or heard that is beautiful.

Appreciation can be shown in many different ways, depending upon the art form and the culture(s) of the people in the audience. While the audience at a dance performance will sit quietly, other types of performance invite audience participation.

MONDAVI CENTER ARTS EDUCATION provides CueSheets for all performances in the Mondavi Center 2011-12 Target School Matinee Series. They are intended to help teachers prepare their students for the school matinee that they will attend at Mondavi Center, UC Davis.

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Additional support provided by



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