

MARIACHI  
**GARIBALDI**  
de Jaime Cuellar



# Campaña sobre Campaña

*Christmas  
in Mexico*

**STUDY GUIDE**

# MARIACHI GARIBALDI

DE

## JAIME CUELLAR



Mariachi Garibaldi de Jaime Cuéllar has enchanted audiences with their dynamic musicianship and lively stage presence for over thirty years. Founded in 1994 by Jaime Cuéllar, Mariachi Garibaldi's commitment to providing a quality representation of the mariachi genre has propelled them into becoming one of Los Angeles's most recognized Mariachis and arguably in California. Under the direction of Jimmy "El Pollo" Cuéllar, son of Jaime Cuéllar, Mariachi Garibaldi is considered one of the leading Mariachi ensembles regularly called upon to share the stage with some of Mexico's most beloved performers such as The Aguilar Family: Pepe, Angela and Leonardo, Juan Gabriel, Alejandro Fernandez, Pedro Fernandez, Espinoza Paz, Paquita del Barrio, Aida Cuevas, Ana Barbara, Graciela Beltran, Maria Elena Beltran, Yolanda del Rio, Mercedes Castro, Beatriz Adriana, Empress Of, and Armenian pop star Lilit Hovhannisyan. Most recently, Mariachi Garibaldi was a featured performer for Camila Cabello's Tiny Desk concert, performing "La Buena Vida," which genuinely displays that mariachi music transcends across all platforms. Their elevated musicianship has also opened invitations to perform on prestigious stages to sold-out crowds, such as the Louise M. Davies Symphony Hall in San Francisco, the Auditorium Theater in Chicago, Teatro Degollado, The Soraya, The John Anson Ford Amphitheatre, Bakersfield Fox Theatre, The Chandler Center for the Arts, The Smith Center for the Performing Arts, Tempe Center for the Arts and The Gallo Center for the Arts. Mariachi Garibaldi has entertained thousands of people at sold-out venues. And was a key element in the Mitu Network to recreate Disney's Beauty and the Beast's "Tale As Old As Time" which catapulted their professional career and became a viral video with over 16 million views. Their ornate mariachi jacket became a commodity of trade when Dodger pitcher Joe Kelly wore it with honor at the White House.



# BALLET FOLKLORICO DE RIO GRANDE



Ballet Folklórico del Rio Grande (BFRG), under the direction of Miguel Peña, is a thirty-member organization comprised of alumni of the internationally recognized collegiate folklórico program offered at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. UTRGV offers the only folklórico dance major in the United States and produces the wellspring of highly skilled professional dancers that comprise BFRG. With numerous state, national, and international concerts under their belt, they have been showcased at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performance Arts in Washington, D.C. for four consecutive years. BFRG has toured the world visiting countries such as Canada, France, Italy, Argentina, and Mexico. Their recent international work includes performances in Santiago, Argentina and Tamaulipas, Mexico. BFRG has also performed nationwide for important artists such as Los Tigres del Norte and Aida Cuevas. They now partner with Mariachi Garibaldi de Jaime Cuéllar for joint shows celebrating all aspects of Mexican culture, including the Día de Los Muertos and Christmas holidays.



# MARIACHI



## MUSIC

Mariachi is a style of traditional Mexican music that typically includes a small group of musicians playing violins, trumpets, a guitarron, a vihuela, a guitar, and sometimes a harp or other instruments. The musicians often wear distinctive charro suits and wide-brimmed hats. Mariachi music is known for its lively, festive sound and is often associated with celebrations and cultural events in Mexico and beyond.




### RANCHERA

Refers to a style of traditional Mexican music characterized by its emotional lyrics, often focusing on themes of love, patriotism, and rural life. It typically features a prominent vocal melody accompanied by typical mariachi instruments.

### SONES

Refers to a type of traditional Mexican folk music known as "son". A mariachi son incorporates elements of this genre with the traditional son style, which often includes lively rhythms, intricate melodies, and poetic lyrics. Mariachi sons are often performed at celebrations, festivals, and other special occasions, embodying the rich cultural heritage of Mexico.





# MARIACHI INSTRUMENTS

## VIOLIN



Central instrument in a mariachi ensemble, adding melodic richness and emotional expression. Its presence in mariachi music highlights the fusion of Indigenous Mexican traditions with European influences.

## TRUMPET



It is a vital instrument in a mariachi ensemble, known for its bright, piercing sound that adds energy and brilliance to the music.

## HARP



The mariachi harp, also known as "arpa jalisciense" or "arpa grande," is a traditional instrument in Mexican mariachi music. It has a rich history and plays a crucial role in creating the distinct sound of mariachi.

## GITARRON



A six-string acoustic bass played in octaves, the guitarrón provides the ensemble's rhythmic and harmonic foundation and is an essential component of traditional Mexican music.

## VIHUELA



A five-stringed guitar-like instrument with a rounded back, the *vihuela* often plays a rhythmic role, providing a lively and driving accompaniment to the melody.

## GUITAR



The mariachi guitar (classical acoustic guitar) is an essential instrument in a mariachi ensemble, contributing to the group's rhythmic and harmonic foundation.




# BALLET

## FOLKLORICO



Mexican folk dance, also known as "danza folklórica," is a traditional dance form that represents the rich cultural heritage of Mexico. Each dance tells a story and reflects the traditions, music, and costumes of different regions of Mexico.

### VARIETY OF STYLES




Mexico has over 30 states, each with its unique style of dance. Some well-known types include:

- Jarabe Tapatío : Often considered the national dance of Mexico, it symbolizes courtship.
- Danza de los Viejitos : From Michoacán, featuring dancers in masks who perform humorous and energetic movements.
- Huapango Huasteco: Originating from Huasteca region, this dance features intricate footwork and lively music.

### COLORFUL COSTUMES

Costumes play a significant role in Mexican folk dances. They are vibrant and elaborate, often decorated with ribbons, lace, and embroidery. For example (State of Jalisco):

- Women's Attire: Large, flowing skirts (often with colorful patterns) and blouses with ruffles.
  - Men's Attire: Traditional charro suits or simple trousers and shirts, often accompanied by sombreros (wide-brimmed hats).
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# FOLKLORICO TERMS

## ZAPATEADO DE TRES



A rhythmic stomping of the feet that is common in many Mexican dances. It consists of three flats alternating feet.

## CABALLITO



This step mimics the movements of a horse, with a series of galloping motions and small jumps.

## PLANTAS



A basic step where the dancer shifts weight from one foot to the other, often used as a foundational step in more complex routines.

## CARRETILLA



A "wheelbarrow" step where dancers move forward and backward with quick, shuffling movements. It consists of double flats with each foot shifting the weight from right to left.

## FALDEO



The graceful movement of the skirt by female dancers, creating flowing patterns that enhance the visual impact of the dance.



# FUN FACTS ABOUT MEXICO

## ARTS AND CULTURE



Mexico has a rich artistic and cultural heritage, with famous artists like Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera gaining international acclaim. Traditional Mexican crafts such as pottery, textiles, and folk art are also highly valued.

## CHICHEN ITZA



This famous archaeological site in Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula was one of the largest Maya cities and is now one of the World's New Seven Wonders. The El Castillo pyramid at Chichen Itza aligns with the sun so that during the spring and autumn equinoxes, shadows create the illusion of a serpent crawling down the pyramid's steps.

## CUISINE



Mexican cuisine is diverse and delicious, with dishes like tacos, enchiladas, tamales, mole, and guacamole being popular worldwide. UNESCO has even recognized Mexican cuisine as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

## CHOCOLATE ORIGINS



The word "chocolate" comes from the Aztec word "xocolatl," and Mexico is considered the birthplace of chocolate. Ancient civilizations like the Maya and Aztecs cultivated cacao beans and drank chocolate as a bitter, frothy beverage.

## CENOTES



These natural sinkholes, filled with crystal-clear water, are scattered throughout the Yucatan Peninsula and offer a unique opportunity to swim, snorkel, and dive in stunning underground caverns.



# CAMPANA SOBRE CAMPANA

Christmas time in Mexico, known as "Navidad," is a festive and deeply traditional season that combines religious customs with vibrant cultural celebrations. The holiday period typically begins on December 12th with the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe and extends until January 6th, the Day of the Epiphany, or "Día de los Reyes."...

## POSADAS

A MEXICAN POSADA IS A TRADITIONAL CELEBRATION THAT TAKES PLACE DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON, TYPICALLY FROM DECEMBER 16TH TO DECEMBER 24TH. IT COMMEMORATES MARY AND JOSEPH'S SEARCH FOR LODGING IN BETHLEHEM BEFORE THE BIRTH OF JESUS. THE TERM "POSADA" MEANS "INN" IN SPANISH.



## DÍA DE LA VIRGEN

DÍA DE LA VIRGEN, OR DAY OF THE VIRGIN, REFERS TO THE CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE, WHICH TAKES PLACE ON DECEMBER 12TH. THIS DAY HONORS THE VIRGIN OF GUADALUPE, WHO IS CONSIDERED THE PATRONESS OF MEXICO AND A SIGNIFICANT FIGURE IN MEXICAN CATHOLICISM.





# CAMPANA SOBRE CAMPANA

...One of the most cherished traditions is Las Posadas, a series of nine nightly processions from December 16th to 24th that reenact Mary and Joseph's search for shelter in Bethlehem. Participants travel from house to house singing carols and are often welcomed inside to celebrate with prayers, food, and piñatas.

## NACIMIENTO

A MEXICAN "NACIMIENTO" IS A TRADITIONAL NATIVITY SCENE SET UP TO CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF JESUS DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON. IT FEATURES FIGURES OF THE HOLY FAMILY (JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH), THE MANGER, AND OFTEN INCLUDES SHEPHERDS, ANIMALS, AND THE THREE WISE MEN.



## NOCHEBUENAS

IN MEXICO, THE POINSETTIA, OR "NOCHEBUENA" AS IT IS CALLED LOCALLY, IS A POPULAR CHRISTMAS FLOWER SYMBOLIZING THE HOLIDAY SEASON. ITS VIBRANT RED AND GREEN LEAVES MAKE IT A FESTIVE DECORATION FOR HOMES, CHURCHES, AND PUBLIC SPACES. THE PLANT IS OFTEN ASSOCIATED WITH CHRISTMAS EVE CELEBRATIONS AND IS USED IN TRADITIONAL DECORATIONS, INCLUDING ALTARS AND NATIVITY SCENES.



## PIÑATAS

IN MEXICO, PIÑATAS ARE A LIVELY AND FESTIVE TRADITION DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON, ESPECIALLY IN THE CELEBRATION OF POSADAS. THE PIÑATA IS TYPICALLY A BRIGHTLY DECORATED, OFTEN STAR-SHAPED CONTAINER FILLED WITH CANDIES, FRUITS, AND SMALL TOYS.





# CONCLUSION

Mariachi music and Mexican folk dance are vibrant expressions of Mexico's rich cultural heritage, each vital in preserving and celebrating the country's traditions. Mariachi, with its distinctive blend of strings, brass, and vocals, encapsulates the spirit of Mexico. Mexican folk dance, with its colorful costumes and energetic movements, brings the stories and traditions of Mexico to life.



"Join us in a celebration of Mexico's vibrant music and dance! Feel the mariachi rhythm, the Jarabe Tapatío's passion, and the heartbeat of our rich cultural heritage. Let the music move you, and the dances enchant you. Viva México!"



**MARIAN LIEBOWITZ**  
**MARIAN@MARIANLIEBOWITZ.COM**  
**619-988-0751**