



Mexico through the sound of music

Travel Manual
NSM China Tour 2014



As part of the Northridge School Mexico project, we have developed a musical production with the orchestra and chorus which highlights the patriotism of each student and of our whole society. Given our bicultural school setting and the increasingly globalized nature of the world, we are striving to cultivate in future generations an ardent appreciation for our culture. Therefore, we have prepared a musical program with representative compositions which highlight different periods in Mexican history.

We will present this program during a cultural exchange with China. Our musical tour will include several key landmarks in Hong Kong, the Mexican embassy in Beijing and the Great Wall of China as well. We are interested in sharing student work with regard to our national patrimony with others, since we are convinced that it is important to make a positive contribution to the world around us.



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Musical Program

First Civilizations (1248- 1519)

Danza Civilización. Author: Aldo Guerrero

This original composition for the NSM musical tour in China will transport the listener over time to an early indigenous setting with the help of prehispanic musical instruments.

Instruments: 15 Huilacapitzlli, 1 Atecocollo (seashell), 2 huehuetl (vertical drum), 2 tepon-aztli (cilindric xylophone), Coyoneras (rattles), 1 Synthesizer.

Colonial México (1521-1821)



Xicochi xicochi. Autor: Gaspar Fernández

Convidando está la noche: Author: Juan García de Céspedes

The Spanish contribution brought faith and western manners to the formation of modern Mexican culture as well as the colonial religious music epitomized by Manuel Zumaya.

Instruments: String quartet, Harpiscord, Three voice chorus, and a Soprano.

Independence Period (1810)



Sobre las Olas (waltz). Author: Juventino Rosas

During the Napoleonic Wars the Spanish empire suffered a political crisis which resulted in Spanish independence and the birth of the modern Spanish state. Mexico in turn refused to accept a French king as a ruler. The colonists quest for freedom led the colonists to the Mexican War for Independence which engendered modern México. The nineteenth century Romantic waltz "Sobre las Olas" by Juventino Rosas represents this period with a touch of Mexican folklore.

Instruments: Piano, Orchestra

Las Chiapanecas

Mexican Revolution (1910)



Adelita. Popular

After gaining Independence, Mexico enjoyed political stability until entering a civil war called the Mexican Revolution. At that time local authorities rose up against the forces of Porfirio Diaz to defend the poor and to ban the Mexican President's right to reelection. The insurgents popularized the song Adelita.

Instruments: Guitar, Piano, Orchestra, Choir

Bésame mucho. Author. Consuelito Velázquez **Tequila**

To close our performance we have picked one of the most famous songs of Mexican contemporary music "Besame mucho", which has been translated into more than 20 languages and has become an icon in popular music. The context of its success was the women waiting for their husbands to return from World War II.

The song "Tequila" reached the top of the charts in its time, and it continues to be a strong point of reference in popular culture today. "Tequila" is a regional name for a distilled beverage made from the blue agave plant, primarily in the area surrounding the city of Tequila and in the highlands (Los Altos) of Jalisco. The word "tequila" is repeated three times throughout the song. This song was arranged specifically for our Jazz band.

Contemporary Mexico



Popurrí Mexicano

Rancho Alegre, Cielito lindo, La Bikina

Music is a very important part of Mexican culture and is always part of a celebration, whether big or small. The music of Mexico celebrates love, country, passion, history, legend and oppression, among other things. Although the people of Mexico listen to music from all over the world and also produce their own forms of modern music, traditional Mexican music continues to be very popular with people of all ages. These traditional forms of Mexican music are undeniably colorful and filled with passion. They were created over the course of our rich history.