

Metales M5 will tour a new program in 2010-2011 entitled "Music for California: From Spanish Baroque to Mariachi to Hollywood." Proposed to California Presenters at its late May, 2009, conference, this program will be available for National Touring during the 2010-2011 season.



Metales M5 Mexican Brass Quintet proposes a new touring program that we hope will have an unprecedented opportunity to demonstrate our passion for music and, in turn, to help build and attract a new Hispanic audience in California. Our goal is to appeal to presenters who are interested in hosting a group that is both audience-pleasing and, at the same time, firmly committed to creating a demand for a more interactive performance experience.

BACKGROUND

Metales M5 Mexican Brass Quintet was founded in 2005 in the colonial city of Morelia, Michoacán in the central highlands of Mexico. The group has performed over 250 concerts throughout Mexico, including a 28-concert tour through the West Central States. In early 2008, it began touring the U.S. under the management of Gary Lindsey Artist Services, San Francisco.

Over the past several years, Metales M5 Mexican Brass has developed an unconventional performance style which is musically, visually, and theatrically involving and embraces musical sophistication, education, and entertainment.

In an age where live performance often competes with the Internet, television, cinema, and digitally-distributed music, Metales M5 seeks to encourage the attention of new, young audiences by mixing the traditional concert experience with the possibilities offered by 21st century media.

The troupe wants to dispel the dichotomy between what some might term "classical" or "serious" music (as exhibited by many classical music performers today) and what others might simply consider "entertainment." Metales M5 wants its audiences to bring all the senses to its performances and outreach activities.

By employing this musical-visual-theatrical sensibility, Metales M5 tries to elicit communication and interaction with its audiences, no matter of what cultural or social backgrounds they may be a part.

New Program: MUSIC FOR CALIFORNIA

As a chamber music ensemble from Mexico playing classical as well as more contemporary and popular styles of music, **Metales M5 Mexican Brass** proposes a touring project that has as its goal the attraction of Hispanic audiences who might be newly drawn to the concert halls and campuses of presenters throughout the state.

California, with the highest number of Latinos of any state in the Union, continues to attract significant numbers of immigrants from Mexico and Central America. Demographers have speculated that California will have a Hispanic majority by the year 2020. As of 2006, 35.9% of the population was Hispanic or Latino, with 25% of Mexican ancestry.

Considering California's cultural diversity, and with a potential to attract new audiences, Metales M5 proposes touring a program that would focus on links between California and Latin America, especially Mexico, and offers a program titled: **"MUSIC FOR CALIFORNIA - From Spanish Baroque to Mariachi to Hollywood."** This program contains music that was played in Alta California/Mexico, before and after it became part of the United States in 1848; music that was composed for the soundtracks of many of Hollywood's foremost films; and traditional, Mexican music, such as Mariachi, that is so much a part of daily life for many Hispanics currently living in California today.

Outreach activities, such as programs for young people narrated in English and/or Spanish, could also include master classes (group or private) for students of brass instruments. M5 would especially like to participate in the many Mariachi education programs in California schools that "help keep the nation's largest and fastest-growing ethnic group academically engaged." (Associated Press, 1/5/09)

Musical/historical research for much of this project was undertaken by professors and staff of the "Conservatorio de las Rosas" in Morelia, Michoacán. It is America's oldest conservatory, founded in 1743.

METALES M5 MEXICAN BRASS

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Having investigated the classical and Mexican repertoire of Alta California, **Metales M5 Mexican Brass** identified several works from that period for our program. Since the quintet is in residence and on the faculty of “Conservatorio de las Rosas,” Metales M5 sees itself as ambassadors of one of Mexico’s most important institutions for music education. With this touring project, we would like to enable an unprecedented, educational exchange between Mexico and the USA.

THE PROGRAM

“MUSIC FOR CALIFORNIA”

From Spanish Baroque to Mariachi to Hollywood

All pieces have been written for, or transcribed and arranged for brass quintet by Alexander Freund, founding director/trumpeter of Metales M5; or as otherwise noted.

1. Arcangelo Corelli: “La Folia de España”
2. Franz von Suppé: Overture from “Poet and Peasant”
3. Jerónimo Giménez: Overture from the Zarzuela, “Boda de Luis Alonso”
4. Elmer Bernstein: theme from “The Magnificent Seven” (soundtrack)
5. Ennio Morricone: theme from “Once Upon a Time in the West” (soundtrack)
6. Traditional / arranged by Rafael Méndez: “La Virgen de la Macarena”
7. Michael Kamen: “Quintet”
8. Astor Piazzolla: “Libertango”
9. Augustin Lara / arranged by Rafael Méndez: “Granada”
10. Macedonio Alcalá: Potpourri of Valzes and Marches from Oaxaca (“Dios nunca muere”)
11. Mexican traditional / arranged by Rafael Méndez: “Las Chiapanecas”
12. Traditional Mariachi: “La Negra”
13. Traditional Mariachi: “Guadalajara”
14. Traditional: “Jarabe Tapatío” (Mexican Hat Dance)

PROGRAM NOTES

1. Spanish Baroque music

Arcangelo Corelli: “*La Folia de España*”

La Folia is one of the most popular Spanish musical forms of the 18th century. It was one of the first artistic “imports in the New World.”

2. Classical Music from the mid to late 19th Century

Franz von Suppé’s *Poet and Peasant* (1865) was introduced in Mexico through the influence of Emperor Maximilian I.

Jerónimo Giménez’s “*Boda de Luis Alonso*” (1897) is one of the most famous and beloved of Zarzuelas.

Both overtures soon became so popular that they are now performed as part of the standard repertoire of all Mariachi groups.

3. Mexican music from the 19th century

Macedonio Alcalá (1831-1869) is Oaxaca’s most popular composer of Walzes and Pasodobles. His “Dios nunca muere” became immortal in Mexico.

4. Compositions from Hollywood and film

Elmer Bernstein (1922-2004), legendary Hollywood composer and Academy Award winner. “The Magnificent Seven” is one of the classics, telling the story of a threatened Mexican village saved by seven heroes.

Michael Kamen (1948-2003) wrote his “*Quintet*” for the Canadian Brass in 2000. He is one of Hollywood’s most acknowledged composers (more than 70 movies, including “Die Hard,” “Lethal Weapon,” “X-Men,” etc.)

Ennio Morricone (1928-) wrote the soundscore for “Once Upon a Time in the West” in 1968, and was the composer for most of Clint Eastwood’s “Spaghetti Westerns.” Presented an Honorary Academy Award in 2007.

5. Latin American classics

Astor Piazzolla (1921-1992). The Argentinean composed the well-known *Libertango* in 1974.

Augustin Lara (1897-1970). One of the Mexican composer’s most famous songs is *Granada*.

6. Virtuoso showpieces as performed by Rafael Méndez (1906-1981).

Born in Michoacán and one of the world’s foremost trumpeters, Méndez was a full-time soloist, band leader, Hollywood performer (MGM Orchestra), composer and arranger. His recordings are legendary even today because of his impeccable technique and virtuosity. *La Virgen de la Macarena* and *Las Chiapanecas* are two of his most beloved showpieces.

7. Traditional Mexican Folk Music

Guadalajara’s Mariachi bands made *La Negra*, *Guadalajara* and *Jarabe Tapatío* world-famous.

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