

Program Name: The Musics of Mexico

Artist: Marimba Sol de Chiapas

Special Requirements:

Stage or similar space, minimum 16' x 8'; electrical power supply; wide access for musical instruments; stage and floor surface clean 30 minutes before performance; prefer space with lighting control for slide presentation



Performance Description

In 1988, Marimba Sol de Chiapas was formed to authentically replicate the performance practice and spirit of the marimba heard throughout Mesoamerica. This unique ensemble has won praise for their numerous tours of Latin America.

A professional resident ensemble at the UMKC Conservatory of Music, Marimba Sol de Chiapas is now pleased to bring your students this performance.

During this performance, students will be taken on a musical tour of four of Mexico's best-known regional musical styles: Norteno, Mariachi, Jarocho, and Marimba.

Through a multi-media presentation, the program

incorporates prerecorded music, a dazzling slide show, and audience interaction with live musical performances.

Students will learn about the authentic instrumentation associated with the various regional styles. Maps are used throughout the performance to highlight geographic relationships between the regions and the neighboring countries.

This performance will help correct stereotypical misconceptions about the culture and music of a very warm and friendly people.

Educational Objectives & Standards

Students will:

- Listen to live music representing four of Mexico's best-known regional musical styles: Norteño, Mariachi, Jarocho, and Marimba.
- Compare the marimba to the piano.

Behavioral:

- Knows how a culture's art works and artifacts reflect its values and beliefs

Music:

- Identifies (by genre or style) music from various historical periods and cultures

Artist Bio: Marimba Sol de Chiapas



List of Resources:

Books:

Musical Instrument Design:
Practical Information for
Instrument Making

by Bart Hopkin

See Sharp Press; (August 1,
1996)

ISBN: 1884365086

Music:

Best of the Baja Marimba
Band,

Baja Marimba Band,

Collector's Choice ASIN:

B00005MHV8

Chiapas, Marimba Yajalon,
Heart of Wood Project

Echoes of Chiapas, Marimba
Yajalon, Heart of Wood
Project

Huapango, Marimba
Yajalon,

Heart of Wood Project

Contact KCYA for more
information about this and
other programs

816.531.4022
KCYA.org

Committed to the authentic performance practice and spirit of the marimba heard throughout Mesoamerica, Marimba Sol de Chiapas celebrates 20 years as Kansas City's own Mexican Marimba Ensemble, maintaining an active schedule of performances, recordings, multicultural workshops, and well over 40 years combined in-school presentation experience.

John Currey, Director and an arranger for Marimba Sol de Chiapas, is a freelance percussionist with more than 20 years experience as an in-school presenter and clinician. A member of Tri-Percussion percussion group, John specializes in Modern dance accompaniment, and has toured extensively throughout the US, Mexico, and Western Europe. Teaching credits include at the UMKC Conservatory of Music and Dance, Graceland College, and Pittsburg State University.

James Schank is an active teacher/performer in the Kansas City area with numerous performance credits including with the Kansas City Symphony, the KC Lyric Opera,

the Chico Symphony, and the Czech National Orchestra. Holding masters degrees in percussion and in conducting, Jim has taught at Simpson College, Kansas City Kansas Community College, and Drake University.

Sam Wisman is a versatile drummer/percussionist in Kansas City's thriving creative music scene. In addition to founding his own Lennie Tristano tribute band 'Crosscurrent', Sam performs in an eclectic variety of ensembles and settings including jazz, dance, and musical theater. He teaches at the UMKC Community Music & Dance Academy, and at Missouri Southern State University.

Laura Lee Crandall is a freelance percussionist performing in a wide variety of styles in the Kansas City area, including orchestral percussion, hand drums, jazz and rock drum set, and solo vibraphone. Laura Lee holds a bachelor in percussion from the Conservatory at UMKC, with dance accompaniment credits for the KC Friends of Alvin Ailey, Johnson County Community College, and the UMKC Conservatory.

Vocabulary

Adiós: (Spanish) Good bye.

¿Cómo estás?: (Spanish) How are you?

Estados Unidos Mexicanos: The United States of Mexico

Hola: (Spanish) Hello, Hi.

Las maderas que cantan: (Spanish) *the wood that sings*. A poetic phrase that is often

heard in Chiapas, Mexico's southernmost state and home to the marimba tradition.

Mariachi: A street band in Mexico.

marimba: A large wooden percussion instrument with resonators, resembling a xylophone.

Mucho gusto: (Spanish) It's a pleasure to meet you.

Post-Performance Activities

1. Visit the library or use the Internet to explore the world of Marimba music. How does Latin-Marimba music compare to African-Marimba music? Can you hear the influences one style has had on the other?
2. Take a map and locate the regions visited in this performance. Compare the art and music to that region to that of the surrounding areas. Can you trace the influences the native cultures have had on the contemporary?
3. Listen to music played on a Mexican marimba and then to music played on a North American marimba. Can you hear a difference? Mexican marimbas use *telas* (vibrating membranes) at the bottom of the resonators. These *telas* create a buzzing sound not heard in North American marimbas which use steel resonators.