

Sunday, November 3, 2013, 7pm
Zellerbach Hall

Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán



Steve Jennings

Alberto Alfaro	<i>violin</i>
Gustavo Alvarado	<i>trumpet</i>
Miguel Barron	<i>violin</i>
Raul Cuellar	<i>violin</i>
Enrique De Santiago	<i>guitarrón</i>
Andres Gonzalez	<i>violin</i>
Gilberto Aquirre Macias	<i>vihuela</i>
Daniel Martinez	<i>violin</i>
Jose Martinez Sr.	<i>violin</i>
Jose Martinez Jr.	<i>violin</i>
Julio Martinez	<i>harp</i>
Federico Torres	<i>trumpet</i>
Juan Pedro Vargas	<i>guitar</i>
Luis Fernando Velasquez	<i>trumpet</i>

Tonight's program will be announced from the stage.

Cal Performances' 2013–2014 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

THE FIRST INCARNATION of the group Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán began in 1898 as a quartet, and over the decades (and into the 21st century) the ensemble would become one of the most important in Mexican music history. For five generations, Mariachi Vargas has endured as the quintessential *mariachi*, appearing in more than 200 recordings and making numerous films.

The origins of the *mariachi* orchestra date back to the Spanish-derived string groups of the early 19th century in the Mexican state of Jalisco, and now the *mariachi* orchestra serves as the basis of the regional Mexican *son jalisciense* form. By the early 20th century, *mariachi* groups had established their ensemble collection of violins, guitars (and guitar relatives), along with trumpets and harp, were regarded as semiprofessional groups in and around Jalisco.

Over the years, Mariachi Vargas has emerged as one of the most celebrated *mariachi* groups, and acquired national success upon its presentation at the inaugural celebration of President Lázaro Cárdenas in 1934. Musical director Rubén Fuentes (who joined the group in 1944) would go on to arrange music for many of Mexico's celebrated singers and composers, including Lola Beltrán, Pedro Infante, and José Alfredo Jiménez. The band's seminal work throughout the coming decades set the tone for many *mariachi* ensembles by insisting that all of the group's musicians know how to read music, resulting in a more refined and trained ensemble. Credited with modernizing the genre, Mariachi Vargas's meticulously crafted arrangements helped to propel the national pride for what would become Mexico's classical sound.

Mariachi Vargas became renowned as the definitive *mariachi* ensemble, and its classic sound has won the group numerous awards and accolades, including the title of "World's Best Mariachi" since the 1950s.