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# MARIACHI REYNA DE LOS ANGELES®

Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts  
Virginia G. Piper Theater

Virginia G. Piper Concert Series  
Presents

**MARIACHI REYNA DE LOS ANGELES®**

Friday, April 16, 2021  
8:00 p.m.

Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts  
Virginia G. Piper Theater

**PROGRAM**

Program to be announced from the stage.

## ABOUT

Perhaps the greatest tribute to Mariachi Reyna de Los Angeles®—the first all-female mariachi in the United States—is that now there actually are other all-female mariachi groups. It is the growing proof that when mariachi Maestro José Hernández created Mariachi Reyna de Los Angeles®, it wasn't a novelty; it was a genre.

Reyna, which was formed in 1994, has taken the history of women in mariachi music from being solely singers to being the full complement of musical performers. The compliments have not stopped. In a musical landscape where songs are often written by men, about male perspectives, Reyna has created its own history.

That history had the best of beginnings with the mentorship of Lola Beltran, “la Reina de la Musica Ranchera,” who created confidence among the group's members in the early years.

While Hernández often credits the tremendous contributions of Beltran and other early musical partners, Reyna could not have been created if not for his vision. Always ahead of the curve, Hernández saw the potential to include more people in the rich heritage of mariachi music and the opportunity to include more families in learning and performing.

“I knew there were enough excellent female musicians to do it, and I didn't want guys to say, ‘They play like girls,’” said Hernández. “Now guys from other groups come up to me and tell me that they can't get over how these women sound so amazing. It's because they sound like angels, and that's why they're named after the City of Angels.”

Reyna has gained fame for the stars they have shared the stage with, such as Vicki Carr, Guadalupe Pineda, Miguel Aceves Mejia, and Lucha Villa, but they have gained even greater acclaim for the stars they have performed in front of: Tom Petty, the Dodgers' Nomar Garciaparra and his soccer-star wife Mia Hamm, John Travolta, Oprah Winfrey, Tom Cruise, Robin Williams, Sean Penn, and George Harrison of The Beatles.

The success has propelled Reyna to record two successful albums produced by Hernández: *Solo Tuya (Yours Only)* and *El Mejor Mariachi Femenino del Mundo (The Best Female Mariachi in the World)*.

It is not just the title of the record; it's a proud legacy for a new world of mariachi music.

¡Que Vivan Las Mujeres!

## BIOGRAPHIES

### Laura Peña, Violin

Laura Peña learned to play the violin at the age of 7 and has performed with Mariachi Reyna de Los Angeles® since she was 14 years old, after substituting for an older sister during a performance.

### Julissa Murrillo, Violin

When Julissa Murrillo was 7 years old, she was given the opportunity to learn how to play the violin as an elective course at elementary school. She continued learning classical music, often auditioning for scholarships to pay for music lessons. Her parents were supportive and recommended she learn something traditional to their culture, leading Murrillo to mariachi music.

The first group she participated in was Mariachi Olimpico in junior high school. She traveled throughout the country, participating in conferences and learning from musicians she admired. Later, she found herself playing in concerts where she was looked up to as a female musician. This gave her the passion to continue, and with the support of her mentors and instructors, she helped other music teachers implement mariachi programs in local schools as a part of the curriculum.

### Romina Huerta, Violin

Romina Huerta is a violinist and singer for Mariachi Reyna de Los Angeles® and has been playing and performing since she was 8 years old. Her parents are from Jalisco, Mexico, and mariachi music has allowed her to connect with her family roots. Huerta has a bachelor of arts in music performance and communication studies from Loyola Marymount University, and a master of science in communication disorders and sciences from California State University, Northridge. She works as a speech pathologist at a rehabilitation hospital when not performing with Reyna. Huerta has a passion for working and connecting with people, whether it be through her work as a therapist or as a musician.

### Brisa Bergeron, Violin

Born in Tucson, Arizona, Brisa Bergeron's love for mariachi music started in kindergarten while attending Davis Bilingual Elementary School. In 2017 she decided to make the move to Los Angeles, where she joined Mariachi Reyna de Los Angeles®. Bergeron feels honored to be in a group with these amazingly talented women! She loves to be on stage and is the happiest when she is performing.

### Monica Salinas, Violin

Monica Salinas was born and raised on a ranch in Las Vegas, Nevada, and has studied mariachi music for the past nine years. Now as a 20-year-old, she has been a member of Mariachi Reyna de Los Angeles® for the past seven months as a vocalist and violinist.

## Monica Hernández Leyva, Vihuela

Monica Hernández Leyva started playing vihuela at the age of 4, when her father surprised her with her first instrument, and has loved it ever since. Hernández Leyva's mother is a former member of Mariachi Reyna de los Angeles®, and her father is also a musician. Because of them, Hernández Leyva was fortunate to have grown up listening to mariachi music.

## Elizabeth Garcia, Guitarron

Born and raised in Ventura County, California, Elizabeth Garcia has pursued her musical career for most of her life. She starred in the musical *Inlakech* the age of 9, where she was surrounded by all the traditional aspects of Mexican culture. Here, she learned the history of both mariachi music and folklorico dancing. Later in her life, she started working as a mariachi musician, performing at private and public events. Since then, it was her dream to be part of Mariachi Reyna de Los Angeles® and now in her adulthood, she is living it.

While pursuing her musical dreams, Garcia was also working toward her educational and professional goals outside of the music world. She obtained a bachelor of science from California State University, Northridge and continues to pursue her professional career in healthcare. Forming part of Mariachi Reyna de Los Angeles® gives her the platform to inspire and serve as a role model to the little girls who also share a passion for mariachi music. Garcia feels humbled and proud to be part of a group of such talented, intelligent, and strong women that represent this traditional music and culture of Mexico.

## Angelica Hernandez, Guitar

Angelica Hernandez born and raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and is a third-generation Mexican American. Hernandez was exposed to mariachi music throughout much of her childhood, and later attended the Mariachi Spectacular conference hosted by Mariachi Sol de Mexico. It was there that Maestros Jose Hernandez and Jesus "Chuy" Hernandez became her mentors and dear friends. It was also where Hernandez saw Mariachi Reyna de Los Angeles® perform for the first time. Hernandez was invited to join Reyna in early 2003 and feels honored playing and learning alongside such talented women.

## Linda Uhila, Trumpet

Linda Uhila was born and raised in Chula Vista, California. She was the first in her family to begin playing a musical instrument, beginning with the violin before switching to the trumpet. At Chula Vista High School, Uhila became an essential member of Mariachi Chula Vista, directed by Mark Fogelquist. Uhila played with other mariachi groups before joining Mariachi Reyna de Los Angeles® when she was 19. A full-time student, worker, and musician, Uhila is thrilled about the opportunity to work with Jose Hernandez and all the beautiful, talented woman of Reyna.

## Samantha Cabral, Trumpet

Samantha Cabral is an undergraduate ethnomusicology major at the University of California, Los Angeles. Growing up in the Mexican community, she fell in love with her culture and particularly its music. Although she has been playing music since grade school, she started playing the trumpet and mariachi music at a youth mariachi academy in Anaheim. Throughout high school, she was the lead trumpet for her school's Mariachi Apprentice Program. Today she plays professionally in the all-female and Grammy®-nominated mariachi group Mariachi Reyna de Los Angeles®. Apart from music, Cabral enjoys research, studying, ice skating, hiking, adventuring, and spending time with family and friends.

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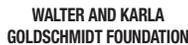


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