

A DEMONSTRATION CONCERT
(Approximately 30 Minutes in Length)
BEGINNING MARIACHI

OPTIONAL INTRODUCTION:

Hi, I'm _____ from _____. I want to thank _____ (Teacher/s) and _____ (School Principal/s) for allowing me to make a few comments about this excited First Performance Concert. The idea that young people choose to play a musical instrument is often motivated by their desire to perform in public. Recognizing this, we have created the concept, the script, the music and the other materials that are part of this (evening's/afternoon's) presentation.

I am personally proud to support the work of these young people which helps better serve our community. As a prelude to this (evening's/afternoon's) performance, the _____ (Beginning Mariachi Ensemble) under the direction of _____ (Teacher/s) will play a composition they like to use as a warm-up, _____. (Title of Piece)

ANNOUNCER'S SCRIPT:

Good evening/afternoon, Mom's and Dads, brothers and sisters, grandparents, aunts and uncles, friends and neighbors. It is always a thrill for us to present these young musicians in the First Performance. We know that you will be pleasantly surprised at what they have accomplished in just a few short weeks!

Not everyone learns to play an instrument. It takes physical and mental work. It also takes time to practice while learning an instrument. Each of the musicians here tonight/this afternoon have demonstrated their ability and desire and have earned membership in the _____ Mariachi Program (or name of ensemble).

They are going to demonstrate what has been learned up to this point in their brief, but successful, musical careers.

After learning how to take the instruments out of the cases, they finally got to do what they had been wanting to do for a long time – produce the first sound on their instruments. It sounded something like this. (Play the most awful sound possible, with great enthusiasm!) It was obvious they had some challenges facing them for the next few days.

The second week proved to be quite eventful _____ (music teacher's name/s) patiently worked with the mariachi violin students until they could all bow their first note. Now they sounded like this. (Play) **QUITE AN IMPROVEMENT**, but they needed a little more work before they were ready for this performance. *Proceed through the other instruments of the ensemble in a similar fashion. Even if they only play part of a scale, that will be sufficient enough to demonstrate their musical growth a little further on in this first performance.*

They added a different rhythm or beat to those first notes and it began to take on a new sound. (play) This may be more interesting than the first note, but it is still not a complete tune that you would go around whistling all day!

They added a couple of new notes and discovered they could start playing some recognizable tunes. This might have been the moment at home when you felt, for the first time, that music lessons were starting to take hold. This is what they sounded like at school that day. (Play)

We don't want to bore you with all the mechanics of the next several lessons, but as the mariachi students began to complete these, everyone was convinced that this was going to be one of our finest beginning mariachi ensembles ever. Here is one of their favorite pieces. (Play)

Although time doesn't permit us to have each student perform individually, we have asked a few volunteers to play solos or duets as we go along. So let's hear from:

_____ (student/s name/s) who will perform
 _____ (title), on the _____ instrument

_____ (student/s name/s) who will perform
 _____ (title), on the _____ instrument

_____ (student/s name/s) who will perform
 _____ (title), on the _____ instrument

(Note to teacher: This could be an individual, a group, or a complete section. Have as many performances as you wish. Be sure to have extra stands and music ready in front of the ensemble.)

These mariachi students have come a long way since they produced that first sound and have worked very hard to be able to prepare this first performance in such a short time. This has certainly been an exciting afternoon/evening for all of us and we're glad that you were here. Support at home is vital if your son or daughter is to continue to grow at this fast pace. Your interest can make all the difference in the world.

We will have our next performance on _____ (date) at _____ (time). Please plan to join us so that you can enjoy the mariachi ensemble performing together to follow their progress and musical growth. We will now present our final selection, _____ . (Play)

You have just witnessed the First Performance of the _____ (name of school) Mariachi Ensemble. HOW DID THEY DO? (Encourage applause and have students stand/bow/smile.)

We are pleased and gratified with the accomplishments of these young people and look forward to their continued membership in the _____ (name of school) Mariachi Program!

It will take the musicians a few minutes to put away their instruments properly so feel free to go to the refreshment area _____ (give directions if providing refreshments) and we will meet you there in ten to fifteen minutes. Thanks so much again for attending and supporting music education in our school!

To commemorate this very special First Performance, consider providing a signed certificate to each and every student. They will be thrilled to share these with their parents and family members.