

MARIACHI: ARMONIA

Course Scope:

This one-year course is designed for students with no previous guitar, vihuela or guitarron experience. Students will receive guidance and direction in solving problems related to playing these instruments on a beginning level. Students will be able to demonstrate a variety of the basic Mariachi styles, vocal and instrumental techniques and basic note-reading skills required to become a successful musician. Areas of concentration include correct posture, aural skills, intonation, rhythmic patterns, chord study, melody construction, tonality inherent to Mariachi music, musical forms, tablature notation, improvisation and limited performing experience. The importance of sustained group and individual effort is stressed. A progression of fundamental and technical proficiency is expected. When taken at the high school level, this course fulfills the one year of Performing Arts required for graduation under the California Education Code (EC).

Instructional Goals:

1. To develop correct vocal production technique.
2. To develop basic listening skills
3. To develop correct posture, hand and instrument position.
4. To identify the parts of the guitar, vihuela and guitarron and appropriate string designations.
5. To demonstrate proper care and maintenance of the guitar, vihuela and guitarron.
6. To develop an awareness of correct tuning of the open strings.
7. To develop the ability to play with accurate intonation.
8. To understand the history and origin of the guitar, vihuela and guitarron and the role each plays within the Mariachi ensemble.
9. To demonstrate a knowledge of music fundamentals.
10. To recognize form in simple Mariachi styles through listening to recordings and live performances.
11. To demonstrate basic chords, simple chord progressions, scales and bass lines in first position.
12. To demonstrate proper strumming, finger style flat-picking techniques used in simple Mariachi styles.
13. To incorporate the traditional mánicos used in simple Mariachi styles into musical performances.
14. To demonstrate the ability to play basic scales and perform simple transpositions.
15. To demonstrate an awareness of the function of tablature as it relates to the guitar.
16. To improvise using short melodic phrases, variations, and basic chord progressions.
17. To demonstrate an awareness of the relationship between music and other arts disciplines.
18. To demonstrate an awareness of the role music plays in society and culture.
19. To demonstrate an awareness of the regional and historical significance and variations of Mariachi music.