



Marcia M. Neel
President
2564 Farmington Avenue
Las Vegas, NV 89120
v. (702) 361-3553
f. (702) 492-0318

June 15, 2017

WELCOME!

In a very short time, we will all be gathering in Las Vegas for the National Mariachi Workshops for Educators® so thought that it might be helpful to send along a number of items to keep in mind as you plan for your trip.

- If you are a returnee or already have a copy, bring your *Simplemente Mariachi Teachers Edition* Book with you and you'll receive a gift certificate in the same amount (\$29.95) from West Music to put toward any purchases made at their on-site satellite store.
- We have violins, trumpets, guitars, vihuelas and guitarrones available on site however if there is a specific secondary or tertiary instrument that you want to play the entire week, you should consider bringing your own so that you will have access to it "on demand." Personal instruments are never shared. Many participants choose to bring a primary instrument so that when rehearsing with Maestro Hernandez, they will have the opportunity to focus more on authentic performance style rather than pedagogy.
- Please remember that Las Vegas is located in the desert. It is EXTREMELY dry here so consider bringing along a water bottle or pick one up when you get here. Water stations will be available in all conference rooms and it is VITAL that you keep hydrated. Temperatures are expected to exceed 110 degrees. Having said that, be sure to bring your swim suit! The expansive pool area at the Golden Nugget even features a Shark Tank! Don't forget the sun screen.
- Dress comfortably for class but we recommend a light jacket or sweater as the hotel keeps the rooms cool. Cotton is best. Please bring a white collared shirt and black pants to wear in our concert on Friday afternoon. Everyone will get a color-coordinated moño to wear for the performance.
- At the end of the course, you will receive a flash drive with all of the materials from all three courses loaded onto it. We also provide shipping boxes from the post office and are happy to ship your print materials (which are considerable) to you after the workshop. The cost of each box (which includes shipping) is \$15.00.

Each specific course level has their own special website. The **Beginning Level Mariachi Pedagogy Course** website is:

<http://www.musicedconsultants.net/2017-beg-mariachi-pedagogy>

The items just below are detailed on the above website.

1. You schedule for the week is now posted on the website just above so please feel free to download a copy to bring with you. One will also be provided with your materials upon your arrival. Doors open Monday morning at 7:00 AM in the Bel-Air Room located in the convention area at the Golden Nugget Hotel so that you may pick up all of your materials PRIOR to our start time which is promptly at 8:00 AM daily. We have a very special surprise for you on Opening Day so please do plan to arrive no later than 7:30 AM so that you can pick up your materials at the West Music Satellite Store and be seated and ready to go right at 8:00 AM. In addition, you will need to sign up for your first day's round-robin methods classes which this year will include violin, trumpet, guitar, vihuela, guitarron and voice. Please remain flexible as the schedule may fluctuate slightly as a result of the normal course of the week's activities.
2. Information and Registration for Master Classes is available on your site. These take place at the end of the instructional day on Wednesday and Thursday from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM and are taught by Erick Hernandez and Maestro Jose Hernandez. The cost of each master class is \$50 payable on site. Erick will cover how to work with your violins to turn them into a unified section and Jose will do the same with trumpets. Students from Rancho High School's Mariachi Program will serve as our student participants for both sessions.
3. Each year on Tuesday evening, we have an informal BYOB Mariachi Jam Session in the Bel-Air Room. The music for the Jam Session comes from the musical material from all three levels. The Intermediate and Advanced Level parts have been posted for you to print out (or have available on your tablet) from your site. Simply **PRINT OUT THE PARTS YOU'LL WANT TO PLAY (OR SING) BEFORE COMING TO LAS VEGAS.**
4. A copy of our informational letter is also posted on your site so that you can download it to review. Many other informational items are included in that letter so please be sure to read through it carefully before coming to Las Vegas.
5. Come prepared to snag some **AMAZING DEALS ON INSTRUMENTS!** Prices for instruments and accessories have been posted. West Music's Satellite Store will accept school district purchase orders on site so bring them along to take advantage of this super pricing! Take a mariachi instrument with you and save **HUNDREDS MORE!** (Guitarrones, for example, will be marked down by \$200 EACH and vihuelas by \$100 EACH if you can take them with you!)
6. Your registration includes a plated lunch daily. A link to the menu is posted on your site if you would like to see the diverse offerings that have been planned for us by the chefs at the Golden Nugget. The hotel also offers **Vegetarian, Gluten-free and Dairy-free** meals if you require them but **YOU MUST LET US KNOW NO LATER THAN MONDAY, JUNE 19TH, AT MIDNIGHT IF YOU PREFER ONE OF THESE SPECIAL MENUS.** If you

choose one of these *special* menus, this will be your selection for ALL lunches the entire week. Email marcia@musiceducationconsultants.net to let us know. As soon as we receive your email, we will send a confirmation of receipt so look for the confirmation to ensure that we received your request.

7. Although shuttle service from the airport to the Golden Nugget is available for a reasonable fee, many participants have told us that it takes a great deal longer to reach the hotel because of the number of stops having to be made. You might want to use Uber or take a taxi for expediency.

Finally, if you can join us, there will be a no-host “Meet and Greet” at the Cadillac Cantina on Sunday evening. They have great food and you’ll enjoy meeting some of your new colleagues in a friendly, casual setting.

If you have ANY questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me via email at marcia@musiceducationconsultants.net or call me on my cell at 702.630.0518. We are ALL looking forward to seeing you!

Best,



Marcia Neel
Workshop Director
marcia@musiceducationconsultants.net
702.630.0518

Keith Neel
Workshop Facilitator
kneel@musiceducationconsultants.net
702.592.7286

Ramiro Benavides
Beginning Pedagogy Course Instructor
rbenavides@interact.ccsd.net
361.548.3070

Yvette Sital
Beginning Pedagogy Course Instructor
ysital@interact.ccsd.net
702.513.4430