

# SONES DE MÉXICO

E N S E M B L E



Photo by Todd Winters

## ABOUT THE GROUP

### What is “son”?

In Mexico, *son* is a term used to define a large family of regional music and dance styles. Each region has its own brand of *son*—*gusto*, *son jarocho*, *son huasteco*, etc.—each with its own repertoire, instruments, and dancing and singing style.

A *fandango* is a dance fiesta where *son* is played and danced, often from sundown until sunrise or longer. It is also a playful time where tradition becomes fluid: rules are made and broken as old forms are applied to new experience. After the fiesta, tradition is passed on quietly, as the events of the fandango

crystallize in the memories of the participants, becoming new lore for future resurgence. We call this a “living tradition.”

### About Sones de México Ensemble

Sones de México is a unique ensemble of seasoned Mexican folk musicians and educators that hails from Chicago, a city that boasts a Mexican community that is quickly nearing one million people. The group formed in 1994 to keep the tradition of Mexican *son* alive in its many regional forms, true to its roots and old masters, and current and fresh at the same time.

## MEET THE BAND



From left to right—Juan Rivera, Juan Díes, Lorena Iñiguez, Zaché Pichardo, Víctor Pichardo (music director), and Javier Saume.

## THE LIVE EXPERIENCE

Jordan Levin of the *Miami Herald* (Miami, FL) says “Their musicianship is impeccable, with a delicious attention to detail and arrangements that bring out an astonishing range of rhythmic and sonic textures. But it’s never precious or dry.”

Expect a dynamic show with tasty arrangements of traditional Mexican folk tunes and clever experiments with Bach, Led Zeppelin, Woody Guthrie and Buck Owens, lush three-part harmonies, and many instrumental colors as the multi-instrumentalist group works its way through a collection of over 30 string, wind and percussion instruments: harps, fiddles, marimba, guitars of all sizes and shapes, and even a donkey-jaw! There is colorful dancing with beautiful costume changes, and continuous leaps to different Mexican music styles: from an Aztec dance to a toe-tapping polka to a melodic *huapango*. Festival settings

 See live concert footage here  
[www.youtube.com/sonesdemexico](http://www.youtube.com/sonesdemexico)

## EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Sones de México Ensemble is incorporated as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization with an mission to preserve, perform, teach and record Mexican folk music. With funding from generous donors the ensemble has developed award-winning education programs for all ages that are a perfect outreach complement to their performances.

- Fiesta Mexicana—40 min family concert/assembly performance
- Beyond the Music—30 min pre-concert lecture/demo (sponsored by NEA)
- La Danza del Sol (The Dance of the Sun)—Aztec dance workshop
- Master Class in Music for School Bands—for strings, winds and percussion
- Master Class in Dance—on *folklórico* and/or *fandango* styles
- Mexican Rhythm Workshop—Drums & percussion circle
- Corridos—Mexican tragic ballad songwriting class in Spanish or English
- Mexican Songs and Algebra—music composition through algebra
- “Los Enanos” (The Little Ones)—dancing for pre-K and kinder ages
- “La Danza de los Viejitos” (The Old People’s Dance)—mask making & dance
- Cultural Ambassador Program—technical assistance for presenters on Latino audience development.

## THE RECORDINGS

Peter Margasak of the *The Chicago Reader* says “...a dazzling array of Mexican folk-music forms with a preservationist’s care... burst[ing] with energy, and novel arrangements and ideas are everywhere.”

Recordings by Sones de México Ensemble are distributed by ADA and available in the U.S. at Best Buy, Borders, Barnes & Noble and other retail outlets; Amazon, CDBaby and iTunes online



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Fandango on 18th Street ©2002



Esta Tierra Es Tuya  
(This Land Is Your Land)  
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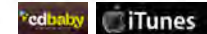
Fiesta Mexicana: Mexican songs  
& stories for niños & niñas and  
their papás & mamás ©2010



Nominated for GRAMMY™ for “Best Folk Album” and a Latin GRAMMY™ for “Best Mexican Album”



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WWW.SONESDEMEXICO.COM