MARIACHI VARGAS DE TECALITLÁN RETURNS WITH TRADITIONAL MEXICAN SONGS AND CLASSICAL WORKS FOR 11TH ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AT SYMPHONY CENTER

Preconcert Performance Features Students from the Chicago Mariachi Project’s Mariachi Academy

Sunday, October 15, 3 p.m.

CHICAGO—World-renowned ensemble Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán returns to Chicago Sunday, October 15, at 3 p.m., marking its 11th annual appearance at Symphony Center. Originally founded in 1898, the group has thrived for five generations and become one of the most internationally celebrated ensembles in Mexican music history, spurring national pride for what is now recognized as Mexico’s classic sound. A preconcert performance from 2:15-2:45 p.m. in Symphony Center’s first floor rotunda lobby features students from the Chicago Mariachi Project’s Mariachi Academy.

Based in Mexico City, Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán is considered the most influential ensemble in the development of mariachi music and the leading authority for the art form. The group’s irresistible energy and musical mastery are displayed in repertoire ranging from traditional Mexican songs to classical works. Performing in dazzling traditional costumes, the 13 musicians of Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán include vocalists, as well as instrumentalists who perform on violins, trumpets, harps and several types of guitars, including the guitar-like vihuela and guitarrón. Carlos Martínez has served as music director of Mariachi Vargas since 2014, following a nearly 40-year tenure by his uncle and distinguished ensemble member José “Pepe” Martínez Sr.
Since their founding, Mariachi Vargas has produced more than 50 recordings, and their music has been featured in more than 200 films. Widely recognized for their interpretations of classic songs such as “Amor Se Dice Cantando” and “El Cascabel,” Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán continues to record and tour internationally. The group’s music also can be heard in a number of films including Transformers (2007), Man on Fire (2004) and the animated family feature Turbo (2013).

Members of the group regularly participate in workshops for young musicians, passing down the tradition of mariachi to new generations. Mariachi Vargas frequently collaborates with local students from the Chicago Mariachi Project’s Mariachi Academy, which was founded in 2013 to elevate the art of mariachi and promote excellence in musicianship through education, coordination and support.

Tickets for all Symphony Center Presents Special concerts can be purchased by phone at 800-223-7114 or 312-294-3000; online at cso.org, or at the Symphony Center box office: 220 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60604.

Discounted student tickets for select concerts can be purchased, subject to availability, online in advance or at the box office on the day of the concert. For group rates, please call 312-294-3040.

Artists, programs and prices are subject to change.

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Symphony Center Presents
Special Concert
Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán

Tickets: $40-$115

Featured Artist for this Performance:
Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra: www.cso.org and www.csosoundsandstories.org
Founded in 1891, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra is consistently hailed as one of the greatest orchestras in the world. Since 2010, the pre-eminent conductor Riccardo Muti has served as its 10th music director. Yo-Yo Ma is the CSO’s Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant, and Samuel Adams and Elizabeth Ogonek are its Mead Composers-in-Residence.

From baroque through contemporary music, the CSO commands a vast repertoire. Its renowned musicians annually perform more than 150 concerts, most at Symphony Center in Chicago and, each summer, at the suburban Ravinia Festival. They regularly tour nationally and internationally. Since 1892, the CSO has made 59 international tours, performing in 29 countries on five continents.

People around the globe listen to weekly radio broadcasts of CSO concerts and recordings on the WFMT radio network and online at cso.org/radio. Recordings by the CSO have earned 62 Grammy Awards, including two in 2011 for Muti’s recording with the CSO and Chorus of Verdi’s Messa da Requiem (Muti’s
first of eight releases with the CSO to date). Find details on these and many other CSO recordings at [www.cso.org/resound](http://www.cso.org/resound).

The CSO is part of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association, which also includes the Chicago Symphony Chorus (Duain Wolfe, Director and Conductor) and the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, a training ensemble for emerging professionals. Through its prestigious Symphony Center Presents series, the CSOA presents guest artists and ensembles from a variety of genres—classical, jazz, world, and contemporary.

The Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO offers community and education programs that annually engage more than 200,000 people of diverse ages and backgrounds. Through the Institute and other activities, including a free annual concert led by Muti, the CSO is committed to using the power of music to create connections and build community.

The CSO is supported by thousands of patrons, volunteers and institutional and individual donors. Bank of America is the Global Sponsor of the CSO. The CSO’s music director position is endowed in perpetuity by a generous gift from the Zell Family Foundation. The Negaunee Foundation provides generous support in perpetuity for the work of the Negaunee Music Institute.