

**Oaxacan Philharmonic Bands Audition Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> 12:00-3:00pm.**

***Press release***

Written by Sandra Martinez UCR.

**Headline:** Indigenous Philharmonic Musicians to Bring a Repertoire of Mexican Music

**Subject:** UCR will host four bands, all formed in Los Angeles by Mexican immigrants from the southern state of Oaxaca, Mexico

More than 140 multi-generational philharmonic musicians will gather for an afternoon of traditional Mexican music at the University of California, Riverside.

UCR's Department of Music has invited four Mexican indigenous philharmonic bands to convene outside of the Performing Arts Building on Saturday, Jan. 27 from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. for an inaugural gathering of Zapotec Philharmonic Bands. This is the first time these four ensembles will play together on any university campus in California. The event will be a friendly musical competition among musicians whose roots originate from the southwestern state of Oaxaca, Mexico. This musical showcase focuses on the interpretative quality of each band's respective repertoire. At the end, all the bands will unite as one monumental band playing music composed by Oaxacan composers.

The Inland Empire audience will be serenaded with a unique repertoire of songs, which will be disclosed until the day of the performance. The concert is free and open to the public. Seating will be provided, but attendees are encouraged to bring their own lawn chairs. Free parking will be available in Lot 1.

"This is about demystifying the norms and breaking stereotypes about indigenous communities. It's about taking a traditional European style of music that has become 'Mexicanized' and elevating it," said Dr. Xóchitl Chávez, assistant professor of music and lead organizer of the event. LINK FOR CHAVEZ BIO <https://music.ucr.edu/faculty/chavez/>

Chávez also intends to showcase UCR's Department of Music so that community members may learn about undergraduate, master's and doctorate degrees available at UCR.  
<https://music.ucr.edu>

Connecting the community to these grassroots ensembles also creates an opportunity for Latino youth to see successful musicians and to feel pride of the ripple effect these brass bands are having in neighborhoods where children no longer have music classes available at school.

For many youth, being identified as indigenous can be a source of embarrassment. But Chávez sees nothing but astonishing accomplishments in the Zapotec immigrants who formed the bands in the early 1980s and early 1990s. These musicians – identified as Zapotec because it's the name of their native language – form part of one of the most organized and resilient communities that have settled in the United States in recent time, said Chávez, who has devoted more than a decade researching these philharmonic bands and completed a Ph.D. in cultural anthropology at UC Santa Cruz. Chávez also produced a documentary on the Zapotec

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bands with youth and female musicians. The short is titled “Booming Bandas of Los Angeles: Oaxacan Women and Youth as New Cultural Bearers of Philharmonic Brass Bands.”

LINK TO SHORT. <https://vimeo.com/124352598/fec7581187>

Music in Oaxaca was predominantly a male’s occupation, but immigration to the United States changed the dynamics. Band leaders recruited their wives and eventually their own children joined as well; older band members who learned to play music by ear, are now playing alongside teens who are learning the craft by reading musical notes.

Among these rising stars is Director Jessica Hernández, a 2010 UCR alumna. Jessica graduated with a bachelor’s degree in music and now works side-by-side with her father, Moisés Hernández, director of Banda Nueva Dinastía de Zochila. This integration of generations has resulted in the preservation of culture, tradition and language of these Oaxacan communities in Southern California, Chávez said.

During the Jan. 27 event, audience members will see – and hear – the musical talents of these four bands:

- Banda Nueva Dinastía de Zochila, directed by Jessica Hernández and Moisés Hernández
- Banda Yatzachi el Bajo - Los Angeles, directed by Ali Guzmán
- Banda Filarmónica Maqueos Music, directed by Estanislao Maqueos
- Banda Filarmónica Santa María Xochixtepec, directed by Ernesto Cruz Vallente

The afternoon will conclude with a grand finale as the four bands play in unison “Dios Nunca Muere,” the de facto anthem of Oaxaca composed by Macedonio Alcalá in 1868.

If You Go:

Oaxacan Philharmonic Bands Audition

When: Saturday, Jan. 27

Where: UC Riverside’s Performing Arts building outdoor auditorium

Time: 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.; concert will begin at noon

Additional details: Bring your lawn chairs; free parking in lot 1

Website: [www.boomingbandas.com](http://www.boomingbandas.com)