



Somos Músicos . . . a community of musicians

MUSIC NEWS

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TX STATE WINS VARGAS COMPETITION

Texas State Mariachi students gave outstanding performances at the Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza December 2-3. Our Mariachi Nueva Generacion directed by **John Lopez** took first place in the group competition on Friday evening. This is our 5th first place in the last six years!



In Saturday morning's vocal competition we had two winners – sophomore **Karen Zavala** placed second in her second time to compete, and senior **Celeste Rios** took the first place trophy. Our very own Celeste Rios was also selected from the entire day to receive the Best Vocalist in the U.S. trophy. Congratulations also to the dedicated Latin Music faculty, John Lopez, **Bobby Lopez**, **Michelle Quintero**, and **Ludim Pedroza**.



From left:
Celeste Rios,
Karen Zavala

PUPPET LADY VISITS SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Three sections of **Mollie Tower's** "Music for the Elementary Classroom" course recently enjoyed a fun guest speaker, children's specialist librarian Ashley Schimelman from the San Marcos Public Library. A sampling of comments from the students tells what they learned from her presentations:

"I loved what she said about children suspending their disbelief in order to believe puppets are real characters!" "I thought the shadowbox puppet set-up was amazing! It allowed her to tell more complex stories with multiple characters." "The sock puppet was wonderful! I loved how she gave it a shy personality - so good for shy children." "The simple box was a super idea. It was so easy, yet allowed the element of surprise." "The puppet interacting while she read the book was a wonderful idea!" "She is SO talented - I just loved how she could use so many different voices. I'm going to start practicing!" "It was good to hear that you don't have to have a great voice to use music with children." "I was interested to hear about her child using music to learn spelling words!"

It is exciting to think about all the children in these students' future classes who will benefit from these creative ideas!

SAXES IN SAN ANTONIO

The Phoenix Saxophone Quartet, coached by **Todd Oxford**, has been invited to perform a 30- minute Music Showcase in February at the Texas Music Educators Association Convention. The group was specially selected by TMEA Deputy Director Frank Coachman. Quartet members are **Gerald Martinez**, **Gilbert Garza**, **Josue Mora**, and **Joshua Weisbrod-Torres**.



TROMBONIST IN PORTLAND (TX)

On November 3, Professor **Charles R. Hurt** presented a master class on the region and all-state tryout music at Gregory-Portland High School in Portland, Texas. The Director of Bands at Portland-Gregory is Chuck Young, Band Vice-President for the Texas Music Educators Assoc.



STRINGS AT HORIZON BAY

Students from **Paula Bird's** violin studio and chamber music class gave a recital for residents at the local nursing home, Horizon Bay. The program included solo performances, a chamber ensemble, and group violin ensemble pieces. About 30 residents attended the afternoon event on December 1.

Below from left: **Nick Worley, Michael Sheehan,** violins, **Jillian Attan,** viola, **Rachel Garner,** cello



MUSIC EDUCATOR HONORED

Lynn Brinckmeyer was recognized in 2011 by the National Association for Music Education (formerly MENC) as a Lowell Mason Fellow. Mason (1792-1872) is credited with introducing music instruction to American public schools and establishing teacher training in music education. This honor, presented in his name since 2002, recognizes outstanding music educators, advocates, business leaders, and other individuals who have made enduring contributions to the field of music education.

Also in 2011 Dr. Brinckmeyer led a delegation of 16 music educators to Brazil, sponsored by People to People Ambassadors. The delegation visited schools and community music organizations in Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. Several teachers, including Brinckmeyer, were invited to hold clinics with student musicians in several venues.

