



A Band Director's Approach to Mariachi

CLINICIAN:

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DEMONSTRATION GROUP:

Mariachi Sol Azteca

SPONSOR:

TAME

Texas Bandmasters Association 2017 Convention/Clinic

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HENRY B. GONZALEZ CONVENTION CENTER
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS**

What to do first?

1. Assess the need:
 - a. If there is no interest it won't grow.
 - b. If there is a need, just watch it blossom!
2. What do you need to start up?
 - a. What instruments do you have?
 - b. No vihuela or guitarron, no problem.
 - i. You can start and gig if no budget.
3. Minimum needs:
 - a. Vocalist that can play an instrument.
 - b. 2-3 violins
 - c. Flutes can substitute or elaborate.
 - d. 1-3 trumpets
 - e. 1-2 guitars
 - f. Guitarron or bass/cello
4. Getting started:
 - a. Have some music of all levels.
 - i. Assess your students ability
 - ii. Start slow
 - iii. Don't move on until it sounds great
 - b. Make connections with other mariachi teachers
 - i. Invaluable
5. Get educated on mariachi:
 - a. Take some teacher workshops
 - b. To learn the style (takes a while)
 - c. To work on mariachi vocals
 - d. To learn the instruments that cause you stress
 - e. To make connections with others that are in your same situation
 - f. To make connections with people who know it all! They are amazing!
6. Listen to songs your kids want to play.
 - a. This is essential
 - b. Listen to several versions of the songs
7. Remember above all to get respect from your mariachi peers and be able to compete:
 - a. Practice with great tone quality
 - b. TUNING
 - c. Musical phrasing
 - d. STYLE
8. It's not about how long you practice, but how effective your practice is.
 - a. They are musicians make sure to:
 - i. Vocalize
 - ii. Warm up and technique exercise
 - iii. Tune
9. Where do I get music?