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**4,500 PEOPLE WATCHED AS “MARIACHI CHULA VISTA” TOOK FIRST PLACE  
AT MISSION SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO**

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, CA—May 25, 2010—Mission San Juan Capistrano held its sixth annual Battle of The Mariachi Festival on Saturday, May 22. This popular event, attended by approximately 4,500 enthusiastic fans, featured talented Southern California mariachi bands, which competed for cash prizes before a panel of judges that included Director, Producer, and Cinematographer Al Gonzalez.

The group “Mariachi Chula Vista” won the first-place prize of \$2,000, a trophy, and a professional photograph of their group.

Made possible thanks to the generous support from the Thomas J. and Erma Jean Tracy Family Foundation, the festival was part of the 2010 Imagination Celebration — an annual spring Festival of the arts for children, teenagers, and families, presented by Arts Orange County and the Orange County Department of Education each year.

Battle of The Mariachi Festival Winners were:

**1st Place** (\$2,000, a trophy, and a professional photograph of the group)

Group: Mariachi Chula Vista

Director: Mark Fogelquist

City: Chula Vista

Phone: (619) 392-6618

**2nd Place** (\$1,500, a trophy, and a professional photograph of the group)

Group: Puno de Oro

Director: Gabriel Zavala

City: Anaheim

Phone: (714) 504-1762

**3rd Place** (\$1,000, a trophy, and a professional photograph of the group)

Group: Mariachi Imperial de San Diego

Director: Sergio Fernandez

City: San Diego

Phone: (619) 392-7071

**Honorable Mention** (\$750 and a framed certificate)

Group: Mariachi Aguila Real

Director: Saul Zecena

City: San Diego

Phone: (760) 265-2480

**Shining Star — The Individual Musician Award** (\$500 and a framed certificate)

Group: Mariachi Corazon de Montclair (Trumpet Player: Jesus)

Director: Douglas McKenna

City: Montclair

Phone: (626) 377-8866

Held in the Mission's Central Courtyard, festivities included a day full of live mariachi music, authentic Mexican food, a Ballet Folkloric dance workshop, a Mariachi 101 workshop, and a puppet theater with performances throughout the day.

The event was emceed by Mechelle Lawrence-Adams, Executive Director of the Mission and Laura Garciacano Sobrino, a pioneer female mariachi and a positive role model for the new generation of mariachi musicians (featured in an NBC segment) and an honoree for the Latinas: The Spirit of California exhibit, CA Museum for Women, History and Arts, 2005. Sobrino is the former director and lead violinist for the "Mariachi Reyna de Los Angeles," and was originally responsible for searching for the female talent in that mariachi. Sobrino is currently the musical director and violinist for the new all-female mariachi show group "Mariachi Mujer 2000" and lives in Whittier, CA with her husband, Dan, and two children, Nicté and Nazul.

***About Mission San Juan Capistrano:***

*Known as the “Jewel of the Missions,” Mission San Juan Capistrano is a historic landmark and museum that boasts of quality permanent exhibits featuring original artifacts as well as traveling and temporary exhibits on a wide variety of topics.*

*The site itself serves as a living outdoor museum with original buildings constructed by Native Americans in the 18<sup>th</sup> century including the Serra Chapel, Great Stone Church, and the original padres’ quarters of the South Wing.*

*The Mission was founded on November 1, 1776 by Padre Junipero Serra as the seventh in the chain of the twenty-one California missions established by Spain, and is Orange County’s only mission. Every year, over 50,000 students visit the Mission and engage in an inspirational learning experience via the Mission Matters programming, as part of their State required California history studies.*

*Mission San Juan Capistrano is owned by the Diocese of Orange and is supported by the Mission Preservation Foundation, which is comprised of business and community leaders committed to ensuring the long term preservation and viability of Orange County’s only Mission. The Mission receives no funding from either the Church or the State of California and charges admission funds as a means of providing public access.*

*Mission San Juan Capistrano is located at 26801 Ortega Highway, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675. Open Daily 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Good Friday afternoon. Admission is \$9 adults; \$8 seniors (60 years or over); \$5 children (ages 4 to 11); and children ages 3 and under are admitted free. Free audio guide with senior and adult admission. For more information, call (949) 234-1300 or visit [www.missionsjc.com](http://www.missionsjc.com).*

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