



MISSION SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO WRAPS UP “FOURTEENTH ANNUAL BATTLE OF THE MARIACHIS FESTIVAL” WITH \$5500 AWARDED TO TOP GROUPS SPANNING LAS VEGAS, ARIZONA AND CALIFORNIA

The 2018 Mariachi Festival Sold-Out to 3,000 Guests and Included Gourmet Mexican Food Vendors, Music & Performances, Marionette Show and Plenty of Inclusive Kids Activities



SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, Calif. (May 22, 2018) -- On May 12, the Mission San Juan Capistrano located in South Orange County celebrated the Fourteenth Annual Battle of the Mariachis Festival in the picturesque Mission Courtyard amid the blooming spring flowers and tranquil scenery of the historic California landmark founded in 1776.

The Mission’s annual sold-out festival held every year in May is known as one of the most highly-anticipated Mariachi events on the West Coast, showcasing and embracing the talent of young mariachi musicians during an all-inclusive day of cultural celebrations and fun for the entire family.

The event day featured live music performances by mariachi groups as they competed on stage for cash prizes before a panel of distinguished judges. The festival featured 13 mariachi groups from three states, including California, Nevada, and Arizona. A sold-out audience of more than 3,000 guests experienced exciting performances from the mariachi music groups which ranged in age from elementary school to university and professional level.

The day kicked off with an introduction by Executive Director Mechelle Lawrence Adams, followed by performances within the Youth Categories and Open Category, followed by an All

Group Finale “La Negra” & “Las Mañanitas,” directed by Guest Emcee, Melinda Salcido.

Festival highlights included: Ringing of the historic Mission bells, a special performance of the National Anthem, a marionette show by Franklin Haynes Marionettes and gourmet Mexican food vendors from local San Juan Capistrano eateries.

Kids were especially welcome to take part in many unique hands-on educational experiences, like playing in the Mission Clubhouse, commemorative penny press machine featuring four collectible designs, adobe brick making, panning for gold and arrowhead necklace. The 2018 festival also featured a special Marionette Show presented by Franklin Haynes Marionettes entitled “Las Marionetas en Desfile.”

Mission San Juan Capistrano congratulates and thanks all of the participating groups for their hard work and tremendous performances.

2018 Event Winners

First Place Youth Category (\$1,500) | Mariachi Corazón de Tucson, Tucson, AZ

First Place Open Category (\$1,500) | Mariachi de Uclatlán, University of California, Los Angeles, CA

Second Place Youth Category (\$1,000) | Mariachi Los Gavilanes de Monaco Middle School, Las Vegas, NV

Second Place Open Category (\$1,000) | Mariachi Voces de Jalisco, Fontana, CA

EJ Tracy "Shining Star" Award Youth Category (\$250) | Deborah Carrillo-Barquero from Mariachi Los Gavilanes de Monaco Middle School, Las Vegas, NV

Tom Tracy "Shining Star" Award Open Category (\$250) | Anai Morales from Mariachi Mestizo, Delano, CA

People's Choice Award - Top voted Mariachi Group on Social Media Poll | Mariachi Los Halcones de Jim Bridger Middle School, Las Vegas, NV

Spirit of San Juan Community Award Youth Category | Mariachi Los Gavilanes de Monaco Middle School, Las Vegas, NV

Spirit of San Juan Community Award Open Category | Mariachi de Uclatlán, University of California, Los Angeles, CA

The Battle of the Mariachis is made possible thanks to the generous support of the Thomas J. and Erma Jean Tracy Family Foundation.

ABOUT MISSION SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO

Located in San Juan Capistrano's Historic Downtown just four miles from the stunning coastal cliffs of Dana Point, Mission San Juan Capistrano is a remarkable historic landmark and museum that is unique both in its picturesque beauty and its role in connecting visitors with California's cultural past, present and future. The Mission's stunning grounds and impressive architecture are a compelling setting in which visitors can learn about the region's cultural roots, take inspiration from its spiritual significance, engage with local traditions, or explore both permanent and traveling exhibits of original artifacts that bring its history into the present.

Founded on November 1, 1776 by Padre Junípero Serra, who was canonized as a saint in 2015, Mission San Juan Capistrano is known as the "Jewel of the Missions" because of its Great Stone Church, which was completed in 1806 after nine years of construction and was considered an architectural gem that no other church compared with in size or beauty on the West Coast of California. The seventh of nine missions founded by Serra (of a total 21 California missions established by Spain), it is Orange County's only mission and is considered the birthplace of the region.

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