

Distinguished Judges Panel

Maricela Martinez



Born and raised in the beautiful city of Guadalajara, Jalisco, Maricela comes from a family of Mariachis. At age 12, she saw an all-female mariachi for the first time - Mariachi Las Perlitas de Jalisco. It was an eye-opening experience; she never had the vague thought girls could join a mariachi. When Maricela was 15, she joined her in studying music at a local school - Claustro de San Agustin Universidad de Guadalajara. She also began taking private classes with her father, Don Martin, and at the same time with Crecencio Hernandez and Federico Palacios Jimenez (trumpet player of Guadalajara's Orchestra). At age 17, Maricela

performed her first "gig" on Mother's Day and felt in love thanks to the very talented musicians she played with. She started by doing "Talon" (strolling Mariachi without formal pay) and from there grew exponentially in knowledge, experience and reputation to the talented performer and singer she is today.

Maricela has been part of numerous mariachi groups including Mariachi Las Perlitas Tapatias, Reyes de Mexico de Francisco Gonzalez "El Pilon" (once, Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlan star), Las Adelitas de Jose Salinas, Las Mexicanas de Checho Hernandez, Reyna de Los Angeles de Jose Hernandez and Mariachi Mujer 2000 de Marisa Orduno. She recorded on Mariachi Mujer 2000's second CD, some tracks for Mariachi Tepalcatepec de Alex Gonzales "el Mantecas", and other recordings as well. She started her own group, Mariachi Lindas Mexicanas, and continue to perform all over the Southern California region. Maricela is very proud to carry on this wonderful tradition and genre of music.

We are proud to welcome Maricela Martinez for her third year to serve on the panel of Distinguished Judges at the Thirteenth Annual Battle of the Mariachis Festival.