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SIXTH ANNUAL BATTLE OF THE MARIACHIS FESTIVAL AT MISSION SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO

San Juan Capistrano, CA—April 13, 2010—Mission San Juan Capistrano's Sixth Annual Battle of the Mariachis Festival, a celebration of the talent, interpretation and inspiration of young musicians from across Southern California, will be held on Saturday, May 22 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

This popular annual event, made possible thanks to generous support from the Thomas J. and Erma Jean Tracy Family Foundation, is 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.

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

Food vendors on site will include: El Adobe de Capistrano, Ricardo's Mexican Restaurant, and El Campeon. Please note, alcohol is prohibited.

Amateur Mariachi performers compete for cash prizes and more before an impressive panel of expert and community judges:

- Desiree Garcia, UCLA Baccalaureate Graduate in Ethnomusicology and Music Director, Vocalist, and Private Trumpet Instructor

- Lauryn Salazar, Member of Nueva Generación in Los Angeles and UCLA Ph.D. candidate in Ethnomusicology
- Alexander “Sandy” Nalle, Sales Professional for CB Richard Ellis Real Estate
- Mayor Lon Uso, City of San Juan Capistrano Mayor Pro Tem
- Javier Mier, Chairman of the Orange County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Board and CEO of The Mier Benefit Group

To purchase tickets in advance, visit www.missionsjc.com or call (949)234-1300. For a detailed listing of events call the Events Hotline at (949)234-1315.

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 18th 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.

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