



The Latino Arts Strings Program is a high quality in-school and after-school music education program for students of Bruce-Guadalupe Community School (BGCS) and its graduates. Created in 2002 by Dinorah Marquez, the program engages over 150 participants between the ages of five and seventeen in classical musical training to play violin, viola, cello, bass, and guitar.

The Latino Arts Strings Program (LASP) builds self-confidence, discipline, and focus that transcends the musical instruction and benefits the participants' academic prowess. Students' performance in the 2010-2011 Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examination showed that of all LASP students:

- 95% of 4th and 5th graders are advanced or proficient in Reading
- 100% of 3rd, 6th, 7th, and 8th graders are advanced or proficient in Math, Reading, or both—**13-26% higher in all categories than state averages**

Under the instruction of five instrumental teachers, LASP participants develop classical music skills, which they solidify through the exploration of Latin American music. Each student gives three to four solo recitals every year and plays in at least one of the following ensembles: the Latino Youth Orchestra, which plays a classical repertoire; the Mariachi Juvenil or the Mariachito, all-string orchestras that play Latin American music; and same instrument ensembles.

Under the leadership of Ms. Marquez, the Latino Arts Strings Program has accomplished a number of noteworthy achievements including:

- LASP middle school and high school students winning **over 50 Gold Medals and over a dozen Silver Medals** from Wisconsin School Music Association- Milwaukee District and State Solo and Ensemble Festivals annually for the last several years.
- **The Mariachi Juvenil** has given over 300 performances since the program's inception including Summerfest (the world's largest music festival), Fiesta Mexicana, United Way's Annual Meetings, the State of the City Address in Milwaukee, and the National Council of La Raza's Annual Conference; **an audience of 400,000 in the last year** between 31 live performances and featured spots on television specials and radio programming.
- A debut, **full-length album** featuring the Latino Arts Mariachi Juvenil and special guests called *Los Viajeros*.
- Collaboration with the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra's Latin jazz group to create a new project called **Charanga-Son**.
- **Invitations to the White House** in 2008 as recipients for the Coming Up Taller Award and as guests of the current presidential administration.
- Recognized in October 2012 as an "**Afterschool Innovator**" in arts enrichment by the Afterschool Alliance and MetLife Foundation—one of five recipients nationally.
- **Sharing the stage with internationally renowned artists** including classical guitarist Alfonso Moreno, La Catrina Quartet, the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra and traditional Mexican music legends Mariachi Vargas.

Visit the Latino Arts Strings Program online at www.latinartsinc.org/Strings.htm



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