



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Celebrate Cinco de Mayo with a fun, free family-friendly concert in Balboa Park at 6 pm featuring *Jarabe Mexicano* accompanied by SDSU School of Music and Dance Jazz Band and Wind Symphony! Sponsored by the *Kiwanis Club of San Diego*, the concert will honor the memory of long-time member and community benefactor, *Bill Gibbs*. There's also a special father-son appearance by *KUSI TV Anchor Carlos Amezcua* and his father, legendary *Mariachi Leader Don Oscar Amezcua*. Pre-concert festivities begin at 4 pm in the Plaza of Panama with *City Heights Mariachi* and a variety of cuisines from some of San Diego's best food trucks.

(San Diego, CA) – The [Kiwanis Club of San Diego](#) and the [San Diego State University School of Music and Dance](#) present [Cinco de Mayo Concert in the Park](#), a free, family-friendly concert in celebration of Mexico's Cinco de Mayo holiday at the Spreckels Organ Pavilion, Friday, May 5, 2016, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Admission and parking are free. Pre-concert festivities begin at 4 pm in the Plaza de Panama with the City Heights Mariachi Ensemble and a variety of cuisines offered by some of San Diego's best Food Trucks!

Cinco de Mayo Concert in the Park is an annual gift to the community from the Kiwanis Club of Downtown San Diego. The Concert also generates scholarships and grants for talented, deserving SDSU School of Music and Dance students through sponsor gifts. Kiwanis Club President Karina Sousa says, "The free concert, scholarships and grants are just examples of how the San Diego Kiwanis Club has been enriching our community and supporting San Diego's youth. Our late member Bill Gibbs was a major contributor to the annual concert and many other Club service projects. In fact, his life has been an emblem of community service."

"Balboa Park is the place to enjoy the Cinco de Mayo holiday." says Balboa Park Conservancy CEO Tomás Herrera Mishler. "We invite the entire San Diego community to come early to enjoy the great selection of 'eats' from the many food trucks and stay for the concert!" The Park's Food Truck Friday is a program of the Balboa Park Conservancy in partnership with the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department. For more information visit www.balboapark.org/FoodTruckFriday.

Master of Ceremonies Carlos Amezcua gets the concert started at 6 pm. During the hour, the SDSU Jazz Ensemble and Wind Symphony will perform contemporary and classic Latin music featuring [Jarabe Mexicano](#) in such Mexican favorites as *Granada* and *Querida* with a special tribute to the music of the late Juan Gabriel. During the concert, Carlos Amezcua will salute his father Don Oscar Amezcua and his legendary group *Mariachi Guadalajara* that performed throughout San Diego between the 1960s through the 1990's. The concert will also feature the City Heights Mariachi Ensemble.

“The annual Cinco de Mayo concert showcases the talent of our music students in a beautiful, public venue,” notes Charles Friedrichs, Director of the SDSU School of Music and Dance, “and thanks to the Kiwanis Club of San Diego, the concert is free so the whole family can come enjoy good music together.”

For information on the annual *Cinco de Mayo Concert in the Park* visit the event’s [Facebook](#) page or music.sdsu.edu.

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Digital Images of:

- **Jarabe Mexicano at 2016 Concert in the Park:** Jarabe lead vocalist Gustavo Alcoser performs with SDSU Jazz Ensemble at 2016 Concert in Balboa Park
- **2017 Cinco de Mayo Concert Flyer**
- **Jarabe Mexicano 2017 Ensemble:** (L-R) Mario Eguia (lead guitar/requinto/vocals), Gustavo Alcoser (lead vocalist); Kevin Lomes (vocals/vihuela); Alejandro Tapia (percussion/guitar; and Carlos Arellano (guitarrón/guitar/vocals). Not pictured Christopher Behrens (guitarrón/guitar/vocals)
- **Balboa Park’s Food Truck Friday:** Pre-Concert festivities begin at 4 pm in Balboa Park’s Plaza de Panama with Food Truck Friday and music by City Heights Mariachi.
- **KUSI-TV Carlos Amezcua and Jarabe Mexicano.** Carlos Amezcua (center) and Jarabe Mexicano’s Mario Eguia (L) and Gustavo Alcoser perform together on a recent KUSI-TV’s morning show segment. Carlos will be the MC for this year’s Cinco de Mayo Concert in Balboa Park starting at 6 pm.
- **Carlos Amezcua and Mariachi Guadalajara circa 1969:** Carlos Amezcua’s love of music, especially the music of Mexico, started early. In this circa 1969 photo taken in Balboa Park, Carlos (far left) plays with father, Don Oscar Amezcua (center) Mariachi Guadalajara.

ABOUT THE SAN DIEGO KIWANIS CLUB

Serving San Diego community since 1920 with service projects that focus on youth. Club meetings are held the first and third Tuesdays of the month from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Renaissance Hotel, 421 W B St, San Diego, CA 92101. For more information visit www.kiwanisclubsandiego.org

ABOUT THE BALBOA PARK CONSERVANCY

The Balboa Park Conservancy’s mission is to keep Balboa Park magnificent by sustaining and enhancing its beauty and its historic, cultural, and recreational character for the enduring enjoyment of all. For information visit www.balboaparkconservancy.org

ABOUT THE SDSU SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND DANCE

The study of music was an early area of concentration at SDSU. Among the first seven professors hired in 1898 when the university was chartered, one was a music professor. By 1907 the Department of Music began conferring degrees, and a commitment to excellence in artistic innovation was dedicated. The commitment fostered a long legacy of educational and musical leadership for the program. Today it flourishes as the SDSU School of Music and Dance. For more information visit musicdance.sdsu.edu

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