

Mercedes Inez Martinez

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Experience

Son Monarcas Ensemble, Chicago, IL

[Aug 2012-current]

Teaching Artist / Performer / Multi-instrumentalist

Founded Son Monarcas Ensemble which is a **Latin Folk Fusion** ensemble comprised of original bilingual compositions and traditional music from Latin America.

Teach voice, guitar, piano, accordion, jarana jarocho, percussion & zapateado (dance). Perform at concert halls, schools, museums, parks and yoga classes with a variety of programming. Perform educational programs for audiences of all ages and give workshops in music, dance, art and theatre as a member of Son Monarcas Ensemble.

Performed concerts/workshops in USA, Mexico, Central/South America

- Chicago highlights: Millennium Park, Garfield Park Conservatory, Chicago Cultural Center, UIC, Loyola Chicago, UofC, SIC, Double Door, Teatro Luna, Martyrs, Night out in the Parks
- USA highlight : Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage

Urban Gateways, Chicago, IL

[May 2013-current]

Teaching Artist / Performer

• **Tarima - Son Monarcas**

Educational Program : "FANDANGO!" - Perform in educational presentations called "Fandango!" which included traditional Mexican music and dance from a vibrant blend of many different cultures. Included musicians and dancers of the band Tarima Son as they explored the Indigenous, African, and Spanish influences on the rhythms, movement, & melodies of Mexico.

- **Instruments played**: Jarana Jarocho, Guitar, Drum, Cajon, Voice, Zapateado (foot percussion)

• **Nahui Ollin**

Educational Program: "Danzas Ceremoniales de Mexico" - Experience the living tradition of Mesoamerica with Nahui Ollin as they present the pre-Hispanic traditions of central Mexico. Vibrant and active, the dancers' movements represent and honor elements in nature. Both ritualistic and spiritualistic, program highlights include authentic attire and indigenous music instrumentation, traditional songs, dances and stories.

- **Instruments/Dance**: Aztec drums, Jarana, Aztec Dance

Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre, Chicago, IL

[Aug 2014-current]

Teaching Artist

Teaching Artist - Teach guitar and Latin/World percussion to 9th-12th graders at Cristo Rey High School.

Founded the music program alongside Son Monarcas partner Roberto Irekani Chavez (violin/guitar) by dually teaching guitar and violin to the groups of students simultaneously.

Pulse Beat Music, Chicago, IL

[Sept 2013-current]

Teaching Artist

Teach general music in various CPS schools K-12. Including a continued 3 year residency with John Barry Elementary where I have been teaching over 700 students grades K-6th. I act as the main music teacher for the entire school, managing concerts with over 250+ students presenting at each recital.

St. James Cathedral – "Summer in the City - Camp", Chicago, IL

[July 2013-current]

Teaching Artist / Arts Coordinator

Teach visual art, such as drawing, painting, screen-printing etc. at a summer camp for under-privileged youth, housed in St. James Cathedral. Oversees the coordination of various teaching artists from different arts such as visual art, music, theatre, dance.

MAGI Cultural Art Center - Son Monarcas, Chicago, IL

[May 2012-current]

Artistic Director / Teaching Artist

Teach guitar, piano, voice, percussion, jarana jarocho, and zapateado (dance) through different sessions as a member of Son Monarcas ensemble at MAGI and various surrounding schools and parks.

- Reference websites: www.sonmonarcas.com & www.magi-cac.org

Edgewater Artists in Motion (Chicago,IL)

[March 2009-11]

Community Programs Coordinator

Managed the programming and production of activities based in the cultural arts at a venue given to me through the Edgewater Chamber of Commerce and *EAIM*. Taught workshops based in visual art, writing, theatre, dance, and music as well as organized exhibitions and theatrical/musical productions at the venue through my organization **Experimental Performance Art Workshop Series**.

Edgewater Chamber of Commerce (Chicago, IL)

[Jan 2009-11]

Production Coordinator

Booked and organized performance (music, theatre, dance) and visual artists for multiple out door art festivals called "Third Saturdays" for the Chamber throughout the summer.. Performed music, exhibited and sold art work at the festivals in addition to my role as coordinator.

Eden Assisted Living Center (El Paso,Tx)

[2006-08]

Activity Program Coordinator

Created activity programming for elderly based in the arts at an NPO status assisted living center. Implemented a new activity program for caregivers and senior citizens by training 20 new community instructors and partnering with the local housing authority to establish free monthly

Education Loyola University Chicago BA in Theatre Arts

[2011]

Minors in Voice/Psychology/Studio Art

TRAINING

Viewpoints training with Mark Lococo

Le Coq / Laban Movement Technique with Susan Felder

The Acting Studio with Kurt Naebig

Second City Training Center with Various instructors

Improv/Writing Workshops at Lookingglass Theatre

Voice with Kathy Cowan & Kelly McHugh

Piano / Accordion with Robert Cruz , Alex Udvary

Voice and Diction with Nan Withers Wilson

Dialects: Standard American, New York, Spanish, Southern, British, Indian with Nan Withers Wilson

Skills • Musician/ Vocalist / Multi-instrumentalist / Composer / Teacher

- **Proficient in following instruments:** Voice, Guitar, Piano, Accordion, Various Percussion, Ukulele, Jarana Jarocha, Aztec drum, Cajon
- **Dance:** Aztec Dance, Zapateado (percussive foot tapping)
- **Voice :** Mezzosoprano

References:

- **Estuardo Mazin [Principal at John Barry Elementary]:** emazin@cps.edu
- **Wilfredo Rivera [Artistic Director of Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre]:** wilfredo@cerquarivera.org
- **Rev. Ed Bird [Executive Director of St. James – Summer in the City]:** ed@stmaryspr.org
- **Jason Wolf [Director of Pulse Beat Music] :** wolfroniusj@gmail.com