



2015-2016 ¡Cantaré! Evaluation Highlights

Non-Latina/o students demonstrate more awareness of Mexican culture

- 66% of teachers reported that the field trip to the Minneapolis Institute of Arts/Minnesota History Center helped students somewhat or very well in gaining a better understanding of Mexican culture.
- 50% of composers reported that students made the most amount of progress on learning aspects of Mexican culture and the relationship between the lyrics and Mexico.
- 65% of high school students and 83% of elementary students reported knowing “a lot more” or “some more” about Mexico after participating in ¡Cantaré! than before the program.

“Students with other cultural backgrounds gained an appreciation as they learned more and started to feel more successful performing the Spanish language songs.” 2015-2016 ¡Cantaré! School Program Partner Teacher

“This program is building a bridge between the Latin young Minnesotans and their original culture, but also on appreciating Mexican culture for the American Minnesotans.” 2015-2016 ¡Cantaré! Composer

Latino/a students report more pride in their culture

- 100% of teachers reported that students were most interested in learning about Mexican music and culture as well as the life and work of the composer, which is a moderating factor for this goal.
- 96% of high school students “very much” or “somewhat” enjoyed learning the songs and working with Francisco Zúñiga Olmos in their choir, which is an intermediate outcome for this goal.
- 92% of elementary school students “very much” or “somewhat” enjoyed learning the songs and working with Alephsus Valdés in their choir, which is an intermediate outcome for this goal.

“Our Spanish speaking students, those from Mexico or who had parents from Mexico were very engaged.” 2015-2016 ¡Cantaré! School Program Partner Teacher

“I learned about more of my culture.” 2015-2016 ¡Cantaré! Elementary School Student

Students demonstrate improvement in musical skills and knowledge

- 33% of teachers rated the most amount of student progress on how composers create music and Latin rhythms.
- The majority of elementary students reported that the top thing that they learned from the composer and music teacher through ¡Cantaré! was new songs from Mexico.
- The majority of high school students reported that the top thing that they learned from the composer and music teacher through ¡Cantaré! was musical skills/technique.

“How to sing high notes.” “I learned how to sing with a team.” “Sing with your feelings.” 2015-2016 ¡Cantaré! Elementary School Students

“Precision with half-steps.” “Focusing on your own section is very important for the overall performance.” “It is important to study on your own!” “Expression of the message enhances the performance.” 2015-2016 ¡Cantaré! High School Students

Non-Latino/a audience members learn about Mexican culture and Latino/a audience members have their culture affirmed

- 57% of audience members were exposed to a type or style of choral music that they had not heard before.
- The majority of people who attended the concert read the program more closely and discussed the performance with others who attended after the concert.
- 31% of audience members reported that the concert raised a few questions in their minds that they would like to ask the performers or creators of the work.
- 77% of audience members report that as a result of attending the ¡Cantaré! Community Concert, they were more or much more interested in attending concerts featuring similar artistic work(s).
- Audience members felt that the performance gave them a lot to a somewhat new understanding for people who are different from them, or for a culture other than their own.
- Audience members felt that the performance somewhat to a little explored or celebrated their own cultural background or identity.

“One [best thing about ¡Cantaré!] will definitely be to showcase that Mexico has a voice of its own in a highly artistic manner. Now more than ever I think this is relevant. 2015-2016 ¡Cantaré! Composer

“Disfrutamos mucho del concierto!” (“We enjoyed the concert very much.”) 2015-2016 ¡Cantaré! Audience Member

2015-2016 Facts and Figures

- 406 youth and 32 adults participated in the 2015-2016 VocalEssence ¡Cantaré! program.
- 656 audience members attended the ¡Cantaré! Community Concert in Saint Paul.
- The average audience member age was 42 for those who attended the Twin Cities ¡Cantaré! Community Concert (other VocalEssence concert attendees average age 64).
- The top three reasons why people attended the Twin Cities concert was because someone invited them, to see someone they know perform on stage, and to spend quality time with family members.
- 35% of concert attendees were people of color.
- 64% of ¡Cantaré! concert attendees had never gone to a VocalEssence concert before.
- About 64% of attendees were friends or family of a singer in one of choirs in the performance.
- Audience members most often used the following words to describe how the ¡Cantaré! Community Concert made them feel: happy, relaxed, proud and beautiful.