



Jesús Echevarría ¡Cantaré! Muchas gracias

MUSIC RESOURCE GUIDE
VocalEssence ¡Cantaré! Series



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¡Cantaré! / Muchas gracias

Music Resource Guide

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www.vocalescencemusicpress.org

¡Cantaré! (I Will Sing)

Muchas gracias (Many thanks)

by Jesús Echevarría

Difficulty Level

¡Cantaré! and Muchas gracias are both perfect 'social songs' for elementary-age children's voices or youth ensembles looking for a unison piece (or canon) to use in rehearsals, performances, on tours or in other contexts of the group's life together.

Ranges

"¡Cantaré!" (unison voices, optional 2-part)

"Muchas gracias" (unison voices in canon)



Composer's Notes



Jesús Echevarría plays in the VocalEssence ¡Cantaré! concert with students from Worthington, Minnesota

"¡Cantaré!" is a song inspired by Mariachi music or Music of the West. Literally everyone in the world has seen a mariachi band on TV or in a movie. There are mariachis in Japan, Russia, Spain, and of course in the United States. However, the music played by these ensembles, known for their big hats and charro suits, has little to do with the original mariachi sound. Mariachi sound is a musical tradition born in the wide-ranging Mexican west, which encompasses parts of the states of Jalisco, Nayarit, Michoacán, and Colima. In its origin, this music is related to Spanish dances of the 17th and 18th centuries. Over time, and as a result of the peculiar way of life of the residents of these states, these dances morphed into a music that displays a lifestyle that is simultaneously happy and brave. How about singing "¡Cantaré!" with its music of such deep Mexican roots?

"**Muchas gracias**" emerged from a time when I heard the students of Jeanne Mammen [from Prairie Elementary School in Worthington, MN] sing a greeting song in many languages. I thought it was the proper tool to begin a music class. I greatly enjoyed listening to the children thank me for my work with them. They did it with modesty and spontaneity. This is how the piece came to me. It seems to me that it is always useful to teach good manners, but this is also a way to thank them for the beautiful experiences they provided me during my stay in Worthington in September 2010. The music is also modest, with some references to a polka and a fox trot.

Composer Biography: Jesús Echevarría



Jesús Echevarría received a degree in composition at the Higher School of Music of the National Institute of Fine Arts (INBA) and is currently a graduate student of Musicology at the National School of Music of the National Autonomous University of Mexico. He has studied with Mexican folklorist Héctor Sánchez Campero, received the Grant for Creators from the State Fund for Culture and Arts of Baja, California, and was the first place winner of CONACULTA's National Music Promotion composition contest in 2004. Currently based in Mexico City, his works have been performed by prominent Mexican musicians and have included pieces for choir, orchestra, solo instrument, and Mexican folk instruments. Jesús participated as a resident composer in the 2010-2011 VocalEssence ¡Cantaré! Community Engagement program in Worthington, MN.

Pronunciation/Translation Guide

VOWELS

a–[ah] father

e–[eh] or [ey*] egg or they

*[ay] is also used for the same sound imitating

common English words (kay, day, say)

i–[ee] machine

o – [oh] or [ah] open or off

u–[oo] rule

y – [ee] heavy

VOWEL COMBINATIONS

ai, ay – [ai] side

au – [au] found

ei, ey – [ēi] they

eu – [ēu] may-you

ie- [yeh] yes

oi, oy – [oy] boy

ua – [wa] water

ue – [wē] wait

CONSONANTS

c – [k] before consonant, a, o or u

or [s] before e or i

ch – [ch] chill

g–[g] get

j – [h] hot

ll – [y] yarn

ñ– [ni] onion

q – [k] (u that follows is always silent!) cadence

r – [ř] flipped with tip of tongue

rr – [řř] rolled/trilled with tip of tongue

s – [z] before consonants b, d, g, l, m, n,

otherwise [s]

y–[y] yes

z–[s] yes

Texts/Translations

¡Cantaré!

Cantaré, cantaré,
Al compás de este alegre son,
Cantaré, cantaré
Cantaré con el corazón.
Voz de madera
Voz de metal
Voz de los mares
Voz de coral
Yo les vengo a cantar
A los hermanos
Que están aquí
Les traigo flores
Cantos de mi país
Flores de mi país
Cantos de mi país.

—Jesús Echevarría

*I will sing, I will sing,
To the beat of this happy song,
I will sing, I will sing,
I will sing with my heart.
Voice of wood
Voice of metal
Voice of the seas
Voice of the choir
I come to sing to you
To my Brothers
Which are here
I brought flowers
Songs from my country
Flowers from my country
Songs from my country.*

—Translation by Jesús Echevarría

¡Cantaré! Pronunciation Guide

[kahn-tah-rey ahl kohm-pahs dey ehs-tey ah-leh-grey sohn kohn ehl koh-rah-sohn]
Cantaré al compás de este alegre son, con el corazón.
(I-will-sing, to-the beat of this happy song, with the heart.)

[vohs dey mah-dey-rah meh-tahl lohs mah-rehs koh-rah]
Voz de madera, metal, los mares, coral
(Voice of wood, metal, the seas, choir)

[yoh leys vehn-goh ah kahn-tah-ree ah lohs ehr-mahn-ohs kay ehs-than ah-kee]
Yo les vengo a cantar A los hermanos Que están aquí
(I to-them come to sing To the Brothers Which are here)

[leys tŕey-goh floh-rehs kahn-tohs dey mee pais]
Les traigo flores, Cantos de mi país
(I brought flowers, Songs from my country)

Muchas gracias

Muchas gracias	<i>Many thanks</i>
Gracias tenga usted	<i>Thanks to you</i>
Muchas gracias	<i>Many thanks</i>
Tengas tú también.	<i>Thanks to you, too.</i>
Es bonito agradecer	<i>It is nice to be grateful</i>
Si recibes algún bien	<i>When you receive something good</i>
Con esta sencilla frase	<i>With this simple phrase</i>
Muchas gracias tenga usted	<i>Many thanks to you.</i>
¿Y cómo contestaré	<i>And how should I respond</i>
Si las gracias me da usted?	<i>To the thanks you give to me?</i>
Dices de nada, dices de nada	<i>By saying: you're welcome, you're welcome</i>
Muchas gracias tenga usted.	<i>Many thanks to you.</i>
—Jesús Echevarría	—Translation by Katie Villaseñor

Muchas gracias Pronunciation Guide

[moo-chahs gřah-see-ahs gřah-see-ahs teyn-gah oo-stehd, teyn-gahs too tahm-bee-ehn]
Muchas gracias Gracias tenga usted Tengas tú también.
(Many thanks Thanks [have]-to you [have]-to you, too.)

[ehs boh-nee-toh ah-gřah-dey-sehr see reh-see-behs ahl-goon byehn]
Es bonito agradecer Si recibes algún bien
(It-is nice to-be-grateful When you-receive something good)

[kohn ehs-tah sehn-see-ya fřah-sey moo-chahs gřah-see-ahs teyn-gah oo-stehd]
Con esta sencilla frase Muchas gracias tenga usted.
(With this simple phrase Many thanks [have]-to you.)

[ee koh-moh kohn-tehs-tah-rey see lahs gřah-see-ahs mey dah oo-stehd]
¿Y cómo contestaré Si las gracias me da usted?
(And how-should I-respond To the thanks to-me give you?)

[dee-seys dey nah-dah moo-chahs gřah-see-ahs teyn-gah oo-stehd]
Dices de nada, Muchas gracias tenga usted.
(By-saying: it's nothing {=you're welcome}, Many thanks [have]-to you.)

Musical Analysis

	<i>¡Cantaré!</i>	<i>Muchas gracias</i>
Form	A=unison refrain (sung three times) B=optional solos and 2-part harmonies A=unison refrain (sung three times)	A (m.1-16) B (m.17-40) Instrumental Interlude A (m.57-72) B in 2-part canon (m.73-104) A (m.57-72) D.S. al fine
Melody	A=two 4-bar phrases with similar shapes B=two 6-bar phrases, the second having a four-bar extension leading into the return of the opening material	Each eight-bar phrase has a unique melodic and rhythmic profile that combines effortlessly into the culminating canon.
Key	F Major	F Major
Tempo/Meter	Allegro 6/8	Quarter = 80 mm
Accompaniment	Guitar (strumming rhythmic chords)	Piano, Guitar (strumming chords), Bass (pizzicato), Clarinet (advanced level)

Suggestions for using ¡Cantaré! & Muchas gracias in rehearsals, performances and other contexts

...in Rehearsal

- Call-and-response with the director (or between individual singer and group) on the mirror-image “cantaré” calls or the call-and-response opening phrases of “muchas gracias” (m.1-4, answered by m.5-8) as a signal to return to a focused rehearsal time.
- Incorporating bodily movement to imitate melodic shapes would make either of these a favorite addition to build range and vocal flexibility to a chorus warm-up.

...in Performance

- Concert opener and/or closer (for ¡Cantaré! with audience participation on the refrain), could also work well as a processional piece to be sung as choristers enter the performance space, a transition between ensembles, or as they leave.

Can - ta - ré, can - ta - ré al com - pás de_es-te_a - le - gre

son, can - ta - ré, can - ta - ré can - ta - ré con el co - ra - zón.

Repetir dos veces
Repeat two times

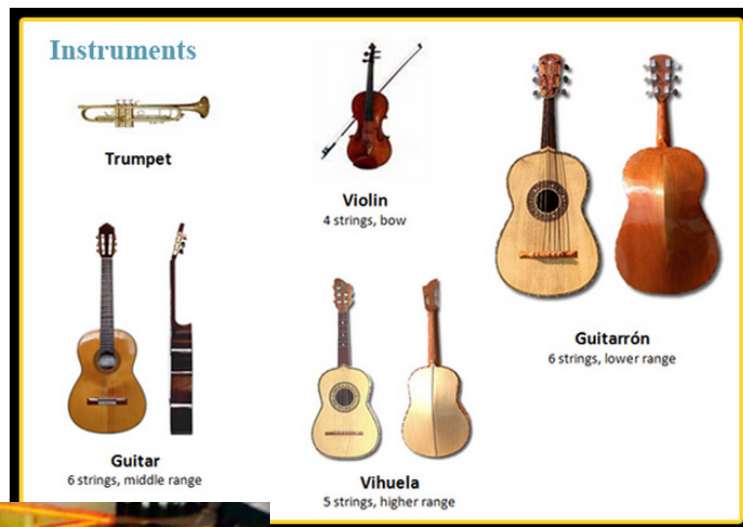
...in Other Contexts

- On tours or choir retreats, have the group sing this refrain as a call to meals, to announcements, as a thank-you ‘gift’ to host site staff, volunteers or churches.

Mariachi (mah-ree-ah-chee) is...

Music for instruments:

Violins, trumpets and/or guitars to play the melody, a high-pitched guitar-like instrument called the vihuela (vee-hway-lah) to add rhythm and a bass guitar called guitarrón (gee-tah-röhn). Sometimes you will also see a harp, accordion or other instruments that were brought from Europe to Mexico during the colonial period.



Mariachi (mah-ree-ah-chee) is...

Music for singing:

Mariachi music began as part of theater traditions in Mexico and the story in the songs is still important with words about country life (crops, animals, people), love and family. Most of the time mariachi groups don't have one particular singer, but rather all the members sing together or take turns singing solos.



Music for dancing:

From the very beginning of the mariachi, dancing was a huge part of the tradition and often involved beautiful and colorful costumes for both the men and women. Dance steps are often fast moving steps for the feet, pounding out complicated rhythms on wooden dance floors, while at the same time keeping the upper body and head quite still (sometimes even balancing a glass of water on top of one's head to show off!).



Mexican Etiquette and Customs

Por Favor (pohř fah-vohř) = please

Muchas gracias (moo-chahs gřah-see-ahs) = Many thanks

De Nada (day nah-dah) = You're welcome (It's nothing)



Buenos Días (bwey-nohs dee-ahs) = Good morning!

Buenos Tardes (bwey-nohs tahř-dehs) = Good afternoon!

Buenos Noches (bwey-nohs noh-chehs) = Good evening!



¡Hola! (oh-lah) - Hello!

Adios (ah-dee-ohs) = Goodbye

Hasta Luego (ah-stah lweh-goh) = See you later

Desculpe (days-kool-peh) = Excuse me (said before asking a question, asking for directions, etc)

Con permiso (kohn pehř-mee-soh) = Pardon me (to get past people in a crowd)



Salud (sah-lood) = Bless you ("health")

All About Mexico

Mexico is a country of great diversity. It is about three times the size of Texas and the landscape is as diverse as its people and customs. Mexico is famous for its beaches and tropical resort destinations in addition to its food, music and art.

Mexico Through the Ages

Mexico, like the United States, has had a chaotic history. Just as the United States was first inhabited by American Indians, Mexico was first inhabited by indigenous people too. The first-known Mexican society, the Olmecs, lived around 1500 B.C.E. That is over 3500 years ago!



Map of Mexico

In 1521, an explorer from Spain, Hernán Cortés, conquered the Aztecs and took over Mexico or what the Spanish called New Spain. Just like the United State's American Indians, when the Spanish arrived, most of Mexico's indigenous population died as a result of violence and disease.

Mexican Culture

Family is a very important part of Mexican society. Families develop close ties spanning generations and even close family friends become part of the extended family.

Mexico is also well known for its food. Corn, beans and squash are an important part of a traditional Mexican diet. Main dishes are different depending on where a family lives and how much money they have, but popular Mexican dishes include enchiladas, tamales, tortillas, burritos and soft-shell tacos.

Arts and sports are also important in Mexico. Two of Mexico's most famous artists are Frida Kahlo and her husband Diego Rivera. Kahlo is famous for her self-portraits and Rivera is famous for his murals. The best known music is the *ranchero*, which is popular among mariachi bands.

Soccer, or *fútbol* in Spanish, is the most popular sport in the country; Mexico hosted the 1970 and 1986 FIFA World Cups, the biggest soccer tournament in the world. Other popular sports include boxing; baseball; *charreada*, a Mexican style rodeo; bullfighting, also known as *fiesta brava*; and *lucha libre*, or Mexican style professional wrestling.

Depending on where you are, Mexico's landscape can look very different. Northern Mexico is mostly desert and the southern Mexico is covered in lush rainforests and mountains. Mexico even has volcanoes and beautiful beaches where people from all over the world come to visit.

A History of Mexican Music



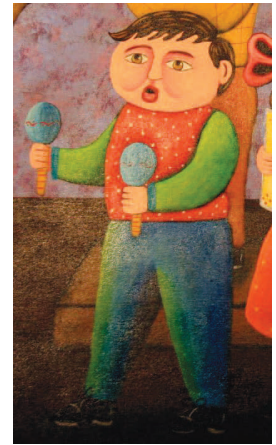
Mexican music can be divided into three general periods: **Pre-Hispanic** (200 B.C.E.-1521), **Colonial** (1521-1810), and **Independence** (1810-present).

Pre-Hispanic

Unlike most music today, Pre-Hispanic music was used strictly for rituals and ceremonies, never as entertainment. Musicians were highly skilled and revered within society. Instruments were only played when accompanied by singing, and some instruments such as the Aztec teponaztli and huehuetl were divine instruments believed to have supernatural powers.

Colonial

Throughout the colonial period, music continued to be utilized for its function, not as entertainment, in both Christian and indigenous ceremonies such as Lent and the Fiesta de la Calabaza, or the Festival of Squash held at harvest time. The conquistadors brought new instruments, melodies and forms to the indigenous people of Mexico and introduced this music through the church. The cathedral was the center of musical life in Colonial Mexico where music was the main tool for converting indigenous people to Catholicism. In the early years of the colonial period, Spanish music was intertwined with indigenous Mexican musical traditions, but as time progressed, restrictions on indigenous music increased and the overall sound of Mexican music became more traditionally western. As chamber music was brought to Europe in the 17th and 18th centuries, both organ and antiphonal choral textures became more popular among the great number of church musicians. Opera arrived slightly later in Mexico in the 18th century. It was not long before the rituals and musical styles of the indigenous people of Mexico were all but eradicated.



Independence

In the early Independence period, musicians experienced a decline in jobs and their social status. Fewer musical instruments were made and dance music grew in popularity. Music conservatories were primarily run by Europeans and directed at men; women played a very small role in early Independence era music.

Over time, folk music experienced a resurgence. There are many famous folk genres, but mariachi, a form of the ranchero style, is the most widely recognized Mexican music internationally. Mariachi comes from the French word for marriage; the bands originally played music for weddings and balls. Mariachi bands typically include violins, trumpets and guitars and consist of between seven and 15 musicians. Modern corridos, popular narrative ballads, often discuss politics, events and Mexican or American heroes.

With increasing globalization, Mexican music has not escaped international influence. In addition to folk based popular genres, Mexicans also enjoy rock and roll, heavy metal, ska, alternative, classical, jazz and electronic music.