



**PRESS RELEASE**

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**SON JAROCHO ENSEMBLE TAPPED FOR PARIS MUSIC FESTIVAL**

*Chicana Chicano Studies Collective Keeping Centuries-Old Music Tradition Alive*

The Chicana Chicano Studies (CCS) Department at the University of New Mexico (UNM) is proud to announce that its Son Jarocho ensemble has been invited to attend 10 Éme Encuentro De Jaraneros. In its tenth year, the event will be held from June 23-25 in Paris, France. The purpose of this prestigious event is to bring together top Son Jarocho musicians from around the world. Participants will have the opportunity to share and present music, songs, and poetry featuring their regional styles.

“We are committed to keeping this age-old music tradition alive and work together to raise awareness by performing and running workshops in partnership with students, schools, and other local organizations also dedicated to the preservation of this unique musical style,” said [Irene Vasquez](#), Chair of The [Chicana Chicano Studies \(CCS\) Department](#). “But this is a wonderful opportunity for our ensemble to expand its visibility to become part of the international Son Jarocho community, and we are very excited about it.”

Son Jarocho is a style of music that originated in the state of Veracruz, Mexico. Characterized by its lively rhythms and use of traditional instruments such as the jarana (a small guitar-like instrument), requinto (a small lead guitar), cajon, tarima, harp, and the quijada (jawbone of a donkey or horse used as a percussion instrument). Its distinctive style combines elements of Indigenous, African, and Spanish music, reflecting the multicultural heritage of the region.

Traditionally performed as part of informal gatherings, known as Fandangos, musicians and dancers come together to share music, dance, and poetry, and are an important part of the cultural heritage of Veracruz. In 2011, they were recognized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Today, Son Jarocho has gained prominence outside of Mexico, particularly in the United States, where the music genre has been embraced by Mexican American and Chicana/o/x communities. Son Jarocho lyrics typically reflect community histories and experiences and is oftentimes employed as a vehicle to build community resistance to protest US immigration policy and other political issues.

“Music can be an effective tool to confront the problems people face in daily life,” says Maestra Laura Reboloso. “I see the revival of Son Jarocho and Fandango as a collaborative cultural movement that has the power to unite people, create communities, and break barriers and borders.”

The CCS Department’s [Son Jarocho ensemble](#) is made up of students and community members who are dedicated to preserving and sharing this important musical tradition. Renowned musician Laura Reboloso, a CCS PhD student from Mexico, is currently leading the son group. She was part of an important revival period of the genre in the early 2000's that led to widespread awareness in the US. She is now sparking the continued interest in New Mexico among UNM students and community members. Son Jarocho classes are offered in Spring and Fall in the Chicana/o Studies department at the University of New Mexico and are taught by Laura Reboloso. This academic year, PhD Candidates, [Gustavo Garcia](#) and Natalia Toscano, MA student Ruben Loza, and Laura Reboloso teamed up to host music workshops for students and community members in Albuquerque.

“We want to create an environment where students feel that they will fit academically and culturally. We have a community space where everyone can participate – students and community members, especially people with no musical experience,” says Gustavo Garcia. “To that end, we recently received a grant from the Alfonso Ortiz Center for Intercultural Studies to purchase custom made instruments from Mexico and to offer free, accessible, and bilingual music classes as a way to preserve and share Son Jarocho traditions.”

### **About The Chicana and Chicano Studies Department at The University of New Mexico**

The Chicana and Chicano Studies Department at the University of New Mexico has the largest percentage of Hispanics in the country and is committed to promoting a critical understanding of Chicano/Hispano/Mexicano communities through teaching, research, and advocacy. To learn more about Son Jarocho classes and the ensemble’s community events visit the CCS [website](#).