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ARTIST BIO: LOF FOLKLORISTAS

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Whether on traditional guitars and violins, or with dried butterfly cocoons, turtle shells, and the Yaqui water drum, Los Folkloristas perform the traditional music of Latin America with expertise and spirit. Since 1966, this revered ensemble has traveled extensively across the countries of Central and South America as well as Mexico, learning their music first-hand on many occasions, from village elders and regional campesino musicians. The group has released nearly 30 recordings in Mexico, South America, Europe, and the United States as well as contributing the soundtracks for the American movies, "Under Fire", and the award-winning "El Norte" and "My Family-Mi Familia."

JOSE AVILA is one of two original Folkloristas still with the group since its origin. Besides acting as principle arranger for the group, "Pepe" also runs the group's record label, Discos Pueblo. He was recently very involved in the creation of the soundtrack to the movie "My Family" which was produced by Francis Ford Coppola and directed by Gregory Nava. He and his wife, Beatriz, have 2 children.

OLGA ALANIS has been in the group for over 20 years singing lead vocals in her own infectious style and playing various percussions and strings.

ADRIAN NIETO, another of the groups' founding members, joined as a performer one year after Los Folkloristas' inception. He has provided many of the arrangements for the traditional material from Mexico and has also composed several original pieces, which have been recorded by Los Folkloristas. He plays violin, guitars, and other assorted strings.

GABRIELA RODRIGUEZ is one of the newest members of the group joining in the spring of 1993. She sings alto and plays a variety of instruments.

EFREN VARGAS PAYAN—Born in Mexico City of Oaxacan parents Efran learned from them the love of the music and traditions of his country. He began to play guitar at age 12, and at this time came to know the music of "Los Folkloristas" through a few records and began to make contact with Latin American folk music. He performed with the groups "Vuelta a la Izquierda" and "Siembra" acquiring experience with the traditional Mexican musical instruments. He also began to explore the popular music of Latin America including salsa, cumbia, and Caribbean rhythms like reggae and ska, performing on electric bass. Since 1988, Efran has been part of the musical accompaniment to "Musical de Mexico," the national company of folk dance which traveled throughout Mexico, the U.S., Canada, Europe and South and Central America. In 2001, Efran recorded with the Kronos Quartet. He joined "Los Folkloristas" in January of 1999.

ENRIQUE HERNANDEZ HUERTA—Enrique began his musical journey in traditional Latin American music in 1982 in the group "Painani". He founded the seminal group "Zazhil," performing Latin folk music and providing accompaniment for the Ballet Folkloricos of Amalia Hernandez, Sylvia Lozano, and Nieves Paniagua. They also produced 7 recordings and also recorded with such popular singers as Amparo Ochoa, Oscar Chavez, and Tehua. Enrique currently resides in Mexico City and plays strings, flutes, and percussion for "Los Folkloristas".

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