



The ROSE
ENSEMBLE

Reawakening the Ancient

Educator Study Guide

¡Celebremos!

Music-making in Colonial Baroque Mexico

Dear Educator:

Thank you for participating in the cultural programming offered by The Rose Ensemble. We have created this study guide to help you and your students prepare for the upcoming Rose Ensemble performance in your classroom and we hope to make your experience as informative and enjoyable as possible. This study guide provides information to help you integrate this experience into your classroom lessons, including general contextual material, a list of basic terms and a reference list of additional sources.

Program Description

Through musical examples and informal dialogue, The Rose Ensemble will help participants learn more about the cultural, social, spiritual and political issues affecting people in Baroque Mexico. The Ensemble will demonstrate fascinating linguistic variances, usage of classical and folk instruments, and explore the influence the colonial Spaniards continued to have on native peoples, their music and culture well into the 1700s.

Educational Benefits

An opportunity to explore connections between the music of Spain and the New World, the composers who chose to travel this great distance, and the musical collaborations and relationships formed within the five social classes existing in Baroque Mexico.

About the artists and programming

The Rose Ensemble is an inventive vocal ensemble working to reach young listeners with the sounds of medieval music and the dramatic telling of ancient stories that speak to today's world. Singing *a cappella* and playing a variety of early string and percussion instruments, The Rose Ensemble helps people of all ages to honor our diverse world through an exploration of history, legend, cultures and faiths. The Rose Ensemble makes use of its unique place in the Twin Cities arts scene—early vocal and instrumental music—to bring a new and personal perspective to the social and cultural issues still relevant for today's youth. Our workshops for young people encourage interaction and dialogue so that students may ask questions, offer their thoughts, and participate musically. In addition to allowing students to see, hear and touch unfamiliar instruments, the activities explore periods of tremendous societal change, promoting the arts as a vehicle to address social issues.

Glossary of terms:

Baroque- the period in Western music history from roughly 1600-1750

Villancico- an old Spanish song in verse-refrain format

Romance- a tender love song

Negro- a Spanish dance form depicting the music and language of African slaves

Negrilla- a small form of a *negro*

Gallego- a piece depicting the language and speech of the Galician colonists

Guaracha- a specific kind of Spanish dance rhythm

Vihuela da mano- a small, plucked, guitar-like instrument; literally “viol of the hand”

Viola da gamba- a cello-like instrument that can be bowed or plucked; literally “viol of the legs”

Gachupines- native Spaniards, many of whom exploited and oppressed Mexicans

Criollos- Mexican-born Spaniards

Mestizos- a person of mixed ancestry, usually Spanish and Indian

Negroes- Africans

Indians- native peoples

Suggested activities

Make a “Day of the Dead” pop-up table display. Pictures and directions available at:

http://saintpaulsunday.publicradio.org/features/0210_missamexicana/mexicana_fun.shtml

Create an Ojo de Dios, or God’s Eye

www.dltk-kids.com/world/mexico/ojo_de_dios.htm

Learn easy Spanish phrases

www.ielanguages.com/spanish1.html

Books

The Great Festivals of Colonial Mexico City

Painting a New World: Mexican Art and Life, 1521-1821

Imperial Spain: 1469-1716

Curcio-Nagy, Linda A.

Denver Art Museum

Elliott, J. H.

Recordings

King’ Singers and The Harp Consort: *Fire and Water: The Spirit of Renaissance Spain*.

The Harp Consort: *Missa Mexicana*.

Chanticleer: *Mexican Baroque*. Teldec Records.

The Rose Ensemble: *Celebremos el niño*. Private label: Rose 00006.

Websites

Interactive, multilingual site on Mexico for kids www.elbalero.gob.mx/index_esp.html

Works detailing the history of the Iberian Peninsula <http://libro.uca.edu/>

History of Spain www.DocuWeb.ca/SiSpain/english/history/index.html

Historical Essay on Baroque Mexico http://saintpaulsunday.publicradio.org/features/0210_missamexicana