

# Marcos E. Mora

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Marcos E. Mora, a third generation Mexican American, was born in Los Angeles, CA and raised in South Omaha, NE. He comes from one of the largest Mexican American families in Omaha—La familia Barrientos, that for generations has contributed to the Omaha music scene for over 80 years! His grandfather Vidal Barrientos and his brothers, Juan and Panfilo, migrated to the U.S from Aguascalientes Mexico in the 1920s to become well-known musicians in the South Omaha Mexican community throughout the 1920s - 1970s in Omaha, NE.

Marcos is an accomplished musician with over 25 years of experience in many genres of music such as Rock, Blues, Latin and Mariachi. He plays the guitar, bass, vihuela, mandolin, guitarron and various percussion instruments.

When Marcos first entered the world of arts he first starting dancing Baile Folklorico at the age of seven years old. He would go on to dance for many years in the Omaha community but would find himself playing trumpet at the age of ten and eventually the guitar as a teenager. On the guitar Marcos was a self-taught musician for the first part of his career but would eventually find his way to study with seasoned blues and jazz musicians out of Kansas City and Chicago in the eighties, which would set the foundation for years to come.

Marcos listened to mariachi all his life where it served as a hobby but found it so intriguing that he went on to form Nebraska's only female mariachi Las Palomas and Nebraska's largest mariachi group in its history—Mariachi Luna y Sol. Marcos is also the Executive Director of the South Omaha Arts Institute where he directs a mariachi youth program called Mariachi Las Estrellitas. It's an 18-year-old program that teaches mariachi to youth that encourages the preservation of their cultural heritage. He's also incorporated other programs for youth in various styles of Latin music and dance.

Marcos most recent project is going back to his passion of electric guitar by forming an extraordinarily, talented group that plays a variety of Latin music from various Latin American countries. Such styles include Santana, Norteño, Cumbia, Flamenco, Latin Jazz, Ballads, and much more. He's also pursuing his Master's degree in Sociology in order to document the contributions that Latino musicians have contributed to the fabric of Omaha life.

Marcos' Mariachi Luna y Sol won the Omaha Entertainment Awards Best Live Ethnic Group in 2007 and assisted Mannheim Steamroller at the Qwest concert in December of 2007. In 2008, he performed for former President of Mexico, Vicente Fox and his wife Martha Fox. And in 2009, he rocked the stage at the Holland Performing Arts Center for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Omaha Entertainment Awards as one of the main performers.