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Schiller Institute Chorus of Sonora in concert, May 1997.

Mexico Concerts Launch Fight For Classical Music Education

Between May 28 and June 5, the Schiller Institute in Mexico hosted a series of Classical music concerts in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Hermosillo, Guaymas, Ciudad Obregon, Sonora, and Ensenada, Baja California, which featured performances of pieces by Mozart, Schubert, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, and Brahms, as well as Ibero-American children's songs. The spring series was aimed at building for a music symposium on Oct. 10-11 in Mexico City, to be jointly sponsored by the Institute and the Schola Cantorum.

The Hermosillo concert, given by the

Children's Chorus of the Institute in Ciudad Obregon, and by the El Dorado section of the Autonomous University of Sinaloa, was reported by the Sonora newspaper, *El Imparcial*, in a May 31 column, which praised the concert series for its "commitment to developing the reasoning capacities of the individual—which make possible scientific discoveries and technological development," and for its "recognition of the fundamental role of art and Classical culture as an irreplaceable instrument for ennobling and developing the character and creative

potential of the individual."

Three hundred people attended each concert in Hermosillo and Guaymas, while 800 attended in Ciudad Obregon—in the city's cathedral—with the additional enthusiastic presence of the Bishop of the Diocese of southern Sonora, Vicente Garcia Bernal.

On May 29 in Guadalajara, Jalisco, under the sponsorship of the Schiller Institute of Jalisco, the quartet "Ensemble Clasico," one of the most important in Mexico, gave a magnificent concert of works by Mozart and Beethoven, with instruments tuned to the Verdi pitch of A=432 (C=256).

The October event, centered around the idea of restoring musical education at the primary-school level, picks up on last February's Institute-sponsored music seminar entitled "Excellence in Education Through Music," in Washington, D.C. In addition to the idea of introducing young people to Classical music, especially through training in *bel canto* singing—the correct tuning and registration of voices—it emphasized the need to overturn modernist and countercultural influences in music. The theme of restoring musical education in elementary school will be presented by Alfredo Mendoza, Schola Cantorum director and maestro of the National Music School.

Maestro José Briano Teaches in Chicago

Maestro José Briano, a noted professional vocal technician who was instrumental in initiating an international choral project commissioned by Lyndon and Helga LaRouche in the early 1980's, renewed his collaboration with the Schiller Institute with a teaching visit to Chicago from July 25 to August 2.

Maestro Briano, himself an accomplished, classically trained bass singer, taught for 23 years at

the National Music School and the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), in Mexico City. As a college student, he studied for 12 years with vocal teachers Maestro Fausto de Andres y Aquirre and Angel R. Esquivel. It was at his first teaching assignment at the National Music School, in the 1960's, that the Maestro realized the crucial problem: No universal, uniform method existed of



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