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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Students of Mexicanidad at Mano a Mano Celebrate Cinco de Mayo at Brooklyn Music School**

Brooklyn, NY -- April 25, 2011 -- It's impossible to imagine Cinco de Mayo, the celebration of Mexican pride and heritage, without Mariachi. That's why students and teachers of the *Mexicanidad* program of *Mano a Mano: Mexican Culture Without Borders* will perform traditional music at the Cinco de Mayo celebration to be held on Saturday, May 7, at 4:00 pm at the Brooklyn Music School.

"Mano a Mano is thrilled to introduce our students, teachers and artists to the community as together we celebrate our Mexican heritage on this wonderful day," said Juan Carlos Aguirre, Executive Director.

"The Brooklyn Music School is delighted to welcome our neighbors of the Fort Greene community, and all New York City, to share in this special event and learn more about Mexican culture," added Frank Alvarado, Executive Director.

"Mano a Mano and the Brooklyn Music School are rooted in the rich traditions and history of Brooklyn, which has always welcomed immigrant communities, like our Mexican neighbors. I encourage parents to bring their children and get a close-up view of the music, dance, song and art of Mexico," said NYC Council Member Letitia James, 35<sup>th</sup> CD.

The guitar, violin and trumpet musicians of the Mariachi class, taught by Alvaro Paulino Jr. and Maegan Pacheco, members of the Mariachi Tapatio de Alvaro Paulino, will perform. Other groups are the children and adults who are members of the Folkloric Dance program, led by José Refugio Gonzalez and Monica Guevara of the Ballet Folklórico Mexicano de Nueva York.

Students of the Mexican Visions -- Visual Arts through Mexican Muralism, taught by Ariel Alejandro Rodriguez will also present their work.

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In addition, Gabriel Guzman and members of Radio Jarocho, will perform stringed instruments and present traditional dances that combine colonial Spanish, Afro-Caribbean and indigenous Mexican elements.

A special highlight is the students of Mexican Songbook, who will raise their voices and add to the celebration.

All performers are either students or teachers in the Mexicanidad program. Support for the Mexicanidad arts and Culture program is provided by the Brooklyn Community Foundation. Additional funds for the purchase of Mariachi instruments were provided by Jarritos, a supporter of community programs.

Cinco de Mayo commemorates the Battle of Puebla, where a group of Mexican patriots fought against a massive French army and won a victory that to this day inspires many. This date is celebrated in the Puebla region and, in the United States, has become an annual celebration of Mexican heritage.

Tickets are FREE for children; for adults, \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door and can be purchased at the Brooklyn Music School, 126 St. Felix Street or online at [www.brooklynmusicschool.org](http://www.brooklynmusicschool.org), or [www.iseats.net](http://www.iseats.net).

For more information regarding Mano a Mano, please contact Juan Carlos Aguirre, Executive Director, at 212-587-3070 or [jaguirre@manoamano.us](mailto:jaguirre@manoamano.us).

For more information regarding The Brooklyn Music School, please contact Frank Alvarado, Executive Director, at 718-638-5660 or [falvarado@brooklynmusicschool.org](mailto:falvarado@brooklynmusicschool.org).

**Mano a Mano: Mexican Culture Without Borders** is a nonprofit organization (501(c) 3) in its eleventh year of presenting major collaborative cultural events in the New York City area. Composed of Mexicans and Mexican-Americans of many generations and occupations, the Mano a Mano team strives to present the rich range of Mexican cultural forms. Visit our active calendar of events, our new educational initiative, *Mexicanidad*, and our immigrant artist development initiative (funded by the National Endowment for the Arts) at [www.manoamano.us](http://www.manoamano.us)

**The Brooklyn Music School (BMS)** is a community school for the performing arts, founded in 1912. It owns and operates an historic four-story building in the Fort Greene neighborhood, designated as a Cultural Center of Brooklyn, housing 24 classrooms, three dance studios and a theater seating 266. The Brooklyn Music School is a long-time member of the National Association of Community Art Schools and is funded by the National Grid and the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency. For more information, please visit the website [www.brooklynmusic.org](http://www.brooklynmusic.org).

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