



Music plays a big part in Mexican culture! Though Mexican music is always changing, many traditional Mexican music styles are still played today.

The most famous type of Mexican music is **mariachi**. Mariachi is performed by traveling bands that play on the street, in restaurants and at celebrations like parties and weddings. Mariachi music uses guitars, violins, and trumpets, but other instruments that are easy to carry can be added as well. Mariachi musicians usually wear traditional Mexican cowboy clothing.

Ranchera got its start during the Mexican Revolution. It is called ranchera because it began as songs that were sung on ranches in Mexico's countryside. The songs were often about patriotism, love, and the beauty of nature. Ranchera songs are a lot like **corridos**, which are ballads that tell a story.

Norteño music began in the mid-1800s, when many Europeans were migrating to Mexico. Norteño, which means "northern," can be recognized by its use of accordion and tuba. Norteño is similar to **banda**, another kind of Mexican music that uses many brass instruments and sounds like German polka music. Banda bands are usually very big, with around 10-20 members.

1. Name two instruments used in mariachi music.

2. The accordion was invented in Germany in the 1800s. Why do you think it was used in norteño music?

3. Why do you think patriotism was a popular topic for songs during the Mexican Revolution?
