

## CELEBRATING FEARLESS WOMEN IN MARIACHI: BREAKING BOUNDARIES WITH PASSION AND TALENT



Laura Sobrino performing

Mariachi music has long been connected with male musicians in iconic charro suits. However, the landscape of mariachi is evolving. There is a powerful wave of fearless women redefining that narrative. These women are inspiring with their passion, talent, and unwavering valor.

Some consider Mariachi to be a male-dominated genre. They see women as primarily supportive roles in the ensemble. Yet, the desire to express musical talents led many women to challenge this norm. Their presence in mariachi bands grew. As the genre expanded, so did the freedom for women to claim their rightful place on stage.

Laura Sobrino defied mariachi norms with her talent. As one of the first female mariachi players, she shattered gender barriers, inspiring countless others. The Mariachi Divas de

Cindy Shea is an all-female mariachi band founded in 1999 by Cindy Shea. In 2009, they became the first all-female mariachi band to be nominated for a Grammy Award. They won, making them the first all-female mariachi band to win a Grammy. As of 2020, the band has been nominated for nine Grammy Awards, winning three. Sobrino and Shea's courage inspired a new generation of female mariachi musicians.

One striking aspect of the fearless women in mariachi is their group effort. They've formed tight-knit communities that provide support, mentorship, and a safe space to navigate challenges. These bonds have fostered a collective strength that uplifts all women in the genre and encourages unity. These fearless women represent diversity in their backgrounds, styles, and influences. Their unique perspectives enrich the genre, adding new dimensions to its tapestry. Their presence challenges the notion that there is only one way to be a mariachi musician.

One of the most significant impacts of women in mariachi is the trail they're blazing for generations. Young girls who witness these women on stage are learning that their dreams are valid. They can pursue their passions without limitations. By embodying fearlessness, these women nurture a legacy of empowerment and change.



Cindy Shea