



Instituto de
Órganos
Históricos de
Oaxaca, A.C.



XIV International Organ and Early Music Festival Oaxaca, México

February 22 - 27, 2023

We are honored to announce the IOHIO's 14th Organ Festival, postponed from February 2022, and look forward to resuming our celebration of Oaxaca's historic pipe organs. It is of course impossible to predict the COVID situation in Oaxaca/ Mexico/ North America next year, but we are committed to carrying this project through and will take all necessary precautions to insure the health and well-being of our participants.

Those of you who have never participated in our festivals may read about our 13th Festival [here](#) to give you an idea of what to expect.

The 14th Festival will offer the following:

- [Eight concerts on eight Oaxaca historic organs.](#)

- Concerts by renowned organists Kimberly Marshall (USA) and Juan María Pedrero (Spain), Víctor Contreras (México) with Faustino Díaz, trumpet and sackbut (baroque trombone) (Oaxaca), as well as Cicely Winter and Valentín Hernández, percussion (Oaxaca).
- Visits to eight unrestored organs and their churches, many of which are usually inaccessible to the public.
- Collective concerts in San Andrés Zautla and Santa María Tamazulapan presented by professional organists and advanced students.
- The opportunity for all interested organists to play the organs in the Basilica de la Soledad, the Cathedral, and the church of Jalatlaco.
- Scholarships for advanced national and international organ students to cover the festival activities.
- Meals which showcase Oaxaca's famous local cuisine.
- A guided tour of the archeological site of Monte Alban.
- Safe and comfortable transportation for all events.

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

(subject to change in case of unexpected surprises)

February 22 (Wednesday)

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM: Registration in the Museo de Filatelia de Oaxaca (MUFI), Constitución 201

(Lunch on your own and the opportunity to explore downtown Oaxaca)

4:00 PM: Inauguration of the Festival and Presentation about “Oaxaca’s historic pipe organs and the work of the IOHIO”, Cicely Winter (MUFI)

5:30 PM: Welcoming reception in the MUFI

7:30 PM: **Concert in the Oaxaca Cathedral, Kimberly Marshall**, organ (\$100 pesos)*

February 23 (Thursday)

(Late registration)

8:15 AM: Departure for the Mixteca Alta, Reforma 504

10:00 AM: Visits to unrestored organs in Santa María Tiltepec y and Santa María Tamazulapan (large organ) (sack lunch)

1:00 PM: **Concert in Santa María de la Natividad Tamazulapan** (Festival organists)

2:30 PM: Midday dinner in Tamazulapan.

4:00 PM: Leave for Oaxaca, arrive 6:00 PM

8:00 PM: **Concert in San Matías Jalatlaco, Juan María Pedrero**, organ

February 24 (Friday)

8:15 AM: Departure for the Mixteca Alta

10:00 AM: Visits to the unrestored organs in Santiago Tlazoyaltepec and Santa María Peñoles (sack lunch)
4:30 PM: Midday dinner in Oaxaca City
7:30 PM: **Concert of Oaxaca Folk Music in the Basílica de la Soledad**, Cicely Winter (organ) and **Valentín Hernández** (percussion)

February 25 (Saturday)

8:15 AM: Departure for the Mixteca Alta
9:30 AM: Visits to the unrestored organs in Santa María Tinú and San Bartolo Soyaltepec (sack lunch)
2:00 PM: **Concert in Santo Domingo Yanhuatlán**, Faustino Díaz, trumpet and sackbut, **Víctor Contreras**, organ
5:00 PM: Fiesta and dinner in San Andrés Zautla.
7:00 PM: **Concert in San Andrés Zautla** (Festival organists)
9:00 PM: Return to Oaxaca, arrive 10:00 PM

February 26 (Sunday)

9:30 AM: Departure for the Tlacolula Valley
11:00 AM: **Concert in San Jerónimo Tlacoahuaya**, Juan María Pedrero, organ.
1:00 PM: Midday meal in the “Donaji” restaurant, Mitla.
2:30 PM: Visit to the unrestored organs in Santiago Matatlan and Santa María Tlacolula (small organ)
Visit to the Sunday market in Tlacolula (optional), ice cream break
6:00 PM: **Concert in Santa María de la Asunción Tlacolula**, Kimberly Marshall, organ
7:30 PM: Farewell dinner in Tlacolula
9:30 PM: Return to Oaxaca, arrive 10:30

February 27 (Monday) (optional activities for Festival participants only)

Option 1

10:00 AM: Guided visit of the archeological site of Monte Albán with Dr. Marcus Winter (INAH)
2:00 PM: Return to Oaxaca

Option 2

10:00 AM: Festival organists may play the organs in La Soledad, the Cathedral and Jalatlaco in the morning and the afternoon (lunch on your own)

**All concerts are free with the exception of the inaugural concert February 22 in the Cathedral which will cost \$100 pesos. The IOHIO asks for this donation to support the scholarships of the participating national and international organ students, as well as for the maintenance and conservation of the Cathedral organ.*

If you would prefer to attend the concert only and not participate in the programmed activities, you may buy your ticket during Registration in the MUFÍ or at the door of the church just before the concert.

Click [here](#) to see photos of the organs and the churches that we will visit.

As in past years, participants are responsible for their own transportation and lodging in Oaxaca. Meals are included with the festival activities. Please make your travel arrangements as soon as possible, since February is a month of high tourism in Oaxaca.

Mexican and international organ students who do not receive support from their respective institutions may solicit a scholarship to cover the Participation Fee. Students are responsible for their own transportation and lodging

FEES FOR THE FESTIVAL EVENTS*

February 22 (Wednesday)

Registration, inauguration, reception (no cost)

Tickets for the concert in the Cathedral (\$100 pesos) will be distributed to Festival participants during Registration.

Concert in the Oaxaca Cathedral

February 23 (Thursday) includes:

All day transportation to the Mixteca Alta

Sack lunch

Visits to the churches and unrestored organs in Santa María Tiltepec and Tamazulapan

Collaborative Concert in Tamazulapan

Midday dinner in Tamazulapan

Concert in Jalatlaco

Foreigners \$160 USD, Mexicans and permanent foreign residents in Oaxaca \$110 USD/ \$2200 MXN

February 24 (Friday) includes:

All day transportation to the Mixteca Alta

Visits to the churches and unrestored organs in Tlazoyaltepec and Peñoles

Sack lunch

Midday dinner in Oaxaca

Concert in la Soledad

Foreigners \$160 USD, Mexicans and permanent foreign residents in Oaxaca \$110 USD/ \$2200 MXN

February 25 (Saturday) includes:

All day transportation to the Mixteca Alta

Visits to the churches and unrestored organs in Tinu and Soyaltepec

Sack lunch

Concerts in Yanhuitlán and Zautla

Fiesta and dinner in Zautla

Foreigners \$200 USD, Mexicans and permanent foreign residents in Oaxaca \$135 USD/\$2700 MXN

February 26 (Sunday) includes:

All day transportation to the Tlacolula Valley

Concerts in Tlacoahuaya and Tlacolula

Buffet lunch in Mitla

Visits to the unrestored organs in Santiago Matatlán and Santa María Tlacolula

Fiesta and dinner in Tlacolula

Foreigners \$180 USD, Mexicans and permanent foreign residents in Oaxaca \$120 USD/ \$2400 MXN

February 27 (Monday) includes:

Transportation to and from Monte Alban

Entrance fee

Guided tour

Foreigners \$60 USD, Mexicans and permanent foreign residents in Oaxaca \$50 USD/ \$1000 MXN

Play three organs

Foreigners \$50 USD, Mexicans and students \$0

**For the sake of convenience, we are using the exchange rate of 20 pesos=1 USD. You will be notified if there is a significant change by the time of the Festival.*

Your participation fee covers:

- Festival organization (concert and village visit confirmations)
- Registration and reception
- Organ repairs, tuning, and cleaning
- Donations to churches with unrestored organs
- Scholarships for Mexican and international organ students
- Expenses and fees of guest organists
- Transportation for field trips
- Meals in the villages and Oaxaca City

[SIGN UP HERE](#)

INFORMATION ABOUT OAXACA

The State of Oaxaca is in southern Mexico; its capital, the city of Oaxaca, is located in an extensive and culturally rich Y-shaped valley that has an elevation of around 5,100 ft. (1555 meters) above sea level. As a result, the tropical climate is moderated considerably;

February temperatures average a high of around 80 °F (26 °C) and a low of around 56 °F (13 °C) with a minimal chance of rain.

The city of Oaxaca has been named a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. It has many beautiful churches and buildings dating from colonial times and a diverse cultural component provided by the various indigenous groups in the state. It is known for the quality and variety of handicrafts produced in the area and considered an important center of contemporary art. As a result, tourism is one of the main industries in the state, and the population welcomes visitors with enthusiasm and courteousness. Many Oaxacans in the tourist industry speak at least some English.

The Valley of Oaxaca had three branches; agriculture and handicrafts are the primary occupations of the villages throughout the valley. Two of the day trips will pass through the western valley on the way to the Mixteca Alta, a more mountainous region in the northwest region of the state. Another will visit the western edge of the Mixteca Alta. The last Festival trip will visit the eastern branch, the Valley of Tlacolula. Participants will have free time on several days to explore the city.

The city of Oaxaca and the towns we will visit during the Festival are completely safe. It is true that there are major security issues in the north, but remember that the country of Mexico is large and diverse and what happens up north has not affected Oaxaca. It's like assuming the problems in Baltimore would similarly affect Omaha.

That being said, it's important to use common sense, especially when you are on your own in Oaxaca City, independent of festival activities.

Recommendations:

- Use kangaroo packs or purses with diagonal straps
- Do not carry valuables in backpacks or back pockets
- Leave passports and credit cards in your hotel room
- Keep your cell phone close to you and use it cautiously on the street (it could be snatched)
- Make sure you collect all your belongings after a concert; it is complicated for us to track them down

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

Passports are required from all countries and you will be issued a tourist card upon arrival in Mexico, which must be turned in upon departure (don't throw it away!). We advise you to carry a copy of your passport with you and leave your original hidden in your suitcase or safe in your hotel.

TRANSPORTATION DURING THE FESTIVAL

When you arrive at the Oaxaca airport, take the airport transportation to your hotel (costs around \$7.00 USD in the group van).

Whenever transportation is included in the Festival fees, participants will be taken to the event in comfortable, air-conditioned vans driven by professional drivers. The historical center of the city is small and quite walkable and taxis are relatively inexpensive, so participants can easily reach the concerts held in the city on their own.

CLOTHING

The weather will be warm and sunny at midday and cool in the evenings. It may be even cooler in some of the churches in the Mixteca Alta, so bring layers of clothing. Please remember that you will be visiting churches in traditional communities, so please no short shorts or tank tops.

The sun is more direct than in North America and Europe, so bring sunscreen and a broad-brimmed hat (or buy one in the market) or visor. Also important are flat shoes (sneakers, sandals) for climbing up the stone spiral staircases to the choir lofts and walking on cobblestone streets.

COVID CONSIDERATIONS

Please bring plenty of masks (including KN 95s), some at-home tests and a supply of Paxlovid (not available here) just in case. We will do our best to insure the health of our participants. Should anyone suspect or prove that they have COVID, they will receive a full refund for the missed activities. Please make sure your vaccines and boosters are up to date.

HEALTH ISSUES

Do not drink the water. Never drink from the tap, only from a sealed bottle. Restaurants and hotels provide bottled water, and it is easily purchased at stores or pharmacies.

The IOHIO no longer provides individual plastic water bottles for our field trips, so please bring your own thermos or bottle. Our vans will have large bottles (*garafones*) of water to fill up your thermos. We will have thermoses available for purchase if you don't have your own.

If you have a delicate stomach, you could take preventative acidophilus or probiotics to reinforce your intestinal flora. Oaxaca restaurants try to be very careful—after all, they depend on tourism—but nevertheless, you will be in a different ecological zone. Do not eat street food please! A doctor will accompany us on all field trips.

Altitude and mountains. Our field trips will take us on curvy mountainous roads, so if you are prone to car sickness, you can bring Dramamine or buy it here. The altitude in the Oaxaca Valley is around 5100 ft./1550 m. and in the Mixteca Alta 7500 ft./2250 m.

USING PESOS

There are ATMs all over the city. Make sure your bank and credit card companies know you will be out of the country so they don't suspect fraud and deactivate your cards when you start taking out money.

Credit cards are welcome in all the major tourist hotels, restaurants, and shops. However, cash in USD may be a problem in smaller venues and you should have pesos on hand. The customary tip in restaurants is 15% depending on the formality.