

CESAR CASTRO "Jarocho"  
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### **Career Summary:**

A professional musician in the Son Jarocho genre, a laudero (stringed instrument maker) and instructor. Active liaison between communities in the US and Veracruz Mexico for over 15 years via Radio Jarocho, a community-based podcast started in 2010, and through organizing and promoting cultural projects, artist residencies with musicians from Veracruz, and events in local communities, cultural centers, schools, universities and, most recently, in California state prisons. Career emphasis on community building, organizing and engagement through projects in participatory art forms, specifically, traditional Son Jarocho music from Veracruz, Mexico. Vast knowledge and experience in the Son Jarocho/ fandango traditional art forms to engage disenfranchised communities in building self-sustaining projects that tap into and build upon cultural knowledge, embodied experience and memory.

**Bilingual:** English/Spanish, spoken and written

**Computer/ Engineer Skills:** Sound Editor, Logic Pro, Cubase, RX5, live sound reinforcement tech. Words, Excel, Power point, Adobe Premiere and Photoshop and more...

### **Work Experience -Artistic:**

**2024:** "3rd Son Jarocho summer camp for youth in Tlaxicoyan, Veracruz, México"

**2024-2025** "Tarima y Tambor" music project, combining afro-colombian rhythms with son Jarocho music  
with Eduardo Martinez Arvilla

**2023 to present:** Composer, music designer and sound producer for About Production, a non-profit that theater works and educational programs in Los Angeles, CA

**2023 to present - Music Production professor** at Andrew Bell Online college based in Veracruz, Mx.

**2022 "1st Son Jarocho summer camp for youth in Tlaxicoyan, Veracruz, México".** Fund raised, developed, coordinated, directed a 2 week program that included oral history, fandangos and local cultural participation with the students

**2021 to present - Healing and Restorative Justice thru Arts** teaching artist in state prisons, Alliance for California Traditional Arts

**2020 Summer - Video editor** for a series of 30 cultural videos, 30 mins long.

**2020 May-August Sound tech** via zoom for several online music events

### **March 2020 to Present: Producer, Teacher, Community Connector via Jarocho Channels**

Through my social media channels, I began teaching Son Jarocho classes three times per week on a donation basis, in an effort to bring people together during the pandemic. I also have produced shows, talks, concerts for other Son Jarocho musicians living in Mexico as a way to create some income for them as well. Since the inception of the pandemic, I have produced 120 shows/classes.

**2018 to present: Music Center on Tour.** Co-production, curriculum development and educational performances with Cambalache in L.A. County schools, libraries and other community spaces.

**2014 to 2022: Arts in Corrections, Project Co-Developer and Son Jarocho Music Teacher,**  
Alliance for California Traditional Arts  
Social rehabilitation program that uses music, specifically the fandango model of engagement and participation, its historical context and cultural values to promote dialogue and positive interaction among inmates of high security California State prisons.

**2013 CXR Live Sound Reinforcement to present**  
Home based business that has served the East Los Angeles music community with sound reinforcement, as well as a project that takes on apprentices who want to learn the art of sound engineering.

**2011 to Present: Occidental College Son Jarocho Ensemble Director**  
Instructor in the Department of Ethnomusicology at Occidental College in Los Angeles. Focus on Son Jarocho history, instrumentation, uses, theory and cultura.

**Dec 2010 to Present: Radio Jarocho, podcast and live radio show**  
Producer, host and publisher of the international radio show Radio Jarocho a bi monthly independent podcast, commercial- free and syndicated to five radio stations in both Mexico and US.

**2010 to 2014 LAUSD Migrant Education Summer Program (Boyle Heights-South LA)** Instructor of a music class that principally used the Son Jarocho genre to establish a deep understanding of cultural and historical elements of world music and to reinforce the cultural identity of the elementary school students of the migrant education program.

**May 2009 to Present:** Cambalache, Son Jarocho music band.  
Musical Director, producer, arranger, multi-instrumentalist and dance practitioner in the Son Jarocho tradition with grupo Cambalache.  
Lead workshops with children and families in participatory projects in music, verse writing, dance and creator of YUNIOR “How I make Instruments” [www.YuniorCartoon.com](http://www.YuniorCartoon.com) Discography, community engagements, recognitions and performance history is available upon request. [www.LosCambalache.com](http://www.LosCambalache.com)  
Recordings include: Una Historia de Fandango, Constelacion de Sonidos,

**2005 to 2016: LAUSD (Frida Kahlo HS - South LA)**  
Music teacher at a continuation high school in Downtown Los Angeles. Focus on Son Jarocho, traditional music of Veracruz as well as exploring other music genres of interest through listening, writing and reflection.

**2004 to 2018: Tía Chuchas Cultural Center, IMIX Bookstore, Eastside Café, El Hormiguero and Danza Floricanto Institute.**

Organizer and instructor of son jarocho and fandango workshops in community cultural centers throughout Los Angeles County, teaching multi generational classes in son jarocho.

**2001 to 2005 “El caSon, La Casa de la Música Popular Veracruzana”**  
Co-founder and Program Manager of a community cooperative art school and cultural center. Responsible for day-to-day operations, teacher and student recruitment.

**1998 to 2001: Café Sertón Music Program Coordinator (Co-op model)**

**1998-2000: Universidad Cristóbal Colón**  
Director of the Son Jarocho Music Ensemble

**1995 to 1998: Escuela de Danza de Veracruz**  
Zapateado dance instructor and Son Jarocho ensemble director who were of Náhuatl, Popoluca, Afro Mestizo, and Euro-Mestizo roots. This project reached over 600 youth and their families through its trajectory.

**1994 to 2000: Campamento Infantil de Son Jarocho**  
Instructor and Coordinator of the only summer program that cultivated and reinforced the culture and principles of el fandango model. Project targeted youth of rural communities in Veracruz,

**1992 to 1998: Casa de Cultura de Veracruz del Instituto Veracruzano de Cultura**  
Son Jarocho project director and instructor: Jarana, requinto, dance and laudería

**1992 to 1998: Son La Plaga**  
Founder and Director of the first youth son jarocho ensemble of the new Movimiento Jaraner@.

**1992 to 2004: Grupo Mono Blanco (founded in 1977)**  
Musician (multi-instrumentalist), Vocalist, Administrative Director, Promoter, Tour Manager, Merchandise and Project Coordinator

### **Recordings:**

2024: Recorded, mixed and mastered of single: “Guacamaya Palestina” a community collaboration  
2024: Recorded, mixed and mastered of single: “La Manta, Manta” with Cambalache  
2023: Composed, recorded, mixed, mastering and sound design for play “Adobe Punk” produced by About Productions  
2023: Recorded, mixed and mastered of single: “Mi jarana” for United States Artist’s New Suns online  
2022: Composed, recorded, mixed, mastering of single “Querido Vicente”. Salsa song  
2020: Sones en Mayor, instrumental solo digital album  
2017: Cambalache; Constelacion de Sonidos  
2017: Quetzal; Eternal Getdown  
2015: Son de Barro, El Navegante (Engineering, musician and co-producer)  
2013: Cambalache; Una Historia De Fandango  
2011: Durffee Foundation Master Musician and 2011 Quetzal; Imaginaries  
2007: Zocalo Zue; Mundo Jarocho (producer, composer and lead singer)  
2005: Quetzal; Die Cowboy Die  
2004: Son de Madera; Las Orquestas del Dia  
1992: Mono Blanco; Fandango; 1998: Mono Blanco El Mundo se Va Acabar

### **Non-Artistic Work Experience:**

Though this work is not specific to my artistic practice, I utilize my skill set in Son Jarocho and fandango dissemination in the development, and implementation of the following projects.

**2024 to present** - Organizer and Producer of the artistic stage of “El Mercado de MacArthur Park”  
**2024** Creates Jarocho, Inc. Corporation for music production, consultancy and music education  
**2023 - 2024** Program coordinator for Re-entry programs with Alliance for California Traditional Arts

**2018 to April 2020** - Art and Culture organizer at East L.A. Community Corporation  
Lead the housing development project and worker owned cooperatives, support the creation of community land trust, programing free art classes, and creating a community garden at Casa del

Mexicano in Boyle Heights

**2016 to 2018** - National Day Laborer Organizing Network; Art Works Project Coordinator  
Responsible for creating and sustaining projects in art and culture for the organization and its members, such as Chant Down the Walls, Basta Texas, and ICE out of California.

**2016** - Pasadena Job Center Coordinator, National Day Laborer Organizing Network  
Site Coordinator, responsible for opening and closing the day worker center, managing day to day functions

of the center, including but not limited to, dispatching workers, job searches and placements.

### **Grants:**

**2024 Individual Artist Grant Fall 2024** to continue “Tarima y Tambor” project

**2024-2025** Master Musician/Culture Bearer and Apprentice Grants (ACTA)

**2022 United States Artists Fellow** on Traditional Arts “Tarima y Tambor”

**LA COUNTY Arts Council** 2016 and 2017: Community Impact Arts Grant Program. Journalerx music/songwriting workshops

**Alliance for the Traditional Arts (ACTA)** 2011, 2013, 2015: **Master Musician/Culture Bearer and Apprentice Grants**

Alliance for the Traditional Arts (ACTA) 2012: **Living Cultures Grant**

**Durfee Foundation** 2008: Master Musician Fellowship

Alliance for the Traditional Arts 2008: **Living Cultures Grant**

**Programa de Apoyo a las Culturas Municipales y Comunitarias PACMyC** 2000 Proyecto de revitalización y promoción del Son Jarocho y Fandango en la comunidad afromexicana de Jamapa, Veracruz.

**Fondo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes: Jóvenes Creadores** 1995

Promote Son Jarocho Music at Elementary Schools to reinforce identity and cultural values among the youth.

### **Training/Education:**

2022 to 2024 - Music production, Music composition and Arts and culture Management career at Andrew Bell School, online college based in Veracruz, Ver. Mexico.

2020-2022: "Jugando con la Rima" and "Magos de la Rima" 5 levels of lyrics improvisation and training to teach using the curriculum created by maestra Ana Zarina Palafox

2020: Sound engineering private course, mixing and mastering (3 months)

2019: Worker Owned Cooperative class at Los Angeles Trade Tech College (LATTC)

2017: Ni más, Ni menos: Gender and Sexuality Training, Anti-Oppression, National Day Laborer Organizing Network

2017, 2016, 2015, 2014: California State anti -Sexual Harassment Training, Occidental College

1996-1998: Escuela Música de Bellas Artes (INBA-Veracruz)

Major; Music Education