



**SONES de
MÉXICO
ENSEMBLE**

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**SONES DE MÉXICO, CHICAGO'S LEADING MEXICAN FOLK
MUSIC ORGANIZATION, TO PROVIDE LIVE MUSICAL
ACCOMPANIMENT TO SERGEI EISENSTEIN'S RESTORED
SILENT FILM CLASSIC "¡QUÉ VIVA MÉXICO!"**

*Shot in Mexico in the 1930's but never completed by the Soviet director,
the restored film is an epic history of Mexico told through the post-Revolutionary
viewpoints of Russia and Mexico.*

Presented by CIMMfest and Lake FX Summit + Expo

WHO: Sones de México Ensemble

WHAT: "¡Qué Viva México!" Film screening with live musical accompaniment.

WHERE: National Museum of Mexican Art, 1852 W. 19th Street, Chicago

WHEN: Saturday, April 18, 2015, 7pm

TICKETS: Free admission, no ticket required. Seating is first come, first served.

INFO: cimmfest.org/sones-de-mexico-live-scores-que-viva-mexico/

CHICAGO – **Sones de México Ensemble**, in partnership with the **Chicago International Movies and Music Festival (CIMMfest)** and the **Lake FX Summit + Expo**, presents a rare screening of Russian filmmaker Sergei Eisenstein's lost epic *¡Que Viva Mexico!* **Saturday, April 18 at 7pm** at the **National Museum of Mexican Art**, 1852 W. 19th Street, in Chicago. The Ensemble will perform a live score consisting of traditional Mexican music arranged to authentically accompany scenes in the film that were shot at different locations in Mexico. The film will be narrated in Spanish with English subtitles.

Filmmaker Eisenstein, a giant of early cinema, is perhaps best known for his groundbreaking 1925 film *The Battleship Potemkin*. In 1927, following the Russian and Mexican Revolutions, Mexican painter and muralist Diego Rivera met Eisenstein on a visit to Moscow and told him of his admiration for *Potemkin*, both as an artist and fellow revolutionary. In turn, Eisenstein was fascinated by Rivera's accounts of Mexican history and heritage, describing the wonders of

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ancient Aztec and Mayan art and architecture as well. Inspired, Eisenstein traveled to Mexico in 1930 to film an epic post-Revolutionary story. Despite shooting over 30 hours of film, he never completed his vision and lost control of the film. Finally, in 1979, Russian director Grigori Alexandrov, who went to Mexico with Eisenstein, and using his notes for reference, restored the film in a manner consistent with Eisenstein's intent.

"*¡Qué Viva México!* is a true classic of silent cinema and an important reflection on Mexican history and revolutionary struggle," says Juan Días, Executive Director of Sones de México, an organization dedicated to researching and preserving the regional folk music of Mexico. "However, we found that the music Alexandrov chose for his restoration does not always match the regional culture of the Mexican indigenous groups represented in the film. We are re-scoring the film with what we believe are more accurate representations of those cultures." The score will include traditional songs, improvised incidental music and sound effects created by the whole group, and original compositions by Sones de México member Zacbé Pichardo, who is the music director on this project.

The film will be shown with English subtitles, but Alexandrov's original Russian narration will be replaced by a live actor speaking in Spanish. "We want our Spanish-speaking audience to follow the story as well," adds Días.

The event is free and open to the public. Attendees are encouraged to RSVP on Sones de México's Facebook event page: tinyurl.com/quevivamexico. RSVP does not guarantee admission, but it will help the presenters plan and accommodate the expected number of guests. Please note that this film contains brief nudity and some scenes of violence, and may not be appropriate for young children.

About Sones de México Ensemble: The group is Chicago's premier folk music organization specializing in Mexican 'son,' a genre encompassing the roots of mariachi music and other regional styles, including *huapango*, *gustos*, *chilenas*, *son jarocho*, and more. The ensemble was formed in 1994 and soon incorporated as a non-profit organization to keep the tradition of Mexican 'son' alive in its many regional forms. As a performer and recording artist, they have developed and popularized many original arrangements of Mexican traditional tunes. Its original work has experimented cross-culturally with symphonic, Irish, folk, blues, C&W, jazz and rock, though never abandoning its roots in Mexican son.

The group has released six CDs: *¡Que Florezca! (Let it Bloom)*; *Fandango on 18th Street*; the GRAMMY® nominated *Esta Tierra Es Tuya (This Land is Your Land)*; *Fiesta Mexicana* (a children's album); *¡Viva la Revolución!*; and *13 B'ak'tun*.

The organization is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization with a commitment to teaching. The mission of Sones de México Ensemble is to promote greater appreciation of Mexican folk and traditional music and culture through innovative performance, education, and dissemination.

For more information, visit www.sonesdemexico.com

The mission of the **Chicago International Movies and Music Festival (CIMMfest)** is to highlight the inseparability of film and music through the production of an annual four-day, multi-venue festival. CIMMfest is a convergence event that highlights the interconnectedness of all people shown through the lens of music and movies, on stage and on screen. All participating films have music at their center: short and long form documentaries and narrative fiction;

concert films; animation; music videos; performances; live concert events; art exhibits; and panel discussions, presented at both new and historic venues around Chicago. CIMMfest is a platform for filmmakers and musicians, artists and producers, to present their vision and offer a connection point for people to come together for a celebration of movies, music, and good times in the greatest city on earth – Chicago!

For more information, visit www.CIMMfest.org.

Lake FX Summit + Expo is a FREE event presented by Google, organized by the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events and co-produced by CIMMfest and The Recording Academy® Chicago Chapter. www.lakefxchicago.org

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