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**SONES DE MÉXICO ENSEMBLE AND THE IRISH MUSIC SCHOOL
OF CHICAGO REUNITE TO PRESENT THEIR LANDMARK
COLLABORATION “LOS SAN PATRICIOS”**

***Concert tells the story of the St. Patrick’s Battalion, Irish immigrants
who fought on the side of Mexico during the Mexican-American War of 1846-48***

*Two shows, November 13 at the Alhambra Palace in Chicago
and November 18 at the University of Notre Dame*

CHICAGO – Two highly respected Chicago organizations, each representing a community with deep immigrant roots, will share one stage when Mexican folk music ensemble **Sones de México** joins forces with Seán Cleland and the faculty of **The Irish Music School of Chicago** for two spectacular music and dance concerts this month.

- **Sunday, November 13, 7PM** at **Alhambra Palace**, 1240 W. Randolph Street, Chicago
- **Friday, November 18, 8PM** at the **DeBartolo Performing Arts Center** of the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN

The Chicago performance is presented by the **HotHouse Global Voices Series**. The Notre Dame performance is co-sponsored by the university’s **Institute for Latino Studies** and the **Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies**.

The concert will use the fiddles, harps, foot tapping and voices of Irish jigs and Mexican *son* to tell the little-known story of *Los San Patricios*, the St. Patrick’s Battalion. **Alex E. Chávez**, Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Institute for Latino Studies Fellow at the University of Notre Dame and an accomplished musician with Los Condenados Huastecos and Dos Santos Anti-Beat Orquesta, is a consultant on the project.

Joining the musicians are **folk dancers from both Mexican and Irish traditions**, performing separately and together.

Sones de México co-founder and Executive Director **Juan Díes** says *“From the very first time we jammed with these musicians back in 1999, I felt an instant musical affinity. 6/8 time, fiddle tunes, marches, harps, foot-tapping and a rich balladry tradition. After learning more about Irish history and playing with these musicians on several other occasions, I’ve continued to realize just how many parallels exist in our cultures.”*

(continued)

Seán Cleland, an award-winning Irish fiddler who played on Sones de México's 2002 album *Fandango on 18th Street* and founded the Irish Music School the following year, adds *"I first heard of the story of San Patricios around 1995 or so. At that time I was touring with The Drovers and teaching at the Old Town School. Juan Díes also worked at the school and his band and my band were quite friendly with each other. I brought this story to him and we have been developing the music and songs over these many years to reality."*

Alex Chávez adds *"When you look carefully at this little-known historical moment that the San Patricios represent, it opens up an entire world of larger social connections and histories that resonate beyond the 19th century and into the present, particularly when we consider contemporary issues like immigration and the U.S.-Mexico border. It's an important and remarkable story, and indeed, music is an apt cultural vehicle for exposing audiences to the San Patricios."*

ABOUT SONES DE MÉXICO: 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

ABOUT THE IRISH MUSIC SCHOOL OF CHICAGO: The Irish Music School of Chicago teaches children and adults as it has been done for generations in Ireland and Irish communities around the world: as a collaboration between Irish musicians, teachers, students and the community itself. It was founded in 2003 by Chicago-bred and internationally acclaimed Irish fiddler Seán Cleland. As a young Irish-American determined to play traditional Irish music, Seán made repeated trips to Ireland. Back at home, he immersed himself in the vibrant Chicago Irish Music community, literally sitting at the feet of the mostly immigrant Irish musicians. Recognizing the need for a school of Irish traditional music, he envisioned a place that could provide a unifying presence for Irish music in Chicago, bringing younger generations of student Irish musicians into contact with the older generation of Irish musicians.

As a not-for-profit organization, the Irish Music School is committed to maintaining the strong tradition of Irish music, song and dance, to involve more people in the community of Irish music, and ensure that this type of music does not disappear in Chicago and the United States.

For more information, visit www.irishmusicschool.org