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**WHEN THE SUN IS ECLIPSED BY THE MOON:
SONES DE MÉXICO ENSEMBLE WILL WEBCAST A SPECIAL DAYTIME
CONCERT FROM THE PATH OF THE SOLAR ECLIPSE**

***Facebook Live webcast from Carbondale, IL on August 21
will feature a musical tribute directly under this rare cosmic phenomenon.***

CHICAGO – When the rare total solar eclipse travels across North America on the afternoon of August 21, 2017, the renowned Mexican folk music organization and performing group Sones de México Ensemble will be there to greet it with a free concert in Lemus Turley Park, 101 N Glenview in Carbondale, IL hosted by Southern Illinois Culture and Arts in Bilingual Education (SICABE). Joining them for the free, outdoor concert will be Carbondale residents as well as countless others who will travel to the southern Illinois city to witness this rare cosmic phenomenon. The concert begins at 11:00AM with an opening concert by Zenen Zeferino from Veracruz, Mexico, appearing with the Encuentro de Jaraneros of the Midwest—Carbondale. After a break to witness the eclipse, Sones de México will present *Beyond the Music, A Musical Geography of Mexico*, a multimedia tour of the regions of Mexico and their culture and music.

“This will actually be the second total solar eclipse that I will witness,” says Juan Días, co-founder and executive director of Sones de México Ensemble. “When I was 5 years old, I witnessed the 1970 eclipse from my grandfather’s backyard in Mexico City. It is one of the few memories I recall from that early age. Needless to say, I was awed and amazed. Getting the opportunity to perform a concert for it this time around is very exciting.”

The moon will pass directly over the face of the sun at precisely 1:21PM. When that happens, day will instantly turn into night as temperatures drop and the stars appear. It will all be over in two and a half minutes. Sones de México Ensemble is distributing 200 pairs of specially designed eclipse viewing glasses to the first 200 people who come to the park that afternoon.

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For those who cannot travel to Carbondale, the band is making plans to webcast the eclipse experience and portions of their concert to their fans via Facebook Live at facebook.com/sonesdemexico.

This is not the first time the group has indulged in the cosmic realm. Their 2013 album, *13 B'ak'Tun*, was conceived to mark the turning of the Mayan calendar, an event that many thought signaled the end of time, and with it the world. "The Mayans and other peoples who followed them, up to and including the Aztecs, were keen observers of the skies and skilled astronomers," remarks Díes. "There was a certain amount of hysteria that swept the world on 12/12/12 by people with little understanding of Mayan cosmology. We thought it was a fitting tribute to our ancestors to make an album that corrected that view."

A special performance of selections from *13 B'ak'tun* will open Sones de México's concert at 2pm after the eclipse has passed, followed by *Beyond the Music*, a signature program of the organization that has traveled the United States for the last year and a half. *Beyond the Music, A Musical Geography of Mexico* is supported in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

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

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