

CalASTA-SD Section Teacher Feature

Victoria Eicher

As the Director of the City Heights Music School (www.cityheightsmusicschool.com), Ms. Eicher pursues her lifelong dream of bringing together a diverse selection of musicians to inspire and encourage students of all ages through music. Serving as President for the Youth Philharmonic Orchestra (www.yposd.org), Ms. Eicher also supports a variety of programming focused on beginner through pre-professional musicians, and is interested in sharing the new ASTACAP program with her teaching colleagues and students.

Victoria Eicher grew up in Minneapolis and began playing violin at the age of 4 in the Suzuki program at MacPhail Center for the Arts. Currently, Victoria maintains a schedule of sonatas, piano trios, and quartet sessions with local musicians. She has performed with the La Jolla Symphony & Chorus, Orquestra de Baja, Mariachi Champaña Nevin, Caprice Strings, and in chamber ensemble programs throughout San Diego. In 2010, Victoria opened her home studio for private lessons in violin and piano, and joined the North Coast Strings staff as a violin coach for beginning adult students. Victoria is a graduate of the University of Minnesota's School of Music where she studied with Mary West, Young-Nam Kim and Lea Foli. A scholarship recipient to the National Orchestral Institute (Baltimore), she has played under the batons of Kenneth Jean, Yoel Levi and Catherine Comet. Before moving to San Diego in 1993, Victoria was Assistant Concertmaster in the Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra.

Mario Eguia

A teacher of guitar, vihuela, and guitarron, Mr. Eguia excels in sharing his enthusiasm and experience with students of all ages. As the Assistant Director for the City Heights Music School, and the Director for Mariachi Victoria, Mr. Eguia embraces the goals of mastery and performance for every musician.

Mario Eguía began playing mariachi over 14 years ago. Under the tutelage of Ruben Baldenegro, he was soon performing with professional mariachi ensembles in Mexicali, Imperial Valley, Coachella Valley, San Diego and Los Angeles areas. Mario has toured extensively in the Jalisco area performing as a guest mariachi and has participated numerous times in the Tucson International Mariachi Conference. In his years as a mariachi he has been privileged to have shared the stage with some of the most renowned mariachis such as Los Camperos de Nati Cano, Sol De Mexico, Nuevo Tecalitlan, and Mariachi Vargas. Aside from over a decade of mariachi experience, Mario obtained an Associate in Arts in Music-Mariachi Specialization from Southwestern College in 2013. He currently attends SDSU as a music education undergraduate where he hopes to obtain his California single subject teaching credential in the near future.