



EL PASO CONNECTION

SUMMER 2022 SPECIAL EDITION
MUSIC MINISTRY

A Newsletter of The Salvation Army of El Paso

CELEBRATING IN HARMONY AT THE CITADEL PERFORMANCE & GRADUATION FOR THE SUMMER MUSIC CAMP

The theme for the 4th Annual Summer Music Camp was "Harmony." "It is a musical theme, but it's also about collaboration," says Corps Sergeant Major Aurora Apuan. "Campers learn music theory and performance, but they also learn how to work together in musical ensembles."

After four weeks of intense music study, all eyes were on the graduating students. This was the goal they've been working towards: performing at the Music Celebration at the Citadel Corps. On July 10, 2022, the students performed seven special selections as a choir, brass band, and handbell ensemble.

Majors Floiran and Eloisa Estrada presided over the graduation ceremony. All music campers were presented with their graduation certificates and medals. The top student in each of the four disciplines (music theory, brass band, choir, and handbells) was awarded a trophy for outstanding performance. Jazmyn Zuniga, Ahtziri Rivera, Julian Gonzalez, and Zeanney Zuniga were the trophy winners this summer.

This Music Celebration wasn't all about the campers, however; other musicians also had their chance to shine. Music teachers Hugo Hernandez, Brisa Serrano, and Jessica Porter performed inspiring solos, and assistant teacher Christopher Martinez also played a trumpet solo. Everyone was invited to celebrate together with the Praise & Worship team with "Asi Como David Danzaba" and "Sing, Sing, Sing" – perfect choices for the occasion. Besides accompanying Sunday worship, Citadel Brass also performed special selection "Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee."

Music ministry is a major part of The Salvation Army, dating back to its earliest history in 1865. The Army introduces people of all ages to the beauty of the arts, helping them to use their talents to glorify God and bless others.



Vocal Performances

*Lord, I Lift Your Name on High
God is So Good*

*Do-Re-Mi (The Sound of Music)
Rock of Ages*

Summer Music Camp

*Thank You
Jessica Porter*

*Asi Como David Danzaba
Sing, Sing, Sing
Citadel Worship Team*

*Part of Your World
Brisa Serrano*

Handbells

*When the Saints Go Marching In
Summer Music Camp*

Brass Solos & Ensembles

*Goedicke's Concert Etude
Hugo Hernandez, Trumpet*

*Making Muffins
Ode to Joy
Summer Music Camp*

*2022 All Region Etude
Christopher Martinez, Trumpet*

*Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee
Citadel Brass Band*

JESSICA PORTER

MUSIC CAMP DIRECTOR

"Speak to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord." Ephesians 5:19

A native of El Paso, Jessica Porter grew up in The Salvation Army and was exposed to music from a young age. She began singing duets with her grandfather as a child before progressing to solo performance. She later joined the school band, learning to read music and play an instrument. She learned brass in order to play the baritone in the Citadel Brass band along with her mother who plays cornet. Jessica has a special appreciation for her first musical instrument, the alto saxophone, but has learned to play eight additional instruments.

"Music teaches skills that these students can use for their entire lives such as responsibility, collaboration, and perseverance," says Jessica. "I am so blessed to be able to help students find their melody."

Jessica Porter is proud to be a Salvation Army musician.



Brisa Serrano, Music Instructor

Brisa Serrano is a music education student at The University of Texas at El Paso. She was one of only three recipients to win the national Great Khalid Music Scholarship.

Brisa is part of several music groups: Mariachi Los Mineros, Concert Chorale, and Chamber Singers. In 2022, she performed in the Opera Luisa Fernanda directed by Cherry Duke. She also competed for the first time in NATS Rio Grande Singing Competition and won 1st place in musical theater!

She has participated in two world premieres; Nine Horses Symphony and The El Paso Requiem; she has performed numerous times with the El Paso Symphony at The Plaza Theater. She also performed Beethoven's 9th Symphony with the Roswell Symphony in New Mexico for their 60th anniversary!

This October, Brisa and the UTEP Chamber Singers will be travelling to Leeds, England to perform as choir-in-residence at Leeds Cathedral under the direction of Dr. Elisa Fraser Wilson. Brisa is very excited for the future and hopes to one day perform on Broadway in New York City.

She would like to thank The Salvation Army for the privilege to share her passion



Hugo Hernandez, Music Instructor

Hugo Hernandez Jr. is a classically trained musician that has been playing the trumpet for 7 years now. He enjoys and performs many styles of music, including classical, jazz, and mariachi. A passionate mariachi artist, Hugo has performed with many groups, including Paso Del Norte when he accompanied Latin Grammy Award winner Tania Libertad. Hugo is an active member of El Paso's premier mariachi group Los Arrieros which has led to opportunities with Los Camperos de Nati Cano, Vargas de Tecalitlan, and Los Tigres del Norte. He's also part of the UTEP mariachi group Los Mineros.

Hugo is a student at the University of Texas at El Paso, studying music education. A music educator at heart, he was honored to translate for Agustin Sandoval in the first ever mariachi trumpet masterclass given at the International Trumpet Guild in 2022. He plays principal trumpet for the UTEP Symphony Band and 3rd trumpet for Jazz Ensemble II. He recently had the opportunity to perform with the El Paso Symphony.

He is grateful to The Salvation Army for the opportunity to teach brass band for the second year in a row and looks forward to returning to teach in the future.





LOVE BEYOND CHALLENGES

"Some of these students picked up an instrument for the first time this summer. They've improved so much!"

- Hugo Hernandez, Music Instructor

LOVE BEYOND BRASS BAND

In addition to brass band, students had daily lessons for music theory, choir, and handbells.



LOVE BEYOND THE MOMENT

Volunteers Aurora Apuan, Paul Apuan (not pictured), Lynda Reynolds, and Ruth Apuan generously donated 400 hours of their time to help in the music camp.

LOVE BEYOND THE MUSIC

Students attend daily music lessons Monday-Thursday and have a field trip on Friday.

"My favorite field trip was the zoo!"

- Jazmyn Zuniga, Music Student



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PHOTO SPREAD

CITADEL BRASS

"Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet..." Psalm 150:3a



MEMBERS

HECTOR MARTINEZ
BANDMASTER

CHRISTOPHER MARTINEZ
Bb CORNET

NADINE FLORES
Bb CORNET

ANGEL FLORES
Bb CORNET

JESSICA PORTER
Bb BARITONE

RANDY PATON
Eb TUBA

Marching Along: The Salvation Army Citadel Brass Continues Army Tradition

The Citadel Brass band rehearses every week in preparation for the Sunday worship service. Every Sunday, Citadel Brass plays preliminary music, accompanies congregational singing, and performs a different selection for the offering.

Their favorite song to perform is the upbeat march "I'll Go in the Strength of the Lord," which they traditionally play at the end of the service.

The brass band is a staple of The Salvation Army Citadel Corps. This six-member ensemble can be seen every Christmas season playing carols at the Red Kettle at Sam's Club. All members are active soldiers who volunteer to support the work of the Army throughout the year.

Citadel Brass is the advanced band at the Corps, but there is also a beginner band that rehearses every week under the instruction of Bandmaster Hector Martinez. They are the next generation of Salvation Army musicians in the borderland.



PRAISE & WORSHIP

“Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.” Psalm 95:1

Praise & Worship: Songs that Teach, Inspire, and Share Messages of Love and Faith

Praise and worship is the contemporary music sung and played in church with the intention of bringing people into the presence of God.

The Praise & Worship team performs every Sunday for worship at The Salvation Army Citadel Corps. They perform in both English and Spanish so that all members of the congregation may participate.

Their favorite praise songs are “Who You Say I Am” and “Available” for both message and music. “As followers of Christ, we face many obstacles in life, but God calls us to trust in Him and follow Him wholeheartedly,” says Leslie Martinez, Praise & Worship Leader.

The team practices every week On Thursday to be ready for Sunday service. “We have rehearsals to give God our best because He deserves the best!” says Leslie.

MEMBERS

LESLIE MARTINEZ
PRAISE & WORSHIP LEADER
VOCALS/HARMONY
GUITAR

IRELA DOOM
LEAD VOCALS/HARMONY
TAMBOURINE

SHANNON RANDALL
VOCALS

CHRISTOPHER MARTINEZ
DRUMS



PRAISING GOD IN THE SUN CITY SINCE 1898



El Paso Corps, 1904

THE ENDURING VISION OF MUSIC MINISTRY

Music has been an essential part of Salvation Army ministry since its infancy when founder William Booth decided to repurpose popular secular music for kingdom work, using lyrics to spiritually challenge soldiers and offer praise to God.

Following that spirit of musical worship and mission, The Salvation Army Citadel Corps

continues to nurture the arts through music ministries and music camps.

From playing in The Salvation Army band to singing in the choir to leading Sunday worship and spreading Christmas cheer at the iconic Red Kettles, the Army offers numerous performance opportunities and community programs for aspiring artists.