

# transcript.

Hey there and welcome to episode 51 of Busy Kids Love Music, a podcast for music loving families. I'm Carly Seifert, the creator of Busy Kids Do Piano, and before we get started, I just wanted to give you a quick heads up that my online piano lesson course - Busy Kids Do Piano -- opens up for public enrollment on August 23rd, which just means that if your child is interested in piano lessons, you can join my program during this time. So over the next few weeks, if you want to sample my online program before public enrollment, check out my free mini-course at [busykidsdopiano.com/snackablecourse](https://busykidsdopiano.com/snackablecourse) and I will link to that in the show notes as well.

Today we are finishing up our summer series -- Around the World with Busy Kids Love Music. Last week, we stopped in Japan -- an island country in Asia -- and learned about the beauty and diversity in Japanese folk music. For our final stop on our tour, we're headed across the Pacific Ocean to the country of Mexico.

As with the folk music of other countries we've learned about, Mexican folk music is very diverse and influenced by different cultures -- the indigenous people of Mexico, Spain, who colonized Mexico, and Africa, who were enslaved by the Spanish and brought to Mexico.

The native inhabitants of Mexico -- largely the Aztec people -- used drums, flutes, rattles, conches as trumpets and their voices to make music and dance. Son Mexicano -- which means "Mexican Sound" in Spanish -- was a style that appeared in the 17th century and fused together the music of indigenous, Spanish and African cultures.

This type of folk music varies depending on what region of Mexico you're in. One region of Mexico is known for love songs. Another for melodically complex violin music. In a hot area of western

# transcript.

Mexico, the son is called “Sones de arpa grande” and is dominated by a harp and accompanied by violins and guitars. Son Jarocho music from the Veracruz area of Mexico has a strong African influence. The one common instrument used in nearly all Mexican son is the guitar

Mexican son developed into other different folk music styles through the years. One of these outgrowths is ranchera, which is a type of song that was sung on a Mexican ranch. The music was usually about love, patriotism or nature and followed a formula: an instrumental introduction and conclusion with a verse and refrain in the middle.

Ranchera music evolved into a type of band -- or group of musicians -- called mariachi.

A mariachi orchestra is made up of at least two violins, two trumpets, and three types of Spanish guitars. The players take turns singing a lead while the others sing background vocals. Musicians were outfits called *charro* suits, which are ornate, beautiful outfits worn by a type of horseman, the charro. They usually include tight, decorated pants or a long skirt, short jackets, silk ties and sometimes, a wide-brimmed sombrero hat.

Mariachi bands play different types of music, though the style is closely connected to ranchera music. They also play ballads, marches, polkas, waltzes and many other styles. In 1905, mariachis were introduced to the capital of Mexico, Mexico City, and began performing in plazas and at restaurants. They continue to also perform at major family events such as weddings, quinceñeras and baptisms. If you ever listen to Spanish-speaking radio stations in the United States, you'll often hear mariachi music in their programming. The United States military even has an official mariachi band in the New Mexico National Guard.

# transcript.

Now as I always do for my podcast episodes, I've curated a list of Mexican folk songs for you to listen to in this episode's show notes, which you can find at [busykidsdopiano.com/podcast/51](https://busykidsdopiano.com/podcast/51). Be sure to check this out so that you can see the charro suits of the mariachi bands as well as the different types of guitars and other interesting visuals that are a part of Mexican folk music. Again you'll find that at [busykidsdopiano.com/podcast/51](https://busykidsdopiano.com/podcast/51). You'll also find your final stamp for your passports in the show notes, as well as links to all the episodes from the Around the World with Busy Kids Love Music series, in case you've missed an episode and want to listen to one and get your passport stamp for that episode.

Thank you so much for joining me today to learn about Mexican folk music, and thank you for touring the world with me this summer to learn about the beautiful musical heritage of different countries on our planet. I hope you've had as much fun as I have exploring folk music, and I look forward to connecting with you again in 2 weeks for an all new episode of the Busy Kids Love Music podcast. Bye for now!