

# JOE BACA

## Musician Bio

I grew up in Albuquerque, NM and started out my musical career like many U.S. children do, in the public school classroom. In the middle school orchestra, playing violin, I learned how important fundamentals are to playing any instrument. I was then lucky enough to attend the only high school that had a Mariachi program at the time. I fell in love with Armonía and picked up vihuela and guitarrón on the side. At the time, I was also lucky enough to have extremely good private mentors and was able to secure excellent instructors till I finished college. In Albuquerque, I studied under Master Guitarist Darryl Dominguez and the assistant concert master of the New Mexico Symphony, the late Maestro Joseph Zoekler. In 2003, at 18 years old, I moved to the El Paso/Las Cruces area for college where I studied under the current conductor of the Juárez Symphony, Maestro Guillermo Quezada and briefly with the retired concertmaster of the El Paso Symphony, Maestro Laurence Gibson.

In El Paso, I spent 10 years teaching both violin and guitar privately as well as performing with Mariachi Los Arrieros de El Paso, TX, all over the United States and Mexico even for the Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C.. I eventually served as violin section leader for Los Arrieros where I also transcribed, arranged & composed for the group and for performances with artists such as Paloma de Rio and Little Joe y La Familia. Along with performing, my last five years in El Paso were spent teaching music in the Socorro Independent School District. I was put in charge of all Mariachi education for the El Dorado Feeder Pattern and doubled the size of the program in just a few years, as well as increased district and community awareness by conducting concerts, festivals, workshops and even recording the first album in the program's history.

In 2012, the opportunity arose to audition for the Walt Disney Company and Mariachi Cobre. Since 2013, I have had the privilege of being a part of this ensemble as well as performing across the country and at Disney World's EPCOT. I continue to write music under the mentorship of our musical director Steve Carrillo and have written for educational conferences, universities, Pop music icon Vikki Carr, as well as the Walt Disney Company. Most recently, I collaborated and co-authored an original piece with Steve Carrillo for a Disney Parks TV and radio commercial. I currently serve as the violin section leader for Mariachi Cobre and reside in Orlando, FL with my wife Yvette, our son Joshua and our two Labradors, *Melody & Harmony*.