



Instituto de
Órganos
Históricos de
Oaxaca, A.C.

15th International Organ and Early Music Festival Oaxaca, México

Celebration of the IOHIO's 25th Anniversary

February 5-10, 2025



**Attention all organ and early music lovers, colonial art aficionados,
adventure seekers and Oaxacaphiles!**

We are honored to announce the IOHIO's 15th Organ Festival with the added celebration of the IOHIO's 25th Birthday on February 5. On that day in 2000, three organ friends presented a concert on the Tlacoahuaya organ and the

response was so overwhelming, with hundreds of people in attendance, that the IOHIO was born.

We encourage you to take advantage of this unique opportunity to hear more organ music than at any other time of the year and to experience Oaxaca off the tourist track. This festival will be the last of such magnitude, but we do hope to program less extensive national festivals in the future.

Those of you who have never participated in our festivals may read about our 14th Festival [here](#) to give you an idea of what to expect.

You may enjoy the following videos about the Oaxaca organs:

- Michael Barone's radio broadcast "[Pipedreams](#)" with extensive information and audio clips about the organs (approximately 2 hours).
- The PBS program "[Baroque Pipe Organs of Oaxaca](#)" (as part of the series "In the Americas with David Yetman") made during our 2018 Festival.

The 15th Organ Festival will offer the following:

- Eight concerts on eight Oaxaca historic organs.
- Concerts by renowned organists Luca Scandali (Italy), James O'Donnell (UK), and José Suárez with Horacio Franco, recorder (Mexico City), as well as Jesús González and Cicely Winter with Valentín Hernández, percussion (Oaxaca).
- Visits to five unrestored organs and their churches, many of which are usually inaccessible to the public.
- Collective concerts in San Andrés Zautla and Santa María Tamazulapan presented by professional organists and advanced students.
- The opportunity for all interested organists to play the organs in the Basilica de la Soledad, the Cathedral, and the church of Jalatlaco.
- Scholarships for advanced national and international organ students to cover the cost of the festival activities.
- Master class with Luca Scandali for advanced students and organists.
- Meals that showcase Oaxaca's famous local cuisine.
- A guided tour of the archeological site of Monte Alban.
- Safe and comfortable transportation for all events.

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

(preliminary, subject to change)

February 5 (Wednesday)

10:00 AM – 1:30 PM: Master class with **Luca Scandali**, San Matías Jalatlaco
7:30 PM: **Concert of Oaxaca Regional Music in la Basílica de la Soledad, Jesús González and Cicely Winter** (organ), **Valentín Hernández** (percussion), celebrating the IOHIO's 25th Birthday!

February 6 (Thursday)

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM: Registration in the Museo de Filatelia de Oaxaca (MUFI), Constitución 201

Lunch on your own

3:00 PM: Presentation about “Oaxaca’s historic pipe organs and the work of the IOHIO,” Cicely Winter (Biblioteca Francisco de Burgoa, Santo Domingo Cultural Center)

8:00 PM: **Concert in San Matías Jalatlaco, James O’Donnell**, organ

February 7 (Friday)

8:00 AM: Departure for the Mixteca Alta

10:00 AM: Visit to the unrestored organ in Santa María Peñoles (snack)

1:00 PM: Buffet comida, ex-Hacienda Santa Martha

3:00 PM: **Concert in San Andrés Zautla** (Festival organists)

5:00 PM: Departure for Oaxaca, arrive 6:00 PM

8:00 PM: **Concert in the Oaxaca Cathedral, Luca Scandali**, organ (\$100 pesos)*

February 8 (Saturday)

8:00 AM: Departure for the Mixteca Alta

9:30 AM: Visits to the unrestored organs in Santa María Tiltepec and San Mateo Yucucuí (lunch)

1:00 PM: **Concert in Santo Domingo Yanhuitlán, Horacio Franco**, recorder, **José Suárez**, organ

3:30 PM: Comida in Tamazulapan

5:00 PM: **Concert in Santa María Tamazulapan** (Festival organists)

6:00 PM: Departure for Oaxaca, arrive 8:00 PM

February 9 (Sunday)

9:30 AM: Departure for the Tlacolula Valley

11:00 AM: **Concert in San Jerónimo Tlacoahuaya, James O’Donnell**, organ

1:00 PM: Midday meal in San Miguel del Valle

3:00 PM: Visit to the unrestored organs in San Miguel del Valle and Santa María Tlacolula (small organ)

Visit to the Sunday market in Tlacolula (optional)

5:45 PM: **Concert in Santa María de la Asunción Tlacolula, Luca Scandali**, organ

7:30 PM: Farewell dinner in Tlacolula

9:00 PM: Departure for Oaxaca, arrive 10:00 PM

February 10 (Monday) (optional activities for Festival participants only)

Option 1

10:00 AM: Guided visit of the archeological site of Monte Albán with Dr. Marcus Winter (INAH)

2:00 PM: Return to Oaxaca

Option 2

10:00 AM: Festival organists may play the organs in la Basílica de la Soledad, the Cathedral, and the church of San Matías Jalatlaco in the morning and the afternoon (lunch on your own)

All departures leave from alongside the MUFÍ building and in front of the Ethnobotanical Garden, near the corner of Reforma and Constitución streets. There will be a bathroom stop around 45 minutes after the departures to the Mixteca Alta.

**All concerts are free with the exception of the concert February 7 in the Cathedral which will cost \$100 pesos. The IOHIO asks for this donation to support the scholarships of the participating national and international organ students, as well as for the maintenance and conservation of the Cathedral organ.*

If you would prefer to attend the concert only and not participate in the programmed activities, you may buy your ticket during Registration in the MUFÍ or at the door of the church just before the concert.

Bus tickets for the concert in Yanhuitlán on February 8 may be purchased during Registration.

Click [here](#) to see photos and descriptions of the organs that we will visit.

As in past years, participants are responsible for their own transportation and lodging in Oaxaca. Meals are included with the festival activities. Please make your travel arrangements as soon as possible, since February is a month of high tourism in Oaxaca.

Mexican and international organ students who do not receive support from their respective institutions may solicit a scholarship to cover the Participation Fee. Students are responsible for their own transportation and lodging

FEES FOR THE FESTIVAL EVENTS*

February 5 (Wednesday) FREE

10:00 AM: Master class with **Luca Scandali**

7:30 PM: **Concert of Oaxaca Regional Music in the Basílica de la Soledad,**

February 6 (Thursday) FREE

Registration

Tickets available for the concert in the Cathedral on Friday night (\$100 pesos).

The ticket is included if you sign up for Friday's activities.

You may also purchase the bus ticket to Yanhuítlán on Saturday if you are not participating in the excursion that day.

Concert in Jalatlaco

February 7 (Friday) includes:

All day transportation to the Mixteca Alta

Visit to the church and unrestored organ in Santa María Peñoles (snack)

Buffet lunch in Hacienda Santa Martha (San Sebastián de las Flores)

Collaborative Concert in San Andrés Zautla

Concert in the Oaxaca Cathedral (\$100)

Foreigners \$160 USD, Mexicans and permanent foreign residents in Oaxaca \$110 USD/ \$2200 MXN

February 8 (Saturday) includes:

All day transportation to the Mixteca Alta

Visits to the churches and unrestored organs in Santa María Tiltepec and San Mateo Yucucuí

Lunch

Concerts in Yanhuítlán and Tamazulapan

Comida in Tamazulapan

Visit to the church and unrestored organ in Tamazulapan

Foreigners \$180 USD, Mexicans and permanent foreign residents in Oaxaca \$120 USD/ \$2400 MXN

Round trip bus to Yanhuítlán for the concert only (11:00 AM – 3:00 PM)

Foreigners \$35 USD, Mexicans and permanent foreign residents in Oaxaca \$25 USD/ \$500 MN

February 9 (Sunday) includes:

All day transportation to the Tlacolula Valley

Concert and visit to the church of Tlacoahuaya

Comida in San Miguel del Valle

Visit to the church and unrestored organ in San Miguel del Valle

Concert in Tlacolula

Farewell dinner in Tlacolula

Foreigners \$200 USD, Mexicans and permanent foreign residents in Oaxaca \$135 USD /\$2700 MXN

February 10 (Monday) includes:

Transportation to and from Monte Alban

Entrance fee

Guided tour

Foreigners \$60 USD, Mexicans and permanent foreign residents in Oaxaca \$50 USD/ \$1000 MXN

OR

Play three organs in La Soledad, the Cathedral, and Jalatlaco

Foreigners \$50 USD, Mexicans and students \$0

**For the sake of convenience, we are using the exchange rate of 20 pesos=1 USD. You will be notified if there is a significant change by the time of the Festival.*

Your participation fee covers:

- Festival organization
- Registration
- Organ repairs, tuning, and cleaning
- Donations to churches with unrestored organs
- Scholarships for Mexican and international organ students
- Airfare and honorariums of guest organists
- Transportation for field trips
- Meals in the villages and Oaxaca City

[SIGN UP HERE](#)

INFORMATION ABOUT OAXACA

The State of Oaxaca is in southern Mexico; its capital, the city of Oaxaca, is located in an extensive and culturally rich Y-shaped valley that has an elevation of around 5,100 ft. (1555 meters) above sea level. As a result, the tropical climate is moderated considerably; February temperatures average a high of around 80 °F (26 °C) and a low of around 56 °F (13 °C) with a minimal chance of rain.

The city of Oaxaca has been named a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. It has many beautiful churches and buildings dating from colonial times and a diverse cultural component provided by the various indigenous groups in the state. It is known for the quality and variety of handicrafts produced in the area and considered an important center of contemporary art. As a result, tourism is one of the main industries in the state, and the population welcomes visitors with enthusiasm and courteousness. Most Oaxacans in the tourist industry speak at least some English.

The Valley of Oaxaca had three branches; agriculture and handicrafts are the primary occupations of the villages throughout the valley. Two of the day trips will pass through the western valley on the way to the Mixteca Alta, a more mountainous region in the northwest region of the state. The last Festival trip will visit the eastern branch, the Valley of Tlacolula. Participants will have free time on several days to explore the city.

The city of Oaxaca and the towns we will visit during the Festival are completely safe. It is true that there are major security issues in the north, but remember that the country of Mexico is large and diverse and what happens up north has not affected Oaxaca. It's like assuming the problems in Baltimore would similarly affect Boise.

Nevertheless, it's important to use common sense, especially when you are on your own in Oaxaca City, independent of festival activities.

- Use kangaroo packs or purses with diagonal straps
- Do not carry valuables in backpacks or back pockets
- Leave passports and credit cards in your hotel room
- Keep your cell phone close to you and use it cautiously on the street (it could be snatched)
- Make sure you collect all your belongings after a concert or a field trip; it is complicated for us to track them down

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

Passports are required from all countries and you will be issued a tourist card upon arrival in Mexico, which must be turned in upon departure (don't throw it away!). We advise you to carry a copy of your passport with you and leave your original hidden in your suitcase or safe in your hotel.

TRANSPORTATION DURING THE FESTIVAL

When you arrive at the Oaxaca airport, take the airport transportation to your hotel (costs around \$7.00 USD in the group van).

Whenever transportation is included in the Festival fees, participants will be taken to the event in comfortable, air-conditioned vans driven by professional drivers. The historical center of the city is small and quite walkable and taxis are relatively inexpensive, so participants can easily reach the concerts held in the city on their own.

CLOTHING

The weather will be warm and sunny at midday and cool in the evenings. It may be even cooler in some of the churches in the Mixteca Alta, so bring

layers of clothing. Please remember that you will be visiting churches in traditional communities, so please no short shorts or tank tops.

The sun is more direct than in North America and Europe, so sunscreen is extremely important. Bring a broad-brimmed hat (or buy one in the market) or visor. Also important are flat shoes (sneakers, sandals) for climbing up the stone spiral staircases to the choir lofts and walking on cobblestone streets.

HEALTH ISSUES

Never drink from the tap, only from a sealed bottle. Restaurants and hotels provide bottled water, and it is easily purchased at stores or pharmacies.

The IOHIO does not provide individual plastic water bottles for our field trips, so please bring your own thermos or bottle. Our vans will have large bottles (*garafones*) of water to fill up your thermos.

If you have a delicate stomach, you could take preventative acidophilus or probiotics to reinforce your intestinal flora. Oaxaca restaurants try to be very careful—after all, they depend on tourism—but nevertheless, you will be in a different ecological zone. Do not eat street food please! A doctor will accompany us on all field trips.

Our field trips will take us on curvy mountainous roads, so if you are prone to car sickness, you can bring Dramamine or buy it here. The altitude in the Oaxaca Valley is around 5100 ft./1550 m. and in the Mixteca Alta 7500 ft./2250 m.

USING PESOS

There are ATMs all over the city. Make sure your bank and credit card companies know you will be out of the country so they don't suspect fraud and deactivate your cards when you start taking out money.

Credit cards are welcome in all the major tourist hotels, restaurants, and shops. However, cash in USD may be a problem in smaller venues and you should have pesos on hand. The customary tip in restaurants is 15%.