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ARTIST BIO: TLEN-HUICANI (the Singers of Veracruz)

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TLEN-HUICANI

Founded in 1973 at the State University of Veracruz in Jalapa, Tlen-Huicani has been considered one of the most faithful representatives of the folklore of Veracruz performing today. Under the direction of Maestro Alberto de la Rosa Sanchez, Tlen-Huicani, which means "the singers" in the indigenous Nahuatl language, has performed in more than 50 different countries and has captured and preserved much of the music of the "Jarocho" and "Huasteco" styles in a number of recordings, and radio and television performances. While specializing in the music of their homeland, Grupo Tlen Huicani has also explored many different musical genres in Latin America especially those expressions which incorporate the folk harp. Most recently, Tlen-Huicani has added concerts with orchestra to their long list of experiences, performing special arrangements of traditional melodies of Veracruz with symphonies from both Mexico and the United States. The arrangements have been created especially for the group by Maestro Mateo Oliva taking advantage of the unique style and sound of the group.

The group has made numerous recordings including four releases in the United States. Their long-standing contribution to the musical landscape in Mexico resulted in their being named "best folk music group in Mexico" by the Union of Music and Theater Critics of Mexico. They have also been invited to represent Mexico on several occasions at the World Harp Conferences including the 2002 Conference in Geneva, Switzerland. In 2005, The Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation, in coordination with the National Endowment for the Arts, provided funding for two regional tours as part of the Mexican Initiative Program. At the 2007 San Jose Mariachi Festival, Tlen-Huicani performed at one of the country's biggest events of its kind, including a grand finale with Linda Ronstadt and Los Lobos. In 2008 they were honored for celebrating 35 years of service to the development of the cultural landscape of Veracruz with declarations from the governor of Veracruz, the rector of the University of Veracruz and many distinguished guests. Most recently the group has added performances with orchestra to their repertoire, with arrangements created by Maestro Mateo Oliva. They have performed with orchestras in San Bernardino, CA, Mexico City, Queretaro, and multiple dates in Veracruz.

ALBERTO DE LA ROSA SANCHEZ ~ DIRECTOR

Among the high artistic values (especially in folkloric music) of Veracruz and Mexico, Alberto de la Rosa stands out as one of its shining stars. In 1973 he created the group, "Tlen-Huicani" dedicated to the folkloric music of Mexico and Latin America and with whom he has traveled over much of the modern world. His travels to South America with the group "Veracruz" had a great impact on the type of musicians who would enter the group and, in fact, led to the group becoming specialist in the folklore of South America (as well as that of Mexico). The contacts established on the continent have been very valuable in offering authenticity to their magnificent interpretations. "Tlen-Huicani" was established with its entire thrust revolving around the harp, and it is a beautiful gift to the mind and spirit to hear them perform.

Besides his duties with Tlen-Huicani, Maestro Alberto is also musical director for the Ballet Folklórico of the Universidad Veracruzana (State University of Veracruz). He has been an invited soloist at festivals and concert halls around the world and has also been a sought-after instructor and clinician specializing in the music of the Latinamerican harp. He also has been influential in establishing the *Encuentro de Harpa* in his home town of Xalapa, and for bringing internationally recognized harpists from around the world to perform there. Through the success obtained from the group and as a soloist, Alberto de la Rosa remains in great demand throughout Mexico, the Americas, and the world. In 2009 Annual Encuentro de Jaraneros honored Maestro de la Rosa for his contributions to the Son Jarocho tradition.