

# POPULAR MUSIC

## MEXICO

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**PO-MX1** Mexico 1973

### LA GRUTA

Popular – Latin – Easy Listening – Orchestral

**Comp:** Rigoberto ALFARO & Jesús R. DE HIJAR

**Arr:** Ruben Fuentes

**Perf:** **MARIACHI VARGAS DE TECALITLÁN**

**Prod. Co:** Sony BMG Latin

**Time:** 2:25

1. Compilation **LP:** LXXV ANNIVERSARIO  
RCA Victor MKS 1977  
12" 33rpm (Sd 2 – Bd 4)
2. Compilation **CD:** MARIACHI INTERNATIONAL (1992)  
Fonovisa 4016 (Tk 3)
3. Compilation **CD:** LOS GRANDES DE LA MÚSICA RANCHERA (1992)  
RCA 11088 (Tk 2)
4. Compilation **CD:** CAMDEN: COLECCION DEL SIGLO (1997)  
RCA International 42057 (Tk 7)
5. Compilation **CD:** 75 ANNIVERSARIO (2003)  
RCA International 53180 (Tk 10)
6. Compilation **CD:** LA MUSICA MEXICANA EN INSTRUMENTAL (2003)  
RCA International 97882 (2XCDs) (Disc 1 – Tk 12)



**Notes:** This “longstanding Mexican group was formed in 1898 in the town of Tecalitlan by Gaspar Vargas, Manuel Mendoza, and by two violinists.” (Johnson, n.d.) They have always been primarily a Mariachi band but this piece is not traditional Mariachi music. It qualifies as music in the easy listening, singing strings tradition with a slightly Latin flavor thrown in. The incomplete audio sample on [YouTube](#) shows the orchestra playing the piece on playback.

Very possibly the piece was written in honor of the famous La Gruta Restaurant at Teotihuacan (near Mexico City) where this Mariachi band might well have played. This is a natural cave in clinkery lava, 200 feet (61m) long, 75 feet (23m) wide and 30 feet (9m) high. (Coons 1977) It was developed into a restaurant in 1929 and today can seat 800 people for banquets with live folkloric dance shows. (Anon, n.d.)

See also the same piece, given a mariachi arrangement, listed under World Music – Mexico – La Gruta ([WD-MX3](#) & [WD-MX4](#)).

**Ref:** Anon. n.d., La Gruta Restaurant, History (in Spanish) & Videos, [lagruta.com.mx](http://lagruta.com.mx)

Coons, Don 1977, Teotihuacan Lava Caves, *NSS News*, v. 35, n. 5, May 1977, p. 104-105

Johnson, Zac n.d., Biography, [Allmusic](#)

Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitán, 75 Aniversario CD, [Amazon](#) (◀AUDIO SAMPLE)

Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitán, Camden: Coleccion, La Gruta (2:27), [YouTube](#) (◀COMPLETE AUDIO SAMPLE)

Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitán, La Gruta (1:16), [YouTube](#) (◀INCOMPLETE AUDIO SAMPLE)  
Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitán, LXXV Anniversario LP, [Discogs](#)  
Vargas de Tecalitán, Biography, [Wikipedia](#)

[caveinspiredmusic.com](http://caveinspiredmusic.com)