

“DUO FRANCOIS”, SUCCESS IN MEXICO



The International *Duo Francois*, returns from Mexico after a series of successful musical events this summer. Following a recital hosted by the *El Paseo Arts Foundation Festival* in South Padre Island, Texas, the *Duo Francois* performed in concert at the University of Veracruz in Xalapa, MX.

On June 7 the *Duo Francois* opened the first Violin/Piano Festival at the University of Xalapa with a wonderful performance of works by Beethoven, Ysaye, Cesar Franck, and Manuel de Falla. The concert was very well received by an enthusiastic and knowledgeable audience. Some of the comments made by teachers and ‘aficionados’ in attendance “...The level of artistry and talent is first class playing...”, “...An energetic ensemble...”.

After the opening concert, a series of master-classes were given by the *Duo Francois*-violinist - CSU String Faculty Ronald Francois and CSU Piano Faculty Silvana Santinelli - to highly talented young musicians from the University. Several of them were preparing for international competitions! A total of thirty students expressed a deep appreciation to the *Duo* at the end of the course, and many expressed a desire to study with them at CSU.

The Duo Francois will return to Xalapa next summer for a series of concerts in the State of Veracruz as part of the *Junio Musical 2009* (Musical June 2009). They have also been invited to perform a recital at the *Festival Musical de Valle de Bravo* south of Mexico city in October 2008.

Violinist Ronald Francois will be opening his 2008-2009 concert season on November 15th with a performance of the *Scottish Fantasy* by Max Bruch with the Longmont Philharmonic Orchestra. Francois will also be featured as soloist with the CSU Symphony Orchestra in February 2009.

Some of pianist Silvana Santinelli’s performances this year include a premiere performance of her first CD. The Piano Works of Mexican composer Rodolfo Halffter are featured in this latest release on Centaur Records, and the performances will be held in Washington DC, at the Mexican and Spanish Embassies.

[Visit the CSU School of the Arts Website](#)