

THE MUSIC INDUSTRY

In spite of a number of obstacles, Canadian composers and performers are gradually breaking into the Mexican music scene.

The Government of Mexico plays a very large role in the nation's music sector. Scholarships and grants for Mexican artists are almost exclusively funded by the government, as are most concerts and exchange opportunities for musicians.

The recording industry is privately operated. Piracy is a serious problem for the industry, with recordings of popular artists readily available. The government is stepping up its efforts to fight piracy, but is hindered by legislation that classifies piracy and trafficking in pirated goods as an administrative rather than criminal offense.

Mexican artists are eager to learn new techniques, and since they can seldom afford to study abroad, they welcome foreign artists. The Mexican government, which is facing severe budget restraints, is also anxious to promote foreign artists in Mexico who can help develop local talent. The Mexican concert system has recently been modernized to include electronic reservations and payments. This is expected to make it easier for touring musicians from other countries to operate in Mexico.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR CULTURE AND THE ARTS

The *Consejo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes (Conaculta)*, National Council for Culture and the Arts, is the principal public body responsible for Mexico's music policy and programs. It operates through three implementing agencies:

- *Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes, Coordinación Nacional de Música y Opera (INBA)*, National Institute of Fine Art, Music and Opera Division;
- *Fondo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes (Fonca)*, National Fund for Culture and the Arts; and
- *Centro Nacional de las Artes (CNA)*, National Arts Centre.