

92Y
MUSICAL
INTRODUCTION
SERIES

The Villalobos Brothers perform at 92Y, celebrating cultural diversity in NYC classrooms



Photo credit: Roy Rochlin

The Villalobos Brothers bring down the house!

The Villalobos Brothers brought 2015 to an exhilarating end for students and teachers in 92Y's [Musical Introduction Series](#) program. During the six-performance run at 92Y, the acclaimed Mexican ensemble welcomed into Kaufmann Concert Hall some 5,000 ecstatic youngsters from 30 public elementary schools across New York City. There to capture the event were [NY1](#) and [Telemundo](#), whose coverage of the story—[“Key Music for Teaching Students at NYC Schools about Immigration”](#)—aired nationally on December 26, 2015. The theme of this season's *Musical Introduction Series* curriculum—Voices of Immigration—emphasizes the importance of cultural diversity in the classroom, as well as an appreciation of the artistic contributions that immigrant groups have made, and continue to make, to New York City. The message resonated with students and their teachers. “Many of our students have immigrated to the United States or have parents who have immigrated,” said Elizabeth Zaita, an elementary school teacher at The Ella Baker School who, with 70 kindergarteners and first-graders, attended one of the Villalobos Brothers' 92Y performances.



Collaborating with the Mayor's Office of International Affairs and TakingITGlobal

This season, the *Musical Introduction Series* stepped up its game by collaborating with [Global Partners Junior](#), the award-winning student internet-exchange program located in the New York City Mayor's Office of International Affairs. With the help of tech whizzes at the NGO TakingITGlobal, 92Y and [Global Partners Junior](#) designed a content-sharing platform not only for students in NYC but for children in Mexico City. Students from Carlos Fuentes Martínez School in Mexico City tuned in to watch the Villalobos Brothers perform live on 92Y's stage. More students from more Mexico City schools plan to tune in for upcoming *Musical Introduction Series* concerts, featuring [Metropolitan Klezmer](#), [Lúnasa](#) ("The hottest Irish acoustic group on the planet," *The New York Times*), and the internationally renowned [Young People's Chorus of New York City](#).



Inside 92Y's Partner Schools

Through a series of five classroom lessons, students at our 30 partner schools explored the ways in which the Villalobos Brothers blend the musical traditions of Veracruz, Mexico, with the European classical style to create their own original sound. Students learned about the traditions of *fandango* (a social celebration that combines music, poetry and dance) and *zapateado* (a foot-stamping style of dance that accompanies mexican *son* music). Through interactive exercises led by 92Y's stellar Teaching Artists, students delved into such musical concepts as melody, harmony and mixed meter. Students will build on the skills they acquired through their study of the Villalobos Brothers in their exploration of Eastern European music and the ensemble Metropolitan Klezmer, who performs at 92Y in February.

To learn more about 92Y's *Musical Introduction Series*, visit us [online](#) or call 212.415.5768.