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La Musica es Vida

by Sara Guajardo

Music runs in my family. My great grandfather wrote a wedding song for **Pancho Villa**, my uncle played saxophone, my grandfather favored the trumpet, as well as my dad. I've been playing trumpet for about 5 years now, and my 7th grade sister recently picked up the saxophone and is now in Wind Ensemble.

My grandfather was in a **Mel Brooks** movie titled *The Silent Movie*, performed with Henri Mancini, was in the Houston Symphony, played in a mariachi, taught music classes, and, last but not least, was in a jazz band. Try living up to that reputation.

My love for music started the first time my dad woke me up by playing *Reveille*. You can imagine how "thrilled" I was. I woke with such a start that my heart was beating in my throat, my eyes were wide open, and I lost my breath. As I grew older

my love for music expanded from country, hard and classic rock, to some rap. In fact my nickname in middle school, to my close teachers, was "Hippie" because I enjoyed bands such as **Chicago**, **Eagles**, **Blood, Sweat, and Tears**, **Led Zeppelin**, and **ZZ Top**. Then of course Country was what I mainly grew up on, especially **George Strait** and **Garth Brooks**.

I began to realize how music matches my attitude when my cousin ran away about four years ago. I was angry, frustrated, and felt betrayed so I played an **Evanescence** CD.

I was hurt by the fact I might never see my cousin again, and my thoughts were between whether I should stay enraged or forgive. Later I would listen to country or mariachi ballads. One song would be of forgiveness, another of love, while mariachi ballads are almost the same except more of poetry. Music matched my feelings, and thoughts.

Another time I felt somewhat love struck over and would listen to love songs on the radio and dream of a life in an unrealistic world. Music can also cause you to have feelings you didn't think of. For example, I fell asleep listening to **Sarah McLaughlin's** *In The Arms of an Angel* and had a dream of seeing my grandfather in the after life.

When I found out last year that my mother had Sarcoma, a form of cancer, I grew weary and nervous of how me and my family's life

would drastically change. To somewhat ignore my emotions I played a **Nickelback** CD.

Some people may not realize it, but without music we could not have a lot of celebrations. For example, one Christmas my family went to **Port Lavaca, TX** to visit my dad's side of the family. This included aunts, uncles, cousins, and grandparents. But what made this Christmas special was that a large portion of our family from **Mexico** was coming to visit.

Our family tradition during the holidays is to perform some sort of talent for the family. Everyone gathered in the living room awaiting the first volunteer. My sister and I were the first to volunteer. My sister played her saxophone, and I played the trumpet. Because the majority of the family was from **Mexico** I played mariachi songs so that they could sing the lyrics. After me, **Ita**, or my grandmother, and her sister, my **Tia Tomi** sang a duet to a popular mariachi song from **Javier Solis**.

The room was silent as everyone listened to the CD and the sisters singing. Everyone started to laugh when, in the middle of the song, **Ita** and **Tia Tomi** forgot the words. Next to volunteer was my **Uncle Eddie**, my dad's cousin, **Gerardo**, and **Tio Umberto**. They put arms around each other's shoulders and began to attempt to sing, by memory, another mariachi song called *Cuckurrucucu*. They could hardly sing because they were too busy laughing at each other because they were acting to the lyrics, drunk. Everyone laughed and **Gerardo's** dad had to sit down because he was laughing so hard. Then my cousin, **Marinda**, sang a country song called *Could You Buy These Shoes*. **Marinda** sang so beautifully that, those who understood English began to cry. Then **Tio Umberto's** daughter sang a Spanish song, which I don't know the title of, and those who understood Spanish, were captivated by her soothing

voice. Then my mom and cousin, **Alexa**, did the comedy act of doing a "river dance" while sitting on

rocking chairs. Everyone laughed as they waved their arms in the air attempting to have some sort of dance routine. Meanwhile they tapped their feet quickly on the hard wood floor. Music affected the family on that joyful day because we celebrated with music. Without music I would not have such a humorous and wonderful memory to look back upon.

It is also exciting to observe the different atmosphere when a new style of music is being played. For example, A few nights ago **Gerardo** came to visit my dad, sister, and myself for a couple of days. **Gerardo** brought with him a mariachi CD and we listened to it that night. Our spirits were bright with the singing trumpets and the fast violin strings, our legs and feet begged to dance with the jumpy beat of the guitar, and out hearts leapt and screamed with joy as

Gerardo asked to dance with us. He asked for my hand to dance to the song *La Negra*. I smiled with excitement as we skipped around in a circle in my dad's room and taught me to double tap my feet with each quick step. I taught him how to fold your partner in your arms and to unwrap them. As the final dance maneuver, **Gerardo** went down on one knee, holding my hand, extending his other arm out, I put my right foot on his bent knee, and together we smiled at an invisible audience and laughed with joy.

Music allows the people to relate to what they hear. If the listener is joyful then the music should be upbeat and cheerful, like jazz. If the listener is in love, then the music should make you feel passion, like **The Temptations**. Something I always liked about playing a musical instrument is that no matter how you feel you can always express it. Music can change anyone's mood simply by changing the tempo, the sound, the dynamics, the rhythms, and the style of your tonguing. Music doesn't sound the same because in a way it's like people.

People are different just as every band and genre has their own uniqueness. Music, to me, means freedom. And something that is hard to find in many families is a liking for music that is very diverse. It is hard to find a person(s) that listens to every type of music, and yes that includes country. Music, in my family, is as good and precious as freedom of speech. You can't stop the music; so learn to enjoy it while you can.

Sara is a junior in high school.



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No one can ever argue in the name of education, that it is better to know less than it is to know more. Being bilingual or trilingual or multilingual is about being educated in the 21st century. We look forward to bringing our readers of *La Voz de Brazoria County* various word lists in each issue of

Nadie puede averiguar en el nombre de la educación que es mejor saber menos que saber más. Siendo bilingüe or trilingüe es parte de ser educado en el siglo 21. Esperamos traer cada mes a nuestros lectores de *La Voz de Brazoria County* una lista de palabras en español con sus equivalentes en inglés.

Ropa	Clothes
Paper	Papel
Keys	Llaves
Butter	Mantequilla
Eggs	Huevos
Bacon	Tocino
Ham	Jamón
Bed	Cama
Chair	Silla
Card	Tarjeta
Sleep	Dormir
Wake Up	Despertar
Snore	Roncar
Talking	Hablando
Silence	Silencio
Noise	Ruido

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TELLING TIME AND CULTURAL PHRASES IN THE WINTER GARDEN AREA

By
Richard G. Santos

My friends are still convinced I am deprived on account I was deprived for not being born or raised in the Winter Garden Area. Moreover, I was never a farm worker and the only cotton I ever picked was off my belly button and that does not count. Consequently, my coffee-drinking buddies have taken it upon themselves to teach me the proper bilingual/bicultural time telling phrases. Fortunately, my graduate degree in linguistics makes me a dialectologist and that allows me to interpret the historical, cultural and linguistic importance of phrases and words.

“mas viejo que la luna”

For instance, something which occurred in the very distant past can be described as “mas viejo que la luna” (older than the moon). Next oldest time reference in something which occurred “el ano del diluvio” (year of the great [Biblical] flood). The great-great-great parents’ time is referred to as “cuando andaban las vivoras paradas” (when snakes used to walk erect). “El ano de la hebra” (year of the loose thread, or run [as in stockings, shirt, etc.]) seems to refer to the great-great parents time. However, does it refer to when “things started to fall apart”? Or, when “things” got started? Hmhmhmhm

In **Laredo**, which is outside the Winter Garden Area, I picked up “el ano de la canica” (the year of the marble) which is an obvious reference to the speaker’s childhood. **Zavala County Commissioner David Lopez** and several others say “el otro dia” (the other day). However, that could be referring to last week or five to ten years ago! Ayyyyyy.

One phrase of Sephardic Jewish origin was told to me by an unsuspecting friend who had no idea of the importance of the phrase he used to tell time. In fact, I almost fell off my chair and went silent when I heard him say “*el año de la inquisicion*” (the year of the Inquisition). Unknown to him, he belongs to a well known Spanish Jewish family of **Nuevo Leon** which since 1608 has spread to **Coahuila, Tamaulipas, Texas** and the **United States**.

In 1652, the parish priest of **Saltillo, Coahuila** filed a complaint against

Captain Diego Villarreal with the Office of the Inquisition. The priest was appalled that **Captain Villarreal**, whose parents had been converted to Catholicism as adults, owned land, rode a horse, wore silk clothing and jewelry!

To make a long story short, the priest was transferred! **Captain Villarreal** was married with **Beatriz de la Casas**, daughter of suspected Spanish Jewish parents **Bernabe de la Casas** and **Beatriz Navarro**.

Don Bernabe, his wife and daughter had gone to **New Mexico** in 1598 with colonizing conquistador **Juan Perez de Onate** but by 1603 had moved to **Saltillo**. As for **Captain Villarreal**, he claimed to have been born at **San Miguel el Grande** (now San Miguel Allende) but never revealed the name of his parents or their birthplace. Moreover, no historian or genealogist has been able to find a record of **Diego Villarreal’s** birth, baptism or parents’ names. Consequently, the history of the **Villarreal** family begins in 1608 when **Don Diego** entered **Nuevo Leon**.

In light of the family’s history, I asked my friend where he learned the phrase. He replied he had learned it from his parents and grandparents in **Coahuila**. So, was my friend **Chema Villarreal** referring to when the Inquisition existed in **Mexico** from 1528 to 1821? Or was he referring to 1652 when the **Saltillo** priest complained about his ancestor **Captain Diego Villarreal**?

“cuantos perros en la horca”

Joe Cuevas still greets me with “*cuantos perros en la horca*” (how many dog are there at the gallows). The phrase 500 years ago was “*cuantos Moros en Lorca?*” (how many **Moors** are there at the city of Lorca). The proper reply is “*veinte en el quemadero*” (twenty being burned at the stake). The first speaker is supposed to counter-reply “*ojala los quemem por habladores*” (hope they burn them for talking). Even though the phrase refers to the **Mozarabic of Spain**, in reality it is in reference to Spanish Jews. The **Crypto (secret) Spanish/Portuguese Jews** hid their frustration with people who reported them to the Inquisition by calling them **Arabs**.

Another phrase with Sephardic Jewish overtones frequently heard in the Winter Garden Area does not refer to time. It/he/she/you can be described as being “*tan malo como la carne de puerco*” (as bad as pork meat). Many Jewish people do not eat pork products. However, **Crypto (secret) Jews** who pretended to be Catholic in public but practiced Judaism in secret did not keep kosher. They ate pork products in order not to be reported to the Inquisition.

“tan malo como la carne de puerco”

It is interesting to note that in **Spain** today, (black, green, pinto, etc.) beans whether boiled or baked with pork are called “*frijoles judios*” (Jewish beans). In **Texas** and the abutting Mexican states of **Coahuila, Tamaulipas** and **Nuevo Leon**, many families who today are not of the Jewish faith have compromised and will not knowingly eat pork after sunset! Among the reasons given to this historian throughout the area is that pork meat “is too heavy, you’ll get a heart attack and die”. I have also been told that “there is something in our family blood and if we eat pork after sunset, we die”. In other words, it/you/he/she is “*tan malo como la carne de puerco*”

Another phrase commonly heard in northeast **Mexico, Texas** and wherever the families of the ancient 1580 **Nuevo Reyno de Leon** have gone seems to refer to the reality of Jewish history. Does “*de mejores lugares me han corrido*” (I have been thrown out of better places) refer to the expulsions from **Eden** (Genesis), **Canaan** (circa 5000BC), **Egypt** (circa 4000BC), **Babylon** (circa 3000BC), **Spain** (1492), **Portugal** (1580) and most European countries until 1946?

We have taken the phrase for granted without considering its origin. In fact, the same can be said about the song *La Golondrina* (the swallow) which is a direct reference to the expulsion of the people

of the Jewish Faith from **Spain** in 1492! Until rather recently, the song was the favored farewell song sung at a person’s departure or funeral service. Yet, if you listen to the lyrics you would realize the singer laments the fact he is leaving his beloved homeland to which he can never return and will never see again! The singer does not know where he/she is going and says he/she is as lost as a swallow without a nest. Yes, “*de mejores lugares me han corrido*” and the 513 year old song *La Golondrina* refers to one such event. That is, to the 1492 expulsion from Sepharad (Spain) by **Queen Isabel la Catolica**.

Song El Quelite (ragweed) also has Spanish Sephardic overtones. The song about the bitter herb/weed, says “*Que bonito es el quelite*” (ragweed is very beautiful), “*bien haya quien lo formo*” (blessed is He who made it), “*que por sus orillas tiene*” (because on its edges/leaves it has) “*de quien acordarme yo*” (Someone I recall/think about). It continues with “*manana me voy, manana* (tomorrow I will leave, tomorrow), “*manana me voy de aqui*” (tomorrow I leave this place), “*el consuelo que me queda*” (my only consolation), “*que se han de acordar de mi*” (is that they will remember me).

So, dear readers, next time you hear either song or any one of the phrases listed above, consider our rich, centuries-old historical and cultural heritage. This we should protect con orgullo y terquedad (with pride and tenacity).

This story was first published in the ZAVALA COUNTY SENTINEL.



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Historia

Discos Hacienda fue fundada en 1976, en Corpus Christi, Texas por Roland y Annie Garcia, junto con el hermano de Roland, Rick Garcia, quien es ingeniero y productor y quienes continúan al mando, guiando a su dinámico personal hacia el éxito. Hoy en día, Discos Hacienda se a establecido como una de las primeras compañías de discos y estudios de grabación en el mundo y puede hacer alarde de un catalogo de más de 800 títulos que se especializan en música Tejana, Tradicional Tex-Mex, Conjunto y Norteña. El catalogo también contiene de lo mejor de la musica de Rock en Español, Salsa, Merengue, Rap, Pop, Christiana y Musica Navideña.

Por los ultimos 30 años, grupos de Tex-Mex, Conjuntos y Norteños han gozado de un increíble nivel de presentaciones y grabaciones por todo el Suroeste. Discos Hacienda, ha seguido conectada muy de cerca con la gente del Suroeste y con la musica que ellos escuchan en los salones de baile, clubs y festivales. Estas gentes, lugares y eventos son el corazón, donde vive la música de acordeón. Durante este tiempo, Discos Hacienda a producidola mejor música, que por siempre ayudara a perdurar la cultura Latina.

A travez de el sitio de Internet de Hacienda www.haciendarecords.com, nuestros visitantes se pueden conectar con la ultima inovación en la era digital, la red de radio de Hacienda Radio Network, difundiendo música en vivo 24 horas al día, 7 dias a la semana para que todos puedan escuchar estas joyas eternas. En ese punto, Discos Hacienda a re-masterizado tesoros permanentes de artistas clasicos como Lisa Lopez, Pio Treviño, Romance, Los Chachos, Ruben Vela, Showband USA, Steve Jordan, Mingo Saldivar, Tony De La Rosa, Ruben Naranjo, Freddy Fender, Valerio Longoria, Michelle y muchos otros más. Discos Hacienda también ofrece música con artistas contemporaneos y estilistas como Albert Zamora Y Talento, Los Dos Gilbertos, Ricky Naranjo, La Traición, Cali Carranza, Peligro, Victoria Y Sus Chikos y muchos más.

Discos Hacienda continúa formando nuevos artistas, siempre encontrando el talento nuevo, ya sea Norteño, Tejano, Tropical, Mariachi, Trío Romántico, Tex-Mex, Country, Internacional o Música Cristiana. Con un promedio de 3 nuevos lanzamientos al mes, Discos Hacienda continúa siendo el primordial estudio distribuidor de la música Tejana y Tex-Mex en el Suroeste, y ha llegado la hora para que el resto del país y del mundo, descubran esta música tan distinta, original y tradicionalmente rica del sur de Texas y de la frontera.

Visite el sitio de Internet de la compañía y descubra la música por si mismo. En www.haciendarecords.com, usted puede escuchar mas de 2000 canciones con los artistas favoritos de Discos Hacienda. Ademas puede tomar un viaje virtual de nuestros estudios, leer las ultimas noticias, comprar el producto o simplemente dejar una nota a la comunidad Tejana!



History

Hacienda Records was founded in 1976, in Corpus Christi, TX by Roland & Annie Garcia and Roland's brother, Rick Garcia, engineer/producer, who remain at the helm, steering a dynamic staff to success. Today, Hacienda has established itself as one of the premier Spanish record labels and recording studios in the world and boasts a catalog with over 800 titles that specializes in Tejano, Traditional Tex-Mex, Conjunto and Norteño music. The catalog also contains some of the best Spanish Rock, Salsa, Merengue, Rap, Pop, Gospel and Christmas music in the business.

Over the past 30 years, Tex-Mex, Conjunto and Norteño groups have enjoyed an astounding level of performances and recordings throughout the southwest. Hacienda Records, has remained closely connected to the people of the southwest and the music they hear in the dance halls, clubs and festivals. These people places and event are the heart of where accordion driven music lives. During this time, Hacienda has produced some of the best music that will forever help preserve the Latin culture.

Through the hacienda website (www.haciendarecords.com), visitors can connect to Hacienda's latest digital age innovation, the Hacienda Radio Network, broadcasting live music, 24/7 for everyone to listen to these timeless treasures. In that regard, Hacienda has digitally re-mastered enduring treasures by classic performers such as Lisa Lopez, Pio Treviño, Romance, Los Chachos, Ruben Vela, Showband USA, Steve Jordan, Mingo Saldivar, Tony De La Rosa, Ruben Naranjo, Freddy Fender, Valerio Longoria, Michelle and many others. Hacienda also offers music from contemporary conjunto stylists such as Albert Zamora y Talento, Los Dos Gilbertos, Ricky Naranjo, La Traición, Cali Carranza, Peligro, Victoria y Sus Chikos and many more.

Hacienda continues the making of new artists, always finding new talent that cover Norteño, Tejano, Tropical, Mariachi, Romantic Trio, Tex-Mex Country, International and Spanish Gospel. With an average of 3 new releases per month, Hacienda Records continues to be a primary studio and distributor of Tejano, Tex-Mex music in the Southwest and the time has now come for the rest of the country, and the world, to discover this distinctly original and traditionally rich music from South Texas and the Border Region.

Visit the Company's website and experience the music for yourself. At www.haciendarecords.com you can hear over 2000 songs by some of Hacienda favorite artists. In addition, you can take a virtual tour of the Company's studios, read the latest news, purchase product or just drop the Tejano community a chat!



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