



La Voz de Esperanza

February 2014
vol. 27 issue 1

Editor

Gloria A. Ramírez

Design

Monica V. Velásquez

Editorial Assistance

Alice Canestaro-García

Cover Album art from

La Nueva Canción Chilena
"Antología - Volumen 1" (Alerce)

La Voz Mail Collective

Teresa Cervantes, Dave Collins, Juan Diaz,
Angela M. García, Jessica Gonzáles,
Mildred Hilbrich, Jim Kitchen, Kyler Liu,
Josie Martin, Ray McDonald,
Angela Meléndez, Angie Merla,
Lucy & Ray Pérez, Marissa Rodríguez,
Mary Agnes Rodríguez, Anthony Saldivar,
Josie Solis, Dave Stokes, & Inés Valdez

Esperanza Director

Graciela I. Sánchez

Esperanza Staff

Imelda Arismendez, Itza Carbajal,
Marisol Cortez, J.J. Niño, Melissa Rodríguez,
Susana Méndez Segura, Monica V. Velásquez

Conjunto de Nepantleras

-Esperanza Board of Directors-

Brenda Davis, Araceli Herrera, Rachel
Jennings, Amy Kastely, Kamala Platt, Ana
Ramírez, Gloria A. Ramírez, Rudy Rosales,
Nadine Saliba, Graciela Sánchez

- We advocate for a wide variety of social, economic & environmental justice issues.
- Opinions expressed in La Voz are not necessarily those of the Esperanza Center.

La Voz de Esperanza

is a publication of

Esperanza Peace & Justice Center
922 San Pedro, San Antonio, TX 78212
210.228.0201 • fax 1.877.327.5902
www.esperanzacenter.org

Inquiries/Articles can be sent to:

lavoz@esperanzacenter.org

Articles due by the 8th of each month

Policy Statements

* We ask that articles be visionary, progressive, instructive & thoughtful. Submissions must be literate & critical; not sexist, racist, homophobic, violent, or oppressive & may be edited for length.

* All letters in response to Esperanza activities or articles in La Voz will be considered for publication. Letters with intent to slander individuals or groups will not be published.

Esperanza Peace & Justice Center is funded in part by the NEA, TCA, theFund, Coyote Phoenix Fund, AKR Fdn, Peggy Meyerhoff Pearlstone Fdn, Horizons Fdn, New World Foundation, y nuestra buena gente.



The musical roots of Esperanza have been grounded in folk music and Nueva Canción since its inception in 1987. Local folk singers, Patti and Rod Radle and Rudi Harst, were among the first to perform for us as Esperanza opened its doors. Once Graciela Sánchez was hired as the Director of the Esperanza in 1988, the



inclusion of nueva canción became a standard. A variety of nueva canción performers singing music from throughout Latin America and the Caribbean have performed at Esperanza throughout our 27-year-history celebrating a host of events including, among others, the 10th anniversary of the Nicaraguan Revolution, various caravans to Central America and Cuba, and the 1992 quinquennial.

With the addition of Esperanza's program, *MujerCanto: a celebration of women, song and thought in 1991*, the riches and range of the female voice became a focus. This series brought us one of our most important musical madrinas, Puertorriqueña, Lourdes Pérez. Her singing style was much like el estilo de Mercedes Sosa and Atahualpa Yupanqui – but she also was a composer adding songs to the genre of nueva canción. Just recently, Lourdes returned to Esperanza for a two-day concert in October, 2013 boding well for the return of nueva canción.

Another singer who performed for Esperanza in those early years was Amparo Ochoa who inspired audiences at the *1992 Nueva Canción Concert, 500 Years of Resistance en Canto*. Unfortunately, Amparo died unexpectedly two years later. That concert also featured a women's group from the west coast, Altazor, formed in 1987, the year that Graciela and I heard them perform at Sisterfire, a women of color summer music festival in Washington D.C. Now, it seems, we have come full circle with the musical genre of nueva canción.

Trinity University's *Chile Canta al Mundo* commemorating the Chilean struggle for democracy, justice and human rights, 40 years after Allende has offered us an opportunity to bring nueva canción back to the community of Esperanza with two concerts. On February 8th, Elizabeth Morris and José Seves present *Voces Chilenas/Chilean Voices: Community Concert*. Elizabeth, who has been at the forefront of Latin American music made in Chile, performs multiple roles as an instrumentalist, composer, producer, and soloist. She began her collaboration with José Seves during his break from Inti-Ilumani in 2004. Seves who was part of Inti-Ilumani for almost 30 years has met with success as a soloist and composer in his own right being blessed with one of the best voices in the history of Chilean music.

On February 22nd, the Esperanza will co-sponsor a 2nd concert, *Cantemos Juntos: Cantos Chicanos y Chilenos en California* bringing Chilean Lichi Fuentes, formerly of Altazor, back to the Esperanza along with others. Agustín Lira, co-founder of Teatro Campesino, and the preeminent musical voice of the early Chicano Movement will be performing with the group, ALMA that includes co-founder Patricia Wells and the incomparable, rhythmic bass sounds of Ravi Knypstra. Their latest recording is *Rolas de Aztlan: Songs of the Chicano Movement*. Lichi Fuentes, currently the musical director of La Peña Community Chorus performs with the versatile and prolific Argentinian composer, guitarist and arranger, Hugo Wainzinger. Finally, Marci Manríquez and Ricardo Valdivieso will complete the evening with their own particular style, Duamuxa, a word of their own making that reflects their love of two muses, the muse of music and the muse of lyric poetry. Although originally singer-songwriters, their creativity has taken them to creating radio programs, working in theater, and teaching multi-cultural performance workshops for children and adults. *Cantemos Juntos* blends the Chicano experience with the roots of nueva canción and more contemporary styles promising to be an experience that San Antonio audiences, in particular, will appreciate. For more information on *Chile Canta al Mundo* visit www.trinity.edu/dspener/chile-sings/ or www.esperanzacenter.org. ❖



ATTENTION VOZ READERS: If you have a mailing address correction please send it in to lavoz@esperanzacenter.org. If you want to be removed from the La Voz mailing list for whatever reason please let us know. La Voz is provided as a courtesy to people on the mailing list of the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center. **The subscription rate is \$35 per year (\$100 for institutions).** The cost of producing and mailing La Voz has substantially increased and we need your help to keep it afloat. To help, send in your subscriptions, sign up as a monthly donor, or send in a donation to the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center. Thank you. -GAR

VOZ VISION STATEMENT: La Voz de Esperanza speaks for many individual, progressive voices who are gente-based, multi-visioned and milagro-bound. We are diverse survivors of materialism, racism, misogyny, homophobia, classism, violence, earth-damage, speciesism and cultural and political oppression. We are recapturing the powers of alliance, activism and healthy conflict in order to achieve interdependent economic/spiritual healing and fuerza. La Voz is a resource for peace, justice, and human rights, providing a forum for criticism, information, education, humor and other creative works. La Voz provokes bold actions in response to local and global problems, with the knowledge that the many risks we take for the earth, our body, and the dignity of all people will result in profound change for the seven generations to come.