



Rita singing at Guadalupe Plaza celebrating her 80th birthday where Beatriz Llamas showed up.

ras and Las Coronelas. The young women were surprised that Rita had been performing on stage 60 plus years before they were even born. But they could see she was an entertainer with class and real style.

Rita regained popularity because we put pressure on all the media to recognize her, but also because individuals like Yvette Benavides, Dave Davies and Hector Saldaña helped to write stories or produce radio and TV programs featuring Rita. And much to their surprise, the San Antonio public responded and requested that they rebroadcast her radio and TV shows several times.

I could go on and on about my adventures with Rita, but I do want to say that while I worked with the Esperanza to highlight this Tesoro to our San Antonio, South Texas and world community, I also gained so much knowledge about San Antonio, female singers and musicians from the 1940s-60s and just being a woman in the 1930s, 40s and 50s. Rita was my teacher.

Walking the streets of the Westside or downtown suddenly is different to me because those buildings are no longer empty. I now imagine Rita walking downtown with her guitar by her side, climbing the stairs to the second floor to get to one of the many clubs where she sang. I see the Alameda and know that Rita sang there, also. And I imagine the Nacional, Zaragoza and the many other theaters she graced in San Antonio, Mexico, Colombia and Cuba.

Thank you Rita for a wonderful time together. Initially, it was just the two of us figuring out how we were going to bring you back to your adoring fans. Now, thousands throughout the world love and respect you and miss you so very, very much. Keep singing your heart out and telling your jokes con todo los santitos y angelitos and everyone else you meet along the way. You never did discriminate. You loved us all.



## Nuestra Querida Rita

Hemos perdido una joya muy valiosa. Es triste esta separación pero como creyentes sabemos que ahora ella está nuevamente joven, sana y alabando al Señor con su bella voz— nuestra querida Rita Vidaurri. Pero, como creyente, sé que ahora ella está cantando en el Cielo, joven, bella y llena de salud! Como cubana, estoy orgullosa en saber que, visitando mi tierra, ella compartió su música con grandes voces como Olga Guillot, Toña La Negra y Celia Cruz.

...Ahora yo soy la que conserva esta foto como "Un Tesoro." Nos veremos en el Cielo Rita... Descansa en Paz Rita, siempre vivirás en nuestro recuerdo...

—Pilar DeCamp

Me siento muy privilegiada en haber tenido la oportunidad de compartir esta foto en una feliz ocasión con nuestra querida Rita Vidaurri. La foto fue tomada en la celebración de Día de los muertos, en la Calle Colorado. En la foto están Blanca Rodríguez, Beatriz Llamas, Rita Vidaurri y Olga (en el walker).

