



# Rita Vidaurri Eden “La Calandria”

## A Star to be Remembered

*A few thoughts and stories about Rita from our engagements.*

*The deep love and sincere affection for Rita is undeniable and there is not a single phrase or word that I could express any better feelings and sentiments shared here this evening.*

I met Rita Vidaurri, “La Calandria,” in 2013 at the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center during one of her entertaining performances. A very special lady who became my friend and like a mother to me.

Rita lived a quiet life, a simple life. To her family, her friends and other people around her, she gave much but asked for very little in return.

Rita had no need for airs and graces, she knew who she was, what you saw was what you got, and what you got was a big warm smile, genuine, and full of love. She had strong principles that she believed in and lived by but she was never judgmental and loved people for what they were.

I won’t say she was a flashy person... I would say she would dress up and look beautiful for the public and her fans whom she loved.

She knew what was important especially when she was abroad. Meaning away from her family to make ends meet, she would send the proceeds to her family. When I met Rita, she was having gigs and continued doing public service for the elders of San Antonio. She also sang at Senior Centers and Flor de Chiapas Restaurant.

Luxury, to her, was a visit from her children, grandchildren, and loved ones. And as the family grew, she remained the nucleus of it, a focus of love and affection that radiated out and touched those of us who were privileged to know her strengths even through adversity.

She leaves behind a wonderful legacy. Rita Vidaurri songs are a part of literature of South Texas. And like books, they deserve to be preserved and remembered, appreciated and enjoyed by all—including audiences around the globe, Rita “La Calandria” will be remembered for her beauty and vibrant singing. She never doubted her own ability to sing. To have faith is to have wings and fly free without limitations. Rita, you once said that you were “a star at the wrong time.” But, just like a star you luminated and filled the audience with energy and love. A star to be remembered for infinity—*Su canto siguiera delitando aunque ya no estás aquí.*

Rita wasn’t one to make a fuss. But life dealt her a cruel blow when she lost her three adult sons. Every time she would belt out “Amor Eterno,” it was dedicated to her beloved sons. She knew it was my favorite as well, as it reminded me of my mother. But we know that right now she is in God’s Glory serenading her sons

and the rest of her loved ones in the audience of the Most High God with angel wings that she certainly deserves to have along with her many crowns.

Rita loved to sing along to songs on the radio and, of course, I cherished all those serenades during our drives to errands or her gigs. Rita knew she was limited to the music industry, but with her optimistic character and kindness she shared her story and talent with people who loved her.

It just seems unfair to lose one who was able to bring so much to those around her. But, we are glad that she no longer suffers from the health issues that afflicted her within the last few months.

We all have happy memories of Rita and these we hold dear in our hearts and cherish them as she cherished us. Her sister Yvonne Vidaurri was reminiscing about her older sister and said that Rita would shower them with beautiful gifts that she would send from her international performances.

Rita’s strength came from her



Rita with friends and musicians at Flor de Chiapas Restaurant.



Rita and Margaret celebrating Día de los muertos in 2018.

strong religious Catholic faith. She always told me “Déjale las cosas a Dios.”

We owe it to her to carry on supporting and looking after one another showing each other the same love that she did—so that our memories of her and her songs will not fade, but rather grow fonder as time goes on and we learn more of the compassionate Rita Vidaurri, “La Calandria.”

Amada Rita, Mama, as I sometimes called her—her cheerful and loving spirit has endured through all the heartaches and adversity. Your smiling face is on my mind as I write this. You showed us all what love is and that the quality of our relationships is what matters. You are very much loved by everyone as you can see—even though you are not physically here, at the moment. We love you and will dearly miss you. Vaya con Dios, y descansa en Paz, nuestra Querida Rita. Fue un placer conocerte, Amiga Mía.

*Con todo respeto y cariño,  
Margaret Vásquez (delivered at Rita’s Rosary)*

