

BIOGRAPHY

Singer. Composer. Pianist. Ethnomusicologist.

Juanita is one of America's leading musicians in the Latin American field, with five albums, two songbooks, a piano method book and numerous awards to her credit. She was trained as a classical mezzo-soprano and is an accomplished pianist. Juanita earned her music degrees at Yale and UC-Berkeley, trained at the Nice Conservatory in France, and has performed around the world with two solo tours in Spain, in addition to Peru and Mexico. She currently resides in Oakland, and works as a singer, composer, pianist, vocal trainer & voice-over talent.

Born in North America, into a bicultural American/Panamanian family, Juanita was raised in various Hispanic countries including Panama and Spain; but it was Mexico that captured her heart. As such, she has embraced Mexico's rich musical tradition, and has dedicated herself to performing ranchera songs, ballads and boleros in her own unique vocal style. She devotes her career to expanding the role of women in composing and performing Latin American music-performing in elegant concert and symphonic settings, and composing, producing and recording two recent CD's - "Mujeres" and "Mujeres y Mariachi" (Women; Women & Mariachi); both are a tribute to women composers of yesterday and today.

Bringing music and bilingualism to children is also something Juanita is passionate about. She wrote, performed and produced the award-winning audio and songbook series "Canta Conmigo" (Sing With Me): a three-volume *Parent's Choice* and *Parent's Council* award winning set that cultivates bilingualism in children and families through the use of both traditional and original music. Her songs for children have been published by such companies as MacMillan/McGraw-Hill (formerly Simon & Schuster), and Silver Burdett Ginn (Pearson Education, also known as Scott Foresman), for whom she consults, performs, and travels nationally, training teachers in vocal technique, repertoire, composition and bilingualism.

In keeping with her desire to see that Latin music receives more widespread recognition, Juanita has also served as a governor on the San Francisco board of NARAS- the Recording Academy for the Grammy awards, chairing the Latin Music Committee.

Juanita is most proud of her original music, which she performs with the group she founded in California: Mariachi Picante. This group is now an octet and performs music that has been described as "California contemporary mariachi sound" throughout California and Las Vegas. Mariachi Picante includes:

Juanita Ulloa,	Lead vocals, piano, composition
Ginny Morgan,	Viola, vocals
Manuel Constancio,	Guitar, requinto
Isaac Pena,	Trumpet, vocals
Ayla Davila,	Bass
Jose-Roberto Hernandez	Guitar, requinto, bongos
Carol Eacret,	Violin