

## **Mexican Mariachi Music: Made in the U.S.A." by Daniel Sheehy**

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### **Las Mañanitas**

"Las mañanitas" is one of the best known of all Mexican songs. While the term mañanitas (early morning) referred to songs of serenading for a variety of occasions, the song has become synonymous with birthday events. This recording, made by American herpetologist Charles Bogert on a field trip to Chapala, near Guadalajara in the state of Jalisco, was performed by Mariachi Águilas de Chapala and published by Folkways Records in 1960.

To listen to this track, it must be purchased through the [Smithsonian Folkways website](#). The piece was recorded on August 20, 1959 and published in 1960.

#### Lyrics First Verse

*Qué linda está la mañana en que vengo a saludarte.  
Venimos todos con gusto y placer a felicitarte.  
El día en que usted nació, nacieron todas las flores.  
Y en la pila del bautismo cantaron los ruiseñores.  
Ya viene amaneciendo, ya la luz del día nos dió.  
Levantese de mañana, mire que ya amaneció.*

#### Translated Lyrics First Verse

*How pretty is the morning, in which I come to salute you.  
We all come with enjoyment and pleasure to congratulate you.  
The day you were born, all the flowers were born.  
And in the baptismal font, the nightingales sang.  
Dawn is coming, the light has now hit us.  
Arise in the morning, see that it has already dawned.*

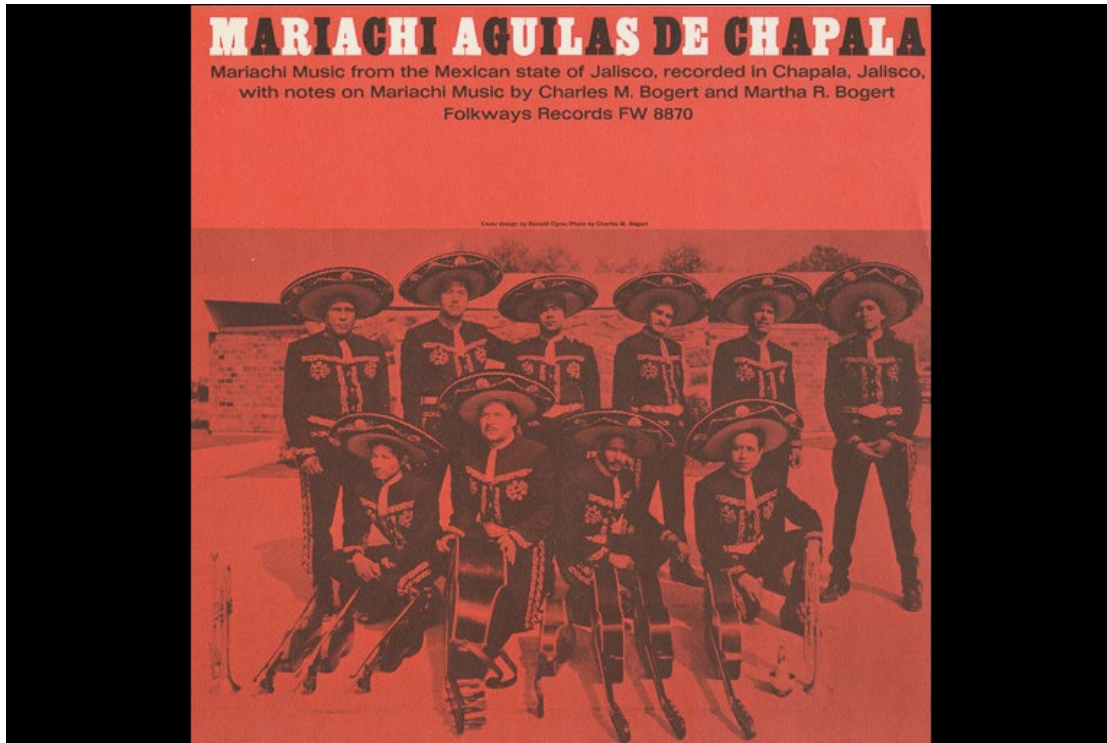


Figure 1: Album cover to *Mariachi Águilas de Chapala: Mariachi Music from the Mexican State of Jalisco*. Smithsonian Folkways FW8870, 1960. [www.folkways.si.edu](http://www.folkways.si.edu).

## El Cihualteco

This son jalisciense (Jalisco-style son) is typical of the son genre as played by the mariachi ensemble: driving rhythm in triple meter; strophic song structure, archetypical modern mariachi instrumentation. Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano, based in Los Angeles since 1961, has been a major force in what many people refer to as the "mariachi movement," hundreds of school mariachi programs and dozens of mariachi festivals throughout the United States. The piece was published in Los Angeles California by the Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano in 2002.

To listen to this track, it must be purchased through the [Smithsonian Folkways website](http://www.folkways.si.edu).

### Lyrics

*Arriba de Cihuatlán, le nombran Lago Escondido  
 Donde se van a bañar, cihualtecas de mi vida  
 Ay, sí, sí, ay, no, no, ay, sí, sí, ay, no, no.  
 Ay sí, ay no, ay sí, ay no.  
 De veras sí, de veras no, lo que te dije se te olvidó.  
 Al cabo sí, y al cabo no.*

*Cihualteco de me vida, dime ¿quién te bautizó?  
 ¿Quién te puso cihualteco, para que te cante yo?  
 Ay, sí, sí, ay no, no, ay, sí, sí, ay, no, no.*

*Ay sí, ay no, ay sí, ay no.  
De veras sí, de veras no, cuando ellas quieren no quiero yo.  
Al cabo sí, al cabo no.*

Translated Lyrics

*Above Cihuatlán, they call it Hidden Lake  
Where my beloved Cihualtecan girls go to bathe.  
Ay, yes, yes, ay, no, no, ay, yes, yes, ay, no, no.  
Ay, yes, ay no, ay yes, ay, no.  
Really yes, really no, what I told you, you forgot.  
In the end, yes, in the end, no.*

*My dear Cihualtecan, tell me who baptized you?  
Who named you Cihualtecan, so that I might sing to you?  
Ay, yes, yes, ay, no, no, ay, yes, yes, ay, no, no.  
Ay, yes, ay no, ay yes, ay, no.  
Really yes, really no, when the women love me, I don't want to.  
In the end, yes, in the end, no.*



Figure 2: Album cover to *¡Viva el Mariachi!*: Nati Cano's Mariachi Los Camperos. Smithsonian Folkways CD SFW 40459, 2002. [www.folkways.si.edu](http://www.folkways.si.edu).