

## An immaculate serenade

A translation of <https://campanitasdefe.com/2017/10/21/una-serenata-inmaculada/>.

***Summary.** This little bell tells the story of how the song “**Oh Virgen preferida**” (**Oh preferred Virgin**) came to me, which was performed **17 years later** at the “**Mañanitas de la Virgen de Guadalupe**,” right there in her **Basilica** in **Mexico City** in 2021. The definitive version, performed by **Fabiola Jaramillo**, may be heard **here**.*

*The song can also be heard and viewed in a YouTube video recorded in the **Basilica** by the end of the text.*

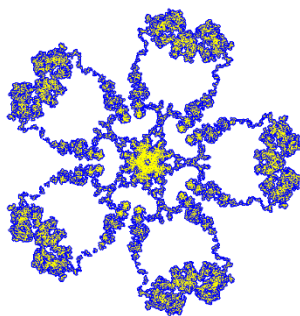
*The blog **Presentation** provides information about the purpose of these little bells and the blog **Organization** shows how the entries are grouped by categories. This entry belongs to the categories “**Mary mother of God**,” “**Virgin of Guadalupe**” and “**Colombian little bells**.”*

---

During our time away from our homeland we have had the joy of having good friends who have made the “**exile**” of living abroad more bearable. Prominent among them has been a faithful group here at **Davis** led by **José Nel Becerra** and **Tina Castillo**, who have also been strongholds for many Latin American students at the **University of California**.

Given their clear musical gifts and vital energy, for years they organized, with their sons **Felipe** and **Carlos** and various friends — among them **Fernando Duarte** and **Germán Vives** — a beautiful event called **La Serenata Colombiana** (The Colombian Serenade), which took place in the first week of December to make it coincide if possibly, although not religiously, with the “**day of the little candles**,” a preamble of the feast day to commemorate, on the day **8** of the rotated **infinity**, the **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary**.

To my joy, in 2004 I was invited for the first time to be part of the serenade and thus join “**Los Primos**” in the percussion section, in which I play almost as if I were **Cuban**. Before an enthusiastic audience, we performed **Colombian** songs from various regions of the country and I remember, with particular joy, the affection of the people and the delicious and refreshing “**agua de panela**” (sugar cane water) that was served at the end. It was a splendid day that gave rise to other presentations and many pleasant moments ...



... The following week was the last week of classes and I was very busy preparing a poster that I would present in **San Francisco** on December 14 at the Fall conference of the **American Geophysical Union**. The work was particularly relevant for me because it closed a trilogy based on my understanding *from Science to Faith*, daring to present to my colleagues, and in a disparate context, something truly unexpected: a model of the **Most Holy Trinity**, something similar to what not long ago I shared in **Rome** at a conference called *Let there be light!* — which also forms part of a series of recent and *short talks* prepared for this year **2025**, in which I refine this text.

Making a brief pause from the story, I cordially invite you to study such *talks*, and I say so precisely today, on this **ninth of December of 2025**, when I joyfully celebrate the **twenty-first anniversary** of my song to **Her, The Immaculate**, that **Holy Mother** whom we praise using various very well-deserved titles, even if they say to us that, from now on, some designations may be *inappropriate*. The *talks* are available *here*, and since they are my **pearl** as a scientist, I encourage you not to overlook them.

Returning to the original account, to avoid distractions at the university, I asked my **Marta** to let me work at home and to take away our daughters **Cristina** and **Mariana** in the afternoon, after school, so that I could better inspire myself. Contrary to my wishes, **Mariana**, who was then 5 years old and in kindergarten, burst into the office excitedly one day and asked me, *“Do you want to hear what I'm going to say next week?”* — that is, in a reenactment of **Christmas** where she was going to be an angel with silver wings and a halo and dressed in bright white — and, of course, I said yes. She told me full of enthusiasm and in English her memorized words, *“Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to people on whom his favor rests”* (Lk 2:14) and right then I knew, instantly, that I should no longer search for the expression needed to end my poster.

In the middle of the week, I received a call from my *“cousin”* **Marisa Escobar**, someone who I have considered more like a sister, in which she invited me to accompany the group the following Sunday when it was celebrated, on **December 12**, the day of **Our Lady of**

**Guadalupe**. I said yes with joy and in turn asked her what we would sing, and she told me that simply the same songs as in the serenade, just as they had done several times in the past. Knowing about the love of **Mexicans** and many others for their **Queen**, it seemed to me that this should not be the case because the songs we did, although beautiful, were not allusive to **Her**.

Thus, in the midst of writing the poster, the contribution of my **Mariana** and the fact that that Friday, on the last **hydrology** class, I would share the talk “*The hypotenuse the path of peace*” — nowadays also known as *From the Nobel prize to peace* — from the night of Thursday to Friday, from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> of December, I appropriated the melody of a heartfelt **Colombian** song called “*Pueblito Viejo*” by **Maestro José A. Morales**, which is like a national anthem and that we had performed in the serenade, and I changed the verses to write a song with the title “*Oh preferred Virgin!*” that you can hear, badly sung by me a cappella, [\*here\*](#).

From Friday to Saturday, after my conference in which I explained why it is good to avoid the **diabolical legs** of a right-angled triangle as they are related to **division** — also found on the recent series of **short talks** — I polished what I had written a little and sang the melody first to my in-laws **Enrique** and **Gloria** and then, by phone, to my parents **Carlos** and **Connie** in **Colombia**. They all liked it a lot and told me so excitedly and **Gloria** also shed some tears, which confirmed that the composition had turned out very well.

When the time came for the presentation, the next day on **Her** day, it was not performed, as it was not properly rehearsed, but days later, when the **Christmas novenas** began including cousins and non-cousins alike, the prayer, with a beautiful guitar introduction by my “**cousin**” and namesake **Carlos Rueda**, became the last **Christmas carol**, which was repeated like this for several years.

When I went to **San Francisco** on the 14<sup>th</sup>, and we were also celebrating one of my favorite saints **San Juan de la Cruz**, I dared to sing my tune before a replica of the miraculous tilma, this one made with multicolored mosaics, in the very beautiful **Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Assumption**, in which, today even in 2025, presides a faithful and brave **leader** with the “**heart of a lion**” who, on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the apparitions of the **Virgin in Fatima**, consecrated his **Archdiocese** to the **Immaculate Heart of Mary**.

By the way, the poster was well received by those who were destined to pay attention to it and on that beautiful day I had a sweet feeling of mission accomplished ...



... And well, having thought for years that my song could become a heartfelt ranchera to offer it to **Her** in the celebration of her *mañanitas*, the longed-awaited day arrived 17 years later as explained [here](#). Below are the final lyrics translated into English, followed by **Fabiola Jaramillo's** masterful interpretation of a beautiful arrangement by **Lázaro Alemán**, which expands the original version of the song with the addition of a stanza at the end. It is true, and I can say it, *faithful perseverance bears good fruit!*

*Long live the Virgin of Guadalupe! Mediatrix of all graces!* — that is, of the greatest grace of our *redemption* via the supreme *sacrifice* of **Jesus, Her Son**, crucified on the **cross** satisfying the expression **X = Y**, as elaborated on the most **urgent** of my *short talks*, the [third one](#).

*Long live the Queen of Tepeyac! Our Mother and Co-Redemptrix with Him! Long live Mary, Mother of God! Mary, the preferred one!*

## OH PREFERRED VIRGIN!

*To the Guadalupana!*



O preferred Virgin  
Queen of the heavens,  
faithful eternal promise  
a gift from God,  
in order to heal  
all the peoples,  
o divine Virgin  
with faith in love.

In the midst of evil  
dreaming with truths,  
and with the soul open  
wishing to prevail,  
I ask beloved Virgin  
o immaculate Mother,  
receive this tune  
and guide my steps.

Little beloved Virgin  
always fully in love,  
by your humble vows  
was born our good Lord:  
who taught us how to love  
with sap of your own,  
who quickly embraces us  
with a tender heart.

In this sacred day  
I bring you oh my chant,  
Mother of Guadalupe  
Virgin of Tepeyac,  
as it was with Juan Diego  
we reflect your enchantment,  
there comes a wise day  
and brotherhood reigns.

*(December 2004/December 2021)*



The final version of the song in Spanish can be heard and viewed [here](#) in a YouTube video, courtesy of ***Tony Estrella*** and ***ANESMA Networks...***