

Guantanamera

Josè Martí, born in 1853, was exiled from Cuba at the age of 17, for being a leader in the liberation movement. He spent most of his life in exile, including 12 years in New York City. He wrote 70 volumes of plays, novels, poetry, polemics. This is one of his last poems, written just before his death. He returned to Cuba at the age of 42, and was shortly after killed in an abortive uprising. In 1962 a young music student, Hector Angulo, fit the stanzas to a popular Cuban street song, which has known thousands of verses

at one time or another. The result is a love song of patriotism.

Music adaptation by Hector Angulo and Pete Seeger. Based on a composition by Joseito Fernandez. Lyrics adopted by Hector Angulo from a poem by Josè Martí.

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Yo soy un hom-bre sin-ce-ro de don-de

cre-ce la pal-ma Yo soy un hom-bre sin-ce-ro

de don-de cre-ce la pal-ma Y antes de

mo-rir me quie-ro e-char mis ver-sos del al-ma

Guan-ta-na-me-ra! Gua-ji-ra, Guan-ta-na-me-ra

Chorus:
Guan-ta-na-me-ra! Gua-ji-ra, Guan-ta-na-me-ra!

Mi verso es de una verde claro
Y de un carmín encendido,
Mi verso es de una verde claro
Y de un carmín encendido,
Mi verso es un ciervo herido
Que busca en el monte amparo

Con los pobres de la tierra
Quiero yo mi suerte echar
Con los pobres de la tierra
Quiero yo mi suerte echar
El arroyo de la sierra
Me complace mas que el mar!

Aus: Pete Seeger „The Bells of Rhydney“. Oak Pub. New York 1964.