MEXICAN CULTURAL CLASSICS

Canciones de Mi Corazón

A PERSONAL SONGBOOK • VOLUME THREE • SONG 026

La Golondrina (Las Golondrinas)

Mexico's great farewell melody: departure, exile, distance, and the hope of return

VOLUME THREE • CANCIONES DEL RECUERDO

Songs of life, death, farewell, homeland, longing, and remembrance - music that can make a gathering quiet, then make everyone sing together. This seven-page CMC module is low-ink, three-hole-punch ready, and copyright-respectful.

INSIDE THIS MASTER MODULE

- documented cultural history and authorship
- a copyright-respectful meaning map
- Mexican Spanish pronunciation and vocabulary
- listening and accompaniment guidance
- original rhythm/harmony practice
- a learn-perform-verify pathway

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The Song’s Story

NARCISO SERRADELL SEVILLA | 19TH CENTURY | FAREWELL

The Mexican farewell song commonly called *La Golondrina* - often referred to conversationally as *Las Golondrinas* - is associated with composer Narciso Serradell Sevilla. It became one of the country's enduring musical symbols of departure.

THE SWALLOW AS SYMBOL

The swallow naturally suggests migration and return. That image allows the song to serve many kinds of farewell: travel, exile, the closing of a gathering, or the departure of someone who may not return.

CEREMONIAL LIFE

Across generations, the melody has been used at departures and endings, giving it a place in public and private ritual beyond ordinary concert performance.

EDITORIAL NOTE

This module distinguishes the standard title *La Golondrina* while acknowledging the common plural reference. It does not reproduce the protected or historical lyric or melody in full.

Words and Meaning

A COPYRIGHT-RESPECTFUL CULTURAL MAP

Use these ideas to understand the work before consulting your authorized lyric source.

1 DEPARTURE

The song gives musical shape to the moment when someone must leave.

2 MIGRATION

The swallow links human movement with the natural cycle of leaving and returning.

3 UNCERTAINTY

Farewell carries the question: will we meet again?

4 CEREMONY

The melody's cultural role is often more important than any one singer's interpretation.

5 HOPE WITH SADNESS

The emotional balance is bittersweet - grief at leaving, but not necessarily hopelessness.

VOLUME THREE QUESTION

> How does this song hold sadness and life at the same time? What does it ask us to remember?

Pronunciation and Interpretation

MEXICAN SPANISH | CLEAR DICTION | EMOTIONAL TRUTH

TITLE

La Golondrina: approximately lah goh-lohn-DREE-nah.

VOCABULARY ANCHORS

golondrina = swallow; **partir** = to depart; **volver** = to return; **lejos** = far; **adiós** = goodbye.

SPEECH BEFORE SONG

If using an authorized lyric, speak it as farewell rather than as abstract poetry. Give each image time.

EXPRESSIVE ARC

Keep the tone flowing and dignified. Sentiment is strongest when the line moves naturally instead of being over-weighted.

PRACTICE METHOD

1. Speak the title three times naturally. 2. Read the authorized text as prose. 3. Circle cultural or geographic words. 4. Mark breaths. 5. Add pitch only after the meaning is clear.

Music and Accompaniment

LISTEN FIRST | PRACTICE WITHOUT COPYING THE MELODY

MUSICAL PROFILE

The melody has been arranged for voice, bands, orchestras, strings, and ceremonial ensembles. Historical and modern versions may differ.

WHAT TO LISTEN FOR

Listen for the rise-and-fall of long phrases and how cadences create the feeling of leaving and looking back.

ORIGINAL PRACTICE

This is not the melody. Use a gentle 3/4: 1-2-3. Practice F | C7 | F | Bb - C7 while breathing in four-measure arcs.

LISTENING ASSIGNMENT

Compare a vocal version and an instrumental farewell performance. What remains emotionally recognizable without words?

ENSEMBLE NOTE

Agree on tempo, introductions, instrumental responses, dynamic peaks, repetitions, and ending before a complete run. In remembrance music, silence and space can be as important as volume.

Learn, Perform & Verify

FROM CULTURAL MAP TO PERFORMANCE

1 LISTEN

Hear an authorized performance once for emotional character, then again for rhythm and accompaniment.

2 UNDERSTAND

Retell the five-part meaning map in your own words.

3 SPEAK

Read the authorized words as natural Spanish. Mark difficult words and breaths.

4 PULSE

Use the original Page 5 rhythm exercise without imitating the protected melody.

5 SING

Use authorized words and music. Prioritize diction, pulse, emotional honesty, and restraint.

6 PERFORM

Decide key, tempo, cues, instrumental breaks, dynamics, repetitions, and final cutoff.

TWO-MINUTE REHEARSAL

Say *La Golondrina (Las Golondrinas)* three times cleanly. Explain in one sentence what this song asks us to remember. Clap four measures of the Page 5 exercise, then move to authorized music.

CREDITS AND RIGHTS

Cultural summary, English sense guide, pronunciation guidance, original exercises, compilation, and editorial design prepared for this project. Project and editorial direction: Samuel Colton Sr., Founder, Welders Without Borders. This V0001 module is educational and does not grant lyric-reproduction, arrangement, recording, synchronization, or performance rights.

SOURCES CHECKED - OCTOBER 4, 2026

Standard Mexican music histories and catalog records attribute La Golondrina to Narciso Serradell Sevilla; the work has a long-standing cultural association with farewell and departure. Direct full lyrics and melody were not reproduced.

Authorized Music Insert

A PLACE FOR YOUR LEGALLY OBTAINED COPY

PURPOSE

This divider marks the place for the learner's authorized lyrics, sheet music, or other licensed song material for *La Golondrina (Las Golondrinas)*. The CMC companion module prepares you to understand and learn the work; the authorized source supplies protected words, melody, or arrangement.

HOW TO USE THIS PAGE

Place your legally purchased, public-domain, or otherwise properly obtained music directly behind this divider. Print, copy, download, or hole-punch material only when the source and its license permit that use.

CMC BOUNDARY

This page intentionally contains no full copyrighted lyric, melody transcription, or copied commercial arrangement. Traditional works can also exist in copyrighted modern arrangements, so the source used for performance still matters.

Insert authorized La Golondrina (Las Golondrinas) music behind this page.

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