



Latin American Studies: The NPR Archive, 1979-1990

Two radio programs that brought a voice to Latino/a issues and a new generation of Latino/a journalists

Latin American Studies: The NPR Archive, 1979-1990 showcases three radio programs available for the first time in audio with transcripts: the weekly Spanish-language programs Enfoque Nacional and Panorama Hispano, along with the daily English-language Latin File. This archive includes 500 episodes (30 minutes each of Enfoque Nacional with coverage from 1979 to 1988, 160 episodes (30 minutes each) of Panorama Hispano from 1984–1987, and 414 episodes (15 minutes each) of Latin File which aired from 1988 to 1990. These episodes focus on Latino/a issues related to politics, sociology, human rights, the arts and more including interviews with key figures and coverage of important historical events, all reported by a new generation of Latino/a journalists at the time.

Key Figures

- Carmen Delgado Votaw
- Carmen Zapata
- Cesar Chavez
- Dolores Huerta
- Dolores Prida
- Efren Herrera
- Gloria Estefan
- Jaime Escalante
- Machito
- Mercedes Sosa
- Pedro J. Gonzalez
- Tito Puente
- Willie Velasquez

Events

- The Falklands War
- First National Hispanic Theater Conference
- Independence Movement in Puerto Rico
- Mariel Boatlift
- Mass Murder at San Ysidro McDonald's
- Panama Canal Treaties
- Salvadoran Civil War Events

Organizations

- La Raza National Council
- Puerto Rican Legal Defense & Education Fund
- Radio Venceremos
- Teatro Campesino
- Teatro Escambray
- United Farmworkers

Journalists

- Claudio Sanchez
- Elizabeth Perez-Luna
- Gerardo Torres
- Ingrid Ciprian-Matthews
- Jose McMurray
- Maria Hinojosa
- Maria Martin



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These shows were on the air during a dynamic period of history. The stories and segments covered the movements and ideologies that influenced and shaped the emerging Latino/a identity, discussed the realities of immigration and forced migration, and documented civil war and unrest in many parts of Latin America. In addition to coverage of major news events, the news magazine featured stories about Latino/a art, culture, and history.

More about *Enfoque Nacional*

This weekly news magazine was co-produced by NPR and member station KPBS in San Diego, California, that aired from 1979 until 1988 and leveraged a network of over 80 Latino/a journalists located across the United States and Latin America. The program covered international events and news of interest to the Latino/a communities in the United States, fulfilling NPR's original mission to "speak with many voices and many dialects" and creating an invaluable primary source collection of Spanish-language media.

Often described as a Spanish-language version of NPR's All Things Considered, it featured interviews with influential Latino/a people and stories about politics, music, and culture relevant to Latino/a communities. *Enfoque Nacional* was defined by high-quality journalism, innovative storytelling through sound, in-depth reporting and a commitment to public service.

It ceased in 1988 and was replaced by Latin File, an English-language program covering similar topics, from 1988 to 1990.



More about *Latin File*

This was a daily 15-minute broadcast that started in 1988, edited by Maria Martin, who went on to host *Latino USA* in the early 1990s after leaving NPR following the program being canceled after a year and a half. This show presented Hispanic American perspectives on current U.S. events featuring human interest stories on arts, business, and politics. NPR assembled a network of freelancers located in cities across the U.S. to gather several voices and perspectives. The history of NPR and Latino/a programs and audiences is the subject of many studies.

A sampling of segments in the different episodes includes:

- Casa Romero: Catholic Refugee Center, Texas
- Central American Refugee Children War Trauma
- "Cristina": Spanish-Language Talk Show
- Cuban Americans Want Relation with Cuba
- Dukakis Media Campaign For Hispanic Audience
- Farmworkers Become Legal, Find New Jobs
- "Huayucalita": La Based Latino Music Group
- Latina Actress, Activist Rita Moreno
- "Los Vecinos": New Style Female Merengue Band
- Mariachi Folk Music: Revival Among Youth
- Mexican-American Poet, Sandra Cisneros
- Nicaraguans In Miami: New Power Base
- Teatro Nuestro Performs In Migrant Camps
- Tortillas As A Mystical Experience
- United Farmworkers Union & Grape Boycott



More about *Panorama Hispano*

Panorama Hispano was a nationally broadcasted radio program in Spanish that vigorously aimed to promote and showcase the rich cultural and artistic achievements of the Hispanic communities in the United States and their countries of origin. The 30-minute program, which launched in 1984 and was produced by Vidal Guzmán and Carmen Jackson of Radio WHA in Madison, Wisconsin, had a significant purpose: to unify the diverse Hispanic cultures in the United States and to share their cultural knowledge with a broader audience.

This program provided:

- **In-depth Interviews:** The program conducted interviews with notable figures of the times, including cultural icons, academics and experts, and community leaders. These contemporaneous interviews offered firsthand perspectives on their contributions to Hispanic culture and society.
- **Social and Political Analysis:** Panorama Hispano addressed pertinent issues with topics such as language, identity, and political satire.
- **Educational Content:** From exploring myths and legends to discussing historical events and linguistic nuances, this program offered educational enrichment, enhancing listeners' understanding of Hispanic heritage.

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