Celebrating Hispanic Heritage

Materials related to "Celebrating Hispanic Heritage" in the collections of the Center for Popular Music, Middle Tennessee State University.

Compiled by: Jacob York, September-October 2026

What is Hispanic Heritage Month?

In the United States, Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated annually between September 15th and October 15th. Hispanic is defined by Meriam Webster as relating to or being a native of Spanish-speaking Latin America or a descendant of such a person. Hispanic Heritage Month serves as an opportunity to celebrate the contributions of people from all walks of Hispanic culture. Initially, President Lyndon B. Johnson issued the first proclamation for a National Hispanic Heritage Week on September 17, 1968. Presidential support for the Heritage Week continued through the Nixon, Ford, Carter, and Reagan administrations. By 1989, legislation had been passed expanding the weeklong celebration to a full month and George H.W. Bush issued the first proclamation for a 31-day Hispanic Heritage Month on September 14, 1989. The timing of Hispanic Heritage Month is significant because several Central American, Spanish-speaking countries celebrate their independence during this period, beginning on September 15th with Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. By recognizing these dates relating to independence, Hispanic Heritage Month celebrates the resilience and cultural contributions of Hispanic communities. Hispanic music has played an important role in shaping both American and global music culture, influencing artists, genres, and musical traditions around the world. The widespread growth of Hispanic music across the 20th and 21st centuries has provided a channel for preservation and celebration of Hispanic history and heritage.

What can this Hispanic music research guide do for me?

This guide will provide a few resources to help you understand the ways that Hispanic music can frame your historical research and broaden your understanding of popular music in the United States and globally. The types of primary and secondary sources included in this guide are sheet music, songbooks, sound recordings, photos, periodicals, and other secondary source books.

Additional research materials are included at the end of this research guide. These materials include outside databases, online repositories, and online exhibits with information about Hispanic music in the United States to help broaden your understanding and research.

"How do I search for these primary source materials?"

Most of these primary source materials are searchable through the Center's website. To search for these materials online, visit the CPM's website. The catalog will search for materials in the following collection categories: Manuscript Collections, Rare Books, and Scores; Song Broadsides (which are inexpensive printed sheets of paper that normally only contain the lyrics to one or more songs); Posters, Playbills, and Programs; trade Catalogs, Photographs; and Periodicals: Secondary Collection.

At the Center:

To search for Sound Recordings, please visit the catalog database or email the Center at popular.music@mtsu.edu

Some photographic and manuscript materials also require staff assistance to locate. Please contact **Archivist** with any questions.

"What secondary source materials do you have?"

To search for secondary Source Materials available in the Center's Reading Room—go to MTSU's Walker Library catalog and use search terms like fill in with appropriate search terms.

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Primary Sources

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Sheet Music

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Estefan, Gloria, Miami Sound Machine. *Let It Loose*. Los Angeles: Epic, 1987. | **Call Number: Epic OE 40769**

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<u>Secondary Sources</u>

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Broyles-González, Yolanda. *Lydia Mendoza's Life in Music: Norteño Tejano Legacies = La Historia de Lydia Mendoza*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2001.| **Call Number: ML420.M3768 B76 2001**

More Resources for Research

Other Databases, Repositories. and Online Resources:

Archives + Special Collections: Latin American Music Center: Indiana University

Hispanic Archives – Texas Music History

Introduction - Mexico: Hispanic Reading Room Country Guide - Research Guides at Library of Congress

Hispanic Heritage Month Resources | National Museum of the American Latino