

Short Biography for use in event programs:

Jose Feliciano

The name Feliciano is synonymous with MUSIC. It is synonymous with an international presence that has influenced popular music for more than two generations. It is synonymous with a presence that has bridged musical styles in a way that has never been equaled. Jose Feliciano is recognized as the first Latin Artist to cross over into the English music market, opening the doors to others who now play an important part in the American music industry. As importantly, Feliciano has been acclaimed by critics throughout the world as "the greatest living guitarist". Guitar Player Magazine awarded him "Best Pop Guitarist" placing him in their "Gallery of the Greats" and he's been voted both Best Jazz and Best Rock Guitarist in the Playboy Magazine reader's poll, as well. He's been awarded over forty-five Gold and Platinum records; has won sixteen Grammy nominations, earning him six Grammy Awards and is in receipt of countless prestigious awards the world over. In 1996, Jose Feliciano was selected to receive Billboard Magazine's Lifetime Achievement Award and New York City honored him by re-naming Public School 155 in East Harlem, "The Jose Feliciano Performing Arts School." And In 2001, Jose received a Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Connecticut, for his musical as well as humanitarian contributions to the world.

Being constantly in demand around the world, Jose has performed for and with some of the most important people on Earth. He enjoys playing with many of the top Symphony Orchestras including the Boston Pops, the London Symphony, the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Vienna Symphony Orchestra. He's appeared on major television shows worldwide, has done a number of his own specials and his music has been featured on television, in films and on the stage.

Jose was born blind, to humble beginnings on September 10, 1945, in Lares, Puerto Rico. One of eleven boys, his love affair with music began at the age of three when he first accompanied his uncle on a tin cracker can. When he was five, his family immigrated to New York City. Young Jose learned to play the concertina at age six, using a handful of records as his teacher. At eight, he performed for his classmates at PS 57, and at nine, performed at The Puerto Rican Theater in the Bronx. Venturing beyond the accordion, he taught himself to play the guitar with undaunted determination and again, with nothing but records as his teacher, practicing for as many as 14 hours a day. Exposed to the rock-n-roll of the 50's, Jose was then inspired to sing.

The world has enjoyed many Feliciano songs, including: "Rain", "Chico And the Man", "California Dreamin'", "Destiny", "Affirmation", "Ay Cariño", "Ponte A Cantar", "Cuando El Amor Se Acaba", "Porque Te Tengo Que Olvidar?" and countless others. Feliciano's contributions to the music industry have been far reaching -- spanning generations and continents while emphasizing cultural diversity and mutual acceptance, enhanced significantly by his unsurpassed musical integrity. When Jose made a cameo appearance in the Academy Award Winning motion picture "Fargo" in 1995, he performed one such important self-penned composition, entitled, "Let's Find Each Other Tonight", demonstrating his strengths as a songwriter as well as a performer. Jose is once again charting new territory as one of the first artists to offer his music for sale directly to his fans. His critically acclaimed album, "Six-String Lady", Jose's first instrumental album ever, has been selling briskly on his website www.josefeliciano.com.

Jose's gifts of time, treasure and talent have earned him, over the years, the reputation of

great humanitarian and 'Ambassador of Good Will' throughout the world. "I'll never forget where I came from or the people who helped my family or me along the way". For this reason, Jose will often lend a hand or his name in support of causes that he believes are important. Even though Jose has recorded nearly 70 albums in his impressive career, he still is humble with all the successes he has had and, remarkably, feels that he has just started to share his talents with the world.