

GUANTANAMERA

Woman from Guantanamo

José Martí

José Fernandez
arr. Gene Glickman

ff Refrain $\text{♩} = c.112$

S Guan-tan-a-me-ra gua-ji-ra Guan-tan-a-me-ra

A Guan-tan-a-me-ra (la li-ber-tad) Guan-tan-a-me-ra (pa-ra nue-stros pueb-los)

T Guan-tan-a-me-ra (la li-ber-tad) Guan-tan-a-me-ra (pa-ra nue-stros pueb-los)

B Guan-tan-a-me-ra (la li-ber-tad) Guan-tan-a-me-ra (pa-ra nue-stros pueb-los)

5

Guan-tan-a-me-ra___ gua-ji-ra Guan-tan-a-me-ra. *Fine* Guan-tan-a-

Guan-tan-a-me-ra___ gua-ji-ra Guan-tan-a-me-ra. Guan-tan-a-

Guan-tan-a-me-ra___ gua-ji-ra Guan-tan-a-me-ra. Verse 1 Guan-tan-a-

Guan-tan-a-me-ra___ gua-ji-ra Guan-tan-a-me-ra. Yo soy un hom-bre sin-ce-ro

10

me-ra,___ Guan-tan-a-me-ra,___ Guan-tan-a-me-ra. De don-de

me-ra,___ Guan-tan-a-me-ra,___ Guan-tan-a-me-ra. De don-de

me-ra,___ Guan-tan-a-me-ra,___ Guan-tan-a-me-ra. De don-de

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

15

cre - ce la pal - ma Y an - tes de mo - rir - me quie - ro E - char mis

cre - ce la pal - ma (¡Li - bertad!) Y an - tes de mo - rir - me quie - ro E - char mis

cre - ce la pal - ma (¡Li - bertad!) Y an - tes de mo - rir - me quie - ro E - char mis

cre - ce la pal - ma (¡Li - bertad!) Y an - tes de mo - rir - me quie - ro E - char mis

19

To Refrain,
then to verse 2.

ver - sos del al - ma. Verse 2 Guan - tan - a - me - ra, Guan - tan - a -

ver - sos del al - ma. Mi ver - so es de un ver - de cla - ro Y de un car - mín en - cen - di - do:

ver - sos del al - ma. Guan - tan - a - me - ra, Guan - tan - a -

ver - sos del al - ma. Guan - tan - a - me - ra, Guan - tan - a -

24

me - ra, Guan - tan - a - me - ra. Y de un car - mín en - cen - di - do:

mi ver - so es de un ver - de cla - ro Y de un car - mín en - cen - di - do:

me - ra, Guan - tan - a - me - ra. Y de un car - mín en - cen - di - do:

me - ra, Guan - tan - a - me - ra. Y de un car - mín en - cen - di - do:

mf *f* *To Refrain, then to verse 3*

— Mi ver-so_es un cier-vo_he-ri - do Que bus-ca_en el mon-te_am-pa - ro

mf *f*

(¡Li-ber-tad!) Mi ver-so_es un cier-vo_he-ri - do Que bus-ca_en el mon-te_am-pa - ro.

mf *f*

(¡Li-ber-tad!) Mi ver-so_es un cier-vo_he-ri - do Que bus-ca_en el mon-te_am-pa - ro. Verse 3

mf *f* *p*

(¡Li-ber-tad!) Mi ver-so_es un cier-vo_he-ri - do Que bus-ca_en el mon-te_am-pa - ro. Yo sé de_un

p

Guan - tan - a - me - ra, — Guan - tan - a - me - ra, — Guan - tan - a -

p

Guan - tan - a - me - ra, — Guan - tan - a - me - ra, — Guan - tan - a -

p

Guan - tan - a - me - ra, — Guan - tan - a - me - ra, — Guan - tan - a -

pe - sar pro-fun-do En-tre las pe - nas sin nom-bres: Yo sé de_un pe - sar pro-fun-do

mp *mf*

me - ra. En-tre las pe - nas sin nom-bres: — ¡La_es-cla-vi - tud de los hom - bres_

mp *mf*

me - ra. En-tre las pe - nas sin nom-bres: (¡Li - ber-tad!) ¡La_es-cla-vi - tud de los hom - bres_

mp *mf*

me - ra. En-tre las pe - nas sin nom-bres: (¡Li - ber-tad!) ¡La_es-cla-vi - tud de los hom - bres_

mp *mf*

En-tre las pe - nas sin nom-bres: (¡Li - ber-tad!) ¡La_es-cla-vi - tud de los hom - bres_

42

f Es la gran pe-na del mun - do! *To Refrain, then to verse 4* *p* Guan - tan - a - me - ra, —

Es la gran pe-na del mun - do! *p* Verse 4 Con los pob - res de la tie-rra Quie-ro yo

Es la gran pe-na del mun - do! *p* Guan - tan - a - me - ra, —

Es la gran pe-na del mun - do! *f* *p* Guan - tan - a - me - ra, —

47

mp Guan - tan - a - me - ra, — Guan - tan - a - me - ra. Quie-ro yo mi suer - te_e-char: —

mi suer-te_e-char: *mp* Con los pob-res de la tie-rra Quie-ro yo mi suer - te_e-char: (¡la

mp Guan - tan - a - me - ra, — Guan - tan - a - me - ra. Quie-ro yo mi suer - te_e-char: (¡la

mp Guan - tan - a - me - ra, — Guan - tan - a - me - ra. Quie-ro yo mi suer - te_e-char: (¡la

52

mf El a-rro - yo de la sie - rra — *f* Me com-pla - ce más que el mar. *D.C. al Fine*

mf Li - ber-tad!) El a-rro - yo de la sie - rra — *f* Me com-pla - ce más que el mar.

mf Li - ber-tad!) El a-rro - yo de la sie - rra — *f* Me com-pla - ce más que el mar.

mf Li - ber-tad!) El a-rro - yo de la sie - rra — *f* Me com-pla - ce más que el mar.

This song by José Fernandez comes from Cuba. The text was written about a century ago by José Martí, an important Cuban poet, as well as “the Father of his Country.” The words come from a very long poem of Martí’s called *Versos Sencillos* (Simple Poetry). “These four verses were chosen by members of one of the choruses I conduct; any number of other verses would have also worked well.”

The music is derived from a pre-existing Cuban song/dance form which makes the words of the *Refrain* much older than Martí’s verses. Apparently someone familiar with both the song and Martí’s poetry realized that the scansion of the poem would match the rhythm of the song’s verse and joined them together. The song has been widely sung in the USA by Pete Seeger.

“Guantanamera” is a woman from Guantanamo, the southeasternmost region of the island of Cuba. “Guajira” is a peasant woman. Thus the *Refrain* refers to a peasant woman from Guantanamo.

Estrillo

Guantanamera guajira
Guantanamera (la libertad),
Guantanamera guajira
Guantanamera (para nuestros pueblos).

Refrain

... (liberty)
... (for our people).

Estrofa 1

Yo soy un hombre sincero
De donde crece la palma,
Y antes de morirme quiero
Echar mis versos del alma. *Estrillo.*

Verse 1

I am an honest man
from where the palm tree grows;
and before I die, I want
to release my soul’s poetry. *Refrain.*

Estrofa 2

Mi verso es de un verde claro
Y de un carmín encendido:
Mi verso es un ciervo herido
Que busca en el monte amparo. *Estrillo.*

Verse 2

My verse is of pale green
and of flaming crimson;
my verse is a wounded stag
that seeks sanctuary in the woods. *Refrain.*

Estrofa 3

Yo se de un pesar profundo
Entre las penas sin nombres:
¡La esclavitud de los hombres
Es la gran pena del mundo! *Estrillo.*

Verse 3

I know of one profound sorrow
among the nameless tragedies:
the slavery of human beings
is the great tragedy of the world! *Refrain.*

Estrofa 4

Con los pobres de la tierra
Quiero yo mi suerte echar:
El arroyo de la sierra
Me complace mis que el mar. *Estrillo.*

Verse 4

With the humble of the earth
I want to cast my lot;
a mountain stream
means more to me than the ocean. *Refrain.*

Gene Glickman was born in New York City in 1934. After earning degrees at Queens College and Hunter College of the the City University of New York, he received a Doctorate in Musical Composition from Indiana University in 1962. Instead of continuing to write concert music, he became the music director of several theater groups in the Sixties—the Labor Theater, Modern Times Theater, and The New York Street Theater Caravan. Later he became the conductor/arranger for several amateur community choruses including *Four Parts of the Movement Chorus*, *The New York City StreetSingers*, and *Rainbow Voices*. Most of Gene’s academic life was spent teaching various music and mult-idisciplinary courses at Nassau Community College on Long Island. He has also served as a visiting and adjunct professor of music at Adelphi University, Queens College of CUNY, and the Muzička Akademija in Sarajevo, Bosnia.