Mano a Mano: Cuatro Canciones Sefardíes

A short set of Sephardic songs

A short concert offering from mezzo-soprano Fanny Lora and classical guitarist Dave McLellan: four Sephardic songs by Joaquín Rodrigo, sung in Ladino, framed by a spoken introduction and a warm closing with the audience. Made for Jewish community centers, schools, congregations, and cultural events.

The music



Joaquín Rodrigo, Spain's most beloved composer for the classical guitar, wrote *Cuatro canciones sefardíes* in 1965. Its four songs set anonymous texts in Ladino, the Judeo-Spanish language carried by Sephardic communities across the Mediterranean, adapted for the composer by his wife Victoria Kamhi, herself of Turkish Sephardic descent. We perform the set in its version for voice and guitar.

1. **Respóndemos**
   A fervent invocation to the God of Abraham: slow, chant-like, and melismatic.
2. **Una pastora yo amí**
   A melancholy love song: a shepherdess adored since childhood who does not love him back.
3. **Nani, nani**
   A tender lullaby: a mother sings her child to sleep while the father works the fields.
4. **"Morena" me llaman**
   A playful, rhythmic closer: "They call me dark, but I was born fair."

The artists

Fanny Lora

Mezzo-soprano

Fanny Lora is a Dominican-American mezzo-soprano, certified Alexander Technique teacher, and founder of the concert series Mano a Mano. She performs Hispanic classical music and creates original concert programs that bring music, movement, and story into conversation.



Dave McLellan

Classical guitar

Dave McLellan is an award-winning classical guitarist and accompanist who has been performing in the U.S., South America, Great Britain, and Europe since 1976. He has appeared in major concert halls such as Carnegie Hall, Merkin Hall, and Wigmore Hall in London, and concertized for years with duo partner Neil Anderson as the Anderson-McLellan Duo.

The performance

Music	About 10 minutes: four songs for voice and classical guitar
The full visit	Introduction, set, and a warm closing with the audience; about 25 to 30 minutes together
Format	Voice and classical guitar, fully acoustic. No piano, staging, or amplification needed
A natural fit for	Jewish community centers, congregations, schools, Sephardic heritage programs, and cultural festivals

The fee covers both artists, the preparation of the program, and a visit of up to an hour, travel included within Greater Boston and MetroWest. The set asks very little of the venue: two chairs, an open space, and your community.

Mano a Mano: Cuatro Canciones Sefardíes, performed live — **$600**

Both artists, spoken introduction and closing, local travel included

> **Longer programs.** The set can also anchor a longer program: our full concert, *Two Languages, One Voice*, runs about an hour and can be quoted on request.

Booking and questions: Fanny Lora · fannylora@fannylora.com · www.fannylora.com · Holliston, MA · Prepared November 8, 2026