# THE LATIN AMERICAN STRING COLLECTION 30 SONGS IN AUTHENTIC STYLES WITH ACCOMPANIMENT TRACKS

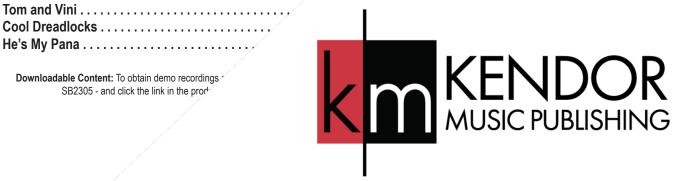
### **VIOLIN**

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### **MARK CONTRERAS GÓMEZ**



Mark began his musical training in the National System of Youth and Children Orchestras of Venezuela, where he participated as concertmaster in the school orchestras (children and youth) of the Táchira State, and with which he toured nationally and internationally.

Later on, he joined the Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra, participating as soloist in several occasions, as well as in its different tours and festivals. At the same time, he completed his studies as a Technical Engineer in Computer Science.

He moved to Caracas to conclude his musical studies at the National Conservatory Juan José Landaeta, where he participated as concertmaster for two courses in his orchestra and obtained the title of Superior Professor of Violin with the highest qualifications

Established in Caracas, he participates in various group of different genres: Jazz, tango, salsa, traditional Venezuelan music, etc. playing in the most prestigious cultural centers of the country.

Coinciding with the culmination of his studies at the conservatory, he won the competition to join the Caracas Municipal Symphony Orchestra, in which he participated for three years in the first violin row, as well as soloist in various festivals; there he worked with world-class conductors and soloists, covering a large number of ballet and opera cycles.

In Spain, he participates in different musical groups: Orchestras dedicated to zarzuela, early music or chamber music. This combined with teaching the instrument in public and private institutions in Madrid. He completed his degree in pedagogy at the National University of Distance Education.

He currently works or the music school Juventudes Musicales de Musicaeduca, where he has developed the methodology to initiate children in music through the instrument: Mi Violín y Mi Guitarra. He is also the author of the books of initiation to the instrument: DeViolín 1 and 2.

### THE LATIN AMERICAN STRING COLLECTION

The Latin American String Collection is an authentic resource for the modern string. American Composer, Mark Contreras Gómez brings a wealth of experience making it a trusted choice for your students. Explore Latin American style unique histories with information included by the composer on each and ing tracks have been carefully curated and performed by the composer performance versions, and performance demos for use while probook itself, is laid out with a strong focus on pedagogic sedances as the musician progresses. The book is divided.

Second Finger, Third Finger, Fourth Finger and Chrome festival adjudication – this new collection is a must



### 1 – Joropo

The extensive plains region of "Los Llanos" is divided between Colombia and Venezuela. Raising cattle is the main commercial activity there and the main musical rhythms of the region are the Joropo and the Tonada. This song features some of the typical instruments of the style: the Cuatro (shaped like a small Guitar), Harp and Maracas.

### **Buffalos & Cows**

Violin



#### 2 – Rumba

Rumba is considered the mother of many Latin American rhythms including Salsa and Mambo. This style has its roots in Africa, where percussion has an important role. Often this type of music does not include melodic or harmonic instruments. Several Congas, a pair of Palitos, Claves, a lead vocalist and chorus accompany the dancers.

### That's My Rumba

Violin

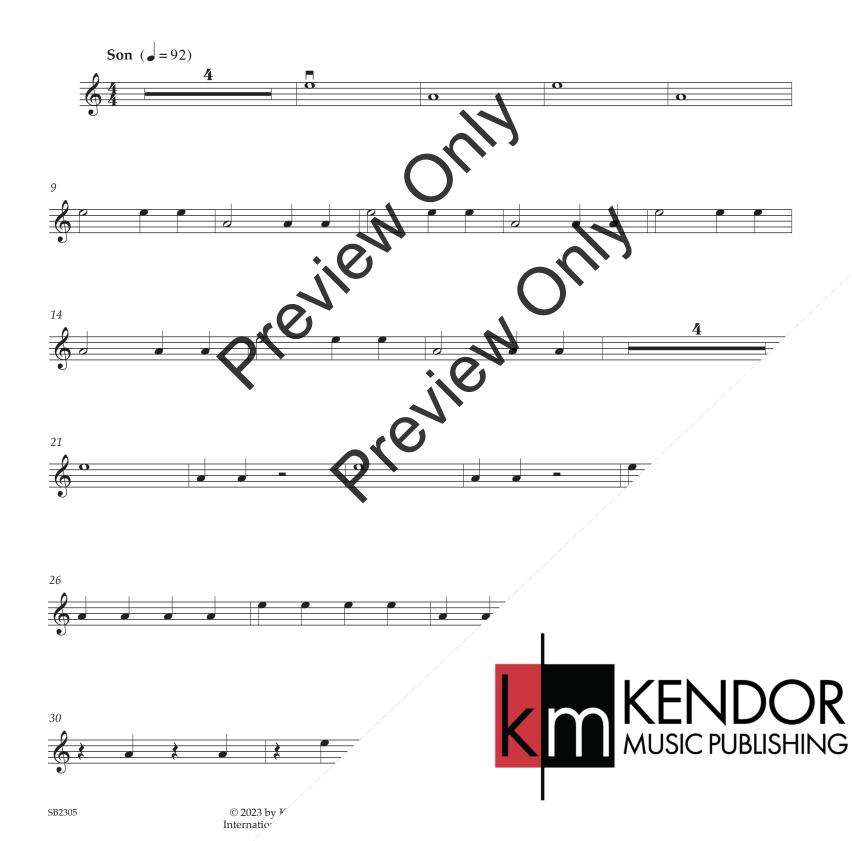


### 3-Son

The "Son" was born in Cuba at the end of the 19th century and a few years later, it had gained great fame in Europe and the United States. The title of this song refers to the founder of the Matamoros Trio, Miguel, who was a prolific Cuban composer and influential musician in the development of Son.

### Hi Miguel!

Violin



### 4 – Tango

Chimichurri is a seasoned sauce, sometimes spicy, and is the basic ingredient of any Argentine barbecue. This sauce is as traditional as Tango, which is based on distinctive and passionate rhythm. The Bandoneon is the key instrument in the sound of Tango along with Violins, Piano, Bass, Guitar, and Drums. Tango is one of the most influential and recognizable dances of modern history.

### Chimichurri

Violin







### 5 – Cumbia

Barú is a peninsula located south of Cartagena de Indias, Colombia and is the home of one of the happiest rhythms and dances called Cumbia. This is the national dance of Colombia and is the source and inspiration behind much of the country's popular music. This song features the main instruments of the style: Accordion and Tambora.

### Barú

Violin







#### 6 – Bossa Nova

The Brazilian Bossa Nova was born in 1958, the same year that Brazil won the soccer World Cup with the young superstar Pelé. Tom Jobim wrote the music and Vinicius de Moraes wrote the music for the Bossa Nova classic *Chega de Saudade (No More Blues)* which along with *The Girl from Ipanema* became the signature songs of this style.

### Young Pelé

Violin



### 7 – Merengue

The Dominican Republic is the home of the popular music and dance called Merengue. Beans are a staple of the diet there and are always accompanied by tostones, a rich, fried green plantain. Just like this popular dish Merengue is present at all parties and popular celebrations. This style of music often uses Accordion, Tambora and Güira to give it a distinctive sound and feel.

### **Habichuelas with Tostones**

Violin

MARK CONTRERAS GÓMEZ



### 8 – Reggae

Reggae was born in Jamaica in the mid-twentieth century and is one genre that gives music to the philosophical and spiritual movement called Rastafari. Currently there are festivals around the world where its greatest performers are featured. Irie is a key word in this culture. It means that everything is fine or that there is no problem, and everything is at peace.

#### Irie

Violin







#### 9 – Mariachi

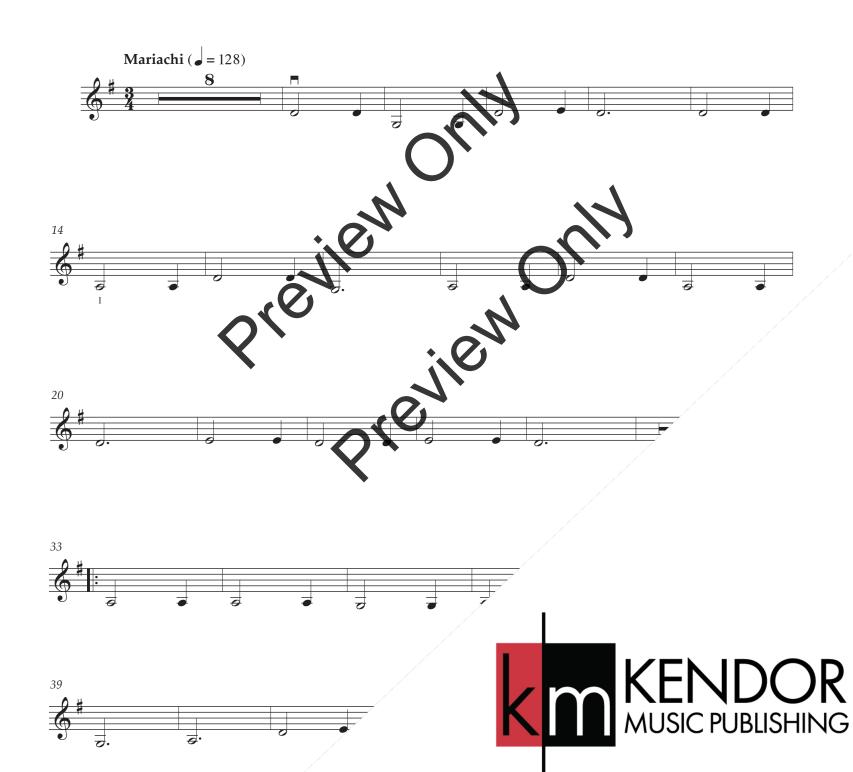
Although Mariachi music is the most internationally known Mexican music, it is only one genre of the immense musical range found in this country. Typical Mariachi groups have Violins, Trumpets, and several types of Guitars, like Vihuela and Guitarrón. In Mexico, you might refer to a child as chavo.

### The Happy Chavo

Violin

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#### 10 – Bolero

Bolero was the main musical genre in Latin America at the beginning of the 20th century and has its roots in Guitar trios. This was a typical group that would gather in the evening under the window of a woman to be courted or celebrated for a special occasion. Think of this style of music as a romantic serenade.

### My Love

Violin

MARK CONTRERAS GÓMEZ



#### 11 – Mambo

Mambo originated in Cuba at the beginning of the 20th century. The famous Bass player Israel López, known as "Cachao", was one of its inventors and main promoters throughout the world. Another influential musician of mambo was Timbale king Tito Puente who had a band with powerful brass which is a characteristic sound of the genre.

### Cachao's Bass

Violin

MARK CONTRERAS GÓMEZ



#### 12 – Cumbia

One of the main cities of Colombia is Barranquilla which is the cradle of a festive and spontaneous culture, typical of the curramberos. This city is known as the golden gate of Colombia because it was the first port through which gold, silver and other exports left to be shipped around the world. Barranquilla is also famous for its four-day carnival which often features Cumbia music.

### A Golden Gate

Violin

MARK CONTRERAS GÓMEZ



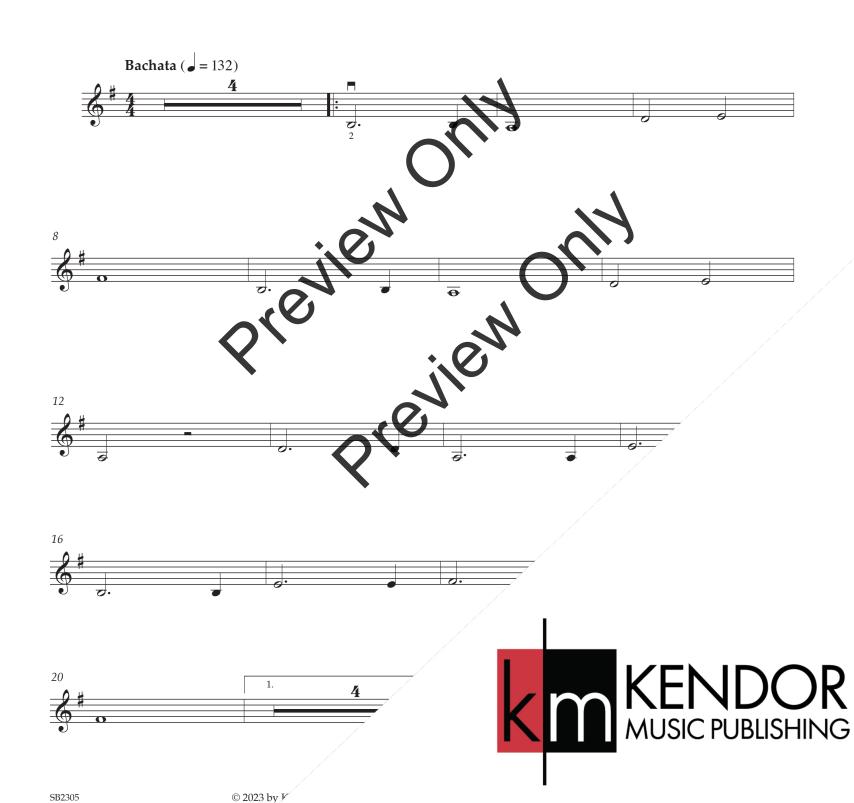
#### 13 – Bachata

At the end of the 1970s, a new urban rhythm emerged in the Dominican Republic, with lyrics associated with heartbreak and failed romances. Today the emotional singing style of Bachata is known throughout the world. One of the most well-known Bachata performing groups is Aventura from the United States.

### Let's Dance

Violin

MARK CONTRERAS GÓMEZ



#### **14** – *Cueca*

Cueca has African and European roots and is so famous in Chile that it was declared the national dance in 1979. Some people think that its dance represents the courtship between the rooster and the hen, and the typical white handkerchief worn by the man symbolizes the feathers. The traditional instruments of Cueca include Accordion, Guitar, and Percussion.

### My White Handkerchief

Violin



#### 15 – Norteña

Norteña music groups of Mexico cover a great number of styles such as Ranchera, Corrido and Bolero. You can tell that the style is rooted in European music because of the Polka influence. The main instruments of Norteña are Accordion, Drums and a group of wind instruments like Trumpets, Saxophones and Tuba.

### The Tiger Violinist

Violin

MARK CONTRERAS GÓMEZ



### 16 – Calypso

Trinidad and Tobago is a nation consisting primarily of two Caribbean islands off the coast of Venezuela and is the birthplace of Calypso music. A close relative of West African kaiso, Calypso music is an upbeat genre based on call and response singing. Steel Drum is the most recognizable instrument in Calypso music.

### A Spicy Island

Violin

MARK CONTRERAS GÓMEZ



#### 17 – Bambuco

The Tiple is a 12-string instrument of the Guitar family. It is smaller than a classical Guitar and is one of the main instruments used in Bambuco. The lyrics of this genre are usually nostalgic and romantic, but above all express the pride that Colombia feels for its land and why it is associated with cheerful and hardworking people.

### **Hold My Tiple**

Violin

MARK CONTRERAS GÓMEZ



### 18 – *Timba*

Although the king of the Timbales himself, the great Tito Puente, affirmed that Salsa did not exist as a musical genre...he thought it was simply the combination of several styles such as Mambo, Guaracha, or Cha cha chá. But we can say that Salsa music is a style that has become popular in a great number of countries and is deeply rooted in the culture of Puerto Rico.

### Got Salsa?

Violin

MARK CONTRERAS GÓMEZ



### 19 *– Tango*

Quino was the creator of a comic strip that was followed by entire generations. Millions of Latin Americans enjoyed the witticisms of a little girl named Mafalda who didn't like soup and felt a great concern for world peace and the environment. Mafalda was originally created while the master of the Tango, Astor Piazzolla was becoming famous for his composition *Libertango*.

### Che Quino

Violin

MARK CONTRERAS GÓMEZ



### **20** – *Choro*

Choro is the traditional music of Brazil. It is a genre that is usually instrumental with somewhat complex harmony and melody. The main instruments of Choro are Mandolin, Cavaquinho (an instrument like Guitar, but with 4 strings) and Pandeiro (a percussion instrument like a Tambourine). The guaraná is a fruit with many vitamins and minerals that comes from the Brazilian rainforest.

#### Guaraná

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#### 21 – Mariachi

Mariachi is not only a musical genre, but it is also the name given to the musicians who play it. Garibaldi Square in Mexico City has Mariachi music 24 hours a day. The performers are always ready to liven up any birthday or special celebration. A native of Mexico City is called chilango.

# The Chilangos

Violin



### 22 – Bolero

The typical Spanish Bolero is a lively dance in 3/4, but *A Rose for You* is the slower tempo version that originated in Cuba in 4/4. Various instruments like Castanets, Tambourines, and Guitars were used to accompany the singers. Bolero is the classic romantic love song of the twentieth century in Latin America.

### A Rose for You

Violin



### 23 – Merengue

The distinctive sound of Merengue is achieved by two percussion instruments: the Tambora, which is cylindrical and is held on the legs and played on both sides and the Güira, which is made of metal (unlike the Güiro which can be made of hollowed wood or dried gourd) and is played with a "hook" or drumstick that scratches its surface.

### Güira and Tambora

Violin



### 24 – Joropo

Pabellón is a traditional Venezuelan dish, the local version of rice and beans with a fried egg, cheese and avocado. The Joropo is a rhythm of strong character and typical of the countryside. Joropo is the national dance of Venezuela.

### Pabellón

Violin

MARK CONTRERAS GÓMEZ



### 25 – Latin Jazz

Latin Jazz is, naturally, a branch of American Jazz; it began to take shape when two great figures came together: Dizzie Gillespie and Machito, giving rise to what at first would be called "Cubop" and a little later settling as an independent genre. Its ramifications can be seen in the Bossa Nova of Brazil, the New Wave of Venezuela, the Tango of Argentina or the Timba of Cuba.

### Go Machito

Violin



### 26 – *Gaita*

Venezuelan folk music is largely dominated by two genres, Joropo and Gaita. Gaita is usually associated with the holiday season from November through the New Year. Gaita was originally from the city of Maracaibo, but now the whole country feels it as its own. Modern instruments (like synthesizers and electric Bass Guitar) have been added to contemporary Gaita music.

### When I Cross the Bridge

Violin



#### 27 – Guarania

Guarania is a musical genre that rose to popularity in Paraguay during the early twentieth century. It is a slow, melancholy style of music that was created by composer José Flores. Also important in development of the music were composers Oscar Ramirez and Matias Morel. At the core of the sound of Guarania is the Paraguayan Harp which is a surprisingly versatile instrument which can play complicated melodies and driving rhythms.

#### **Memories**

Violin



#### 28 – Bossa Nova

The most famous song associated with Brazilian Bossa Nova is *The Girl from Ipanema*. It was written by Antônio Carlos (Tom) Jobim and Vinicius de Morais. The first recording of the song featured Stan Getz on the Tenor Saxophone. Since its original recording in 1964 the song has been played and sung by artists from around the world.

### Tom and Vini

Violin

MARK CONTRERAS GÓMEZ



#### 29 – Ska

Dreadlocks are a very typical hairstyle that have been adopted by many Ska musicians. Ska, like Reggae, uses rhythms typical of the Jamaican culture but it has become popular worldwide, especially in Spain, Venezuela, Argentina and the United States.

### **Cool Dreadlocks**

Violin



#### 30 - Salsa

A "pana" is a close friend or "pal". The musical genre Salsa is a rhythm that is born and lives in the street. You can hear it in the humblest neighborhoods but you can also see its most famous singers in luxurious parties in major cities.

## He's My Pana

Violin

