

Los Llaneros

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LOS LLANEROS AND THE LLANOS

LOS LLANEROS (yah-NEH-ros) specialize in the music of the Colombian/Venezuelan plains that surround the vast basin of the Orinoco River. These plains are called Llanos (YAH-nos). The music of this geographically and culturally unique area has evolved over the last 500 years, beginning with the contact between nomadic Indians and Jesuit settlers. Authentic llanero music is rarely performed outside of these savannas because of its difficult harp, cuatro, and percussion techniques, and hence it remains one of Latin America's best kept secrets.

The basic *Llanero* ensemble format is a trio. It is not uncommon, however, for *Llanero* music to be performed by larger ensembles. Depending on the venue, Los Llaneros may include additional musicians on stage, aside from the core performers featured below.

In addition to *Llanero* music, the ensemble performs music from other areas of Colombia and Venezuela.



Karin Stein (Colombian)

lead vocals, cuatro, guitar, tiple, ethnic wind instruments, miscellaneous percussion

Karin is a Colombian musician from the Llanos whose voice has earned her praise from numerous sources, including Costa Rica's president and Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Dr. Oscar Arias, who noted in 1994: "I'd like nothing better than to make her a citizen of this country [Costa Rica], just to claim that voice as ours!"

In addition to being the ensemble's lead vocalist and musical director, she is a composer, author of educational resources, she performs in Latin ensemble "Calle Sur" together with Ed East, and presents guest lectures at colleges and universities.

Daniel Rojas (Colombian)

harp, cuatro, guitar, vocals, miscellaneous small percussion

The sentiment of llanero music is captured by the harp and personal styles of Daniel Rojas, one of the young and rising stars of llanero harp music. Aside from being a versatile musician, Daniel has launched the Harp And Folklore Foundation, an important U.S.-based initiative aimed at enhancing the public's understanding and appreciation of Latin folk music, in particular the harp music of Venezuela, Colombia, and Mexico.



Edgar East (Panamanian)

vocals, maracas, Latin percussion, bass, flute, guitar, ethnic wind instruments

Edgar East infuses the group's dynamics with the urban perspective he inherited from his upbringing in Panama City, Panama, where he initiated his musical studies at the National Conservatory. He began studying guitar, percussion, and trumpet at a young age. Aside from being a member of Los Llaneros, Latin ensemble Calle Sur, and directing the Afro-Latin Project, Ed performs Latin jazz, salsa, and world music, as a soloist or with other ensembles. He has a degree in music education and taught band for 17 years prior to becoming a touring musician.

