

PODCAST “IN RE: SILVIO RODRIGUEZ & CHANGE”

TIMING	EDITING	LISTENING
00:00	<i>[Narrator:Raji]</i>	From GCE Chicago, This is Raji Scoggin, presenting the voice of Silvio Rodriguez and the revealing as to why his music has the ability of helping people grow. A “relative” revealing of course, so to speak.
00:17	<i>[“Ojala”, song by Silvio Rodriguez starts; loud at first, and quieter after 2 seconds]</i>	<i>[We listen to the song]</i>
00:20	<i>[Narrator: Raji; song continues]</i>	<p>Silvio Rodriguez is a Cuban singer, guitarist and composer, as well as a poet. He was also the leader of the Nueva Trova movement, and one of the most influential musicians of all Latin and Central America.</p> <p>Silvio Rodriguez, along with Pablo Milanes and Noel Nicola, were the founders of the Nueva Trova movement in Cuban music. The movement emerged in 1967 after the Cuban Revolution of 1959. Its music roots are mainly in the Cuban traditional trova music, with the difference that its lyrics are much more political, supporting Cuban Revolution. Its heyday was in the late 1970’s and early 1980’s; after this Nueva Trova died along with the Fall of Communism. Silvio Rodriguez, however, only in his mid-career, has kept on composing and recording albums to this day, characterized by the recurrent themes of self reflection, fantasy, and dreams which weren’t so present in the first part of his career.</p>
01:12	<i>[Song gets louder, and quieter after 5 seconds]</i>	<i>[We listen to the song]</i>
01:19	<i>[Narrator:Raji; song continues]</i>	Before starting this episode, I personally believed Silvio Rodriguez was special; Silvio Rodriguez has marked a present stage in my life that has permitted me to grow intellectually, musically, and spiritually. I also knew I wasn’t the only one who feels enriched by his music; My parents enjoy Silvio’s music

02:13	<i>[Music stops]</i>	<p>a lot, and the extended family & friends' circle has always talked very highly of Silvio Rodríguez. Most of them even call him Silvio, as one would call an old fiend. I also knew that my parents got to know Silvio's art through a very special friend of my family; Luciano, or Tio Luciano, as I call him. And so I came up with the name of the first person I would interview. I messaged Tio Luciano, who lives in Colombia, and he said he'd be very happy to help me, but there was one small problem:</p> <p>He didn't have any time for an interview through the phone. He could only write. I faced a decision: should I try and interview someone else instead, who I could call and record? Or should I interview Tio Luciano but only settle with written responses? One consideration weighted more than all the others: Tio Luciano is a very learned person when it comes to Silvio's art, and my best bet when it comes to finding the story I am looking for!; so I'll take my chances. And so, I asked my brother, Joshua, to read Tio Luciano's words:</p>
02:53	<i>[Tio Luciano's words, read by Joshua]</i>	<p>"I think I discovered Silvio's first songs in the dawn of the eighties, through my older brother, who had with him a cassette of his album "Unicornio" and let me listen to it. At first, and this is an opinion that stands to this day, I didn't like his voice at all, but rather the content of some of his songs, such as "Hoy mi deber era" and "Pioneros".</p>
03:13	<i>["Pioneros", song by Silvio Rodríguez; gets louder, and quieter again after 5 seconds]</i>	<i>[We listen to the song]</i>
03:18	<i>[Narrator:Raji; song continues]</i>	<p>As much as I know how much Silvio has enriched me, "How" he does it has been a mystery for me, and through this podcast I have set the goal of bringing this mystery to light. At least partially.</p>
03:32	<i>[song gets louder, then quieter after 2 seconds]</i>	<i>[We listen to the song]</i>

03:34	<i>[Narrator:Raji; song continues]</i>	But before we get to that, what is it from Silvio's art that attracts us?
03:40	<i>[Tio Luciano's words, read by Joshua]</i>	<p>"Many things: One of them is the stature of his general work and the capacity to dress poetry in rare, exquisitely rich -and why not revolutionary- melodic structures. It also strikes me that his work is in itself an example of proposing a position of resistance: resistance to mediocrity, resistance to the conditioning of the market and of consumerism. In short, resistance in favor of looking at life from another point of view and not from the hegemony of the media or from the music industry. The social and spiritual sensibility he possesses attracts me in an equal manner, the same capacity that permits him to compose, say, a song based on what is simply anecdotal, but at the same time giving it transcendence through the means of the purely creative act."</p>
04:24	<i>[Song gets louder, then quieter after 5 seconds]</i>	<i>[We listen to the song]</i>
04:30	<i>[Jose Luis's voice; starts loud and gets quieter after 5 seconds]</i>	<i>[We listen to Jose Luis]</i>
04:35	<i>[Jose Luis's words translated and read by Raji; Jose Luis in the background]</i>	<p>"Something I like from Silvio's art is his apparent simplicity. His voice, a guitar, and his messages. Also his poetic and lyrical manner of expressing different realities, from very simple things to much more complex aspects, from the different view of society that he particularly has, adequately contextualized to the reality of Cuba of the time."</p>
05:05	<i>[Jose Luis's voice gets louder, as does the song, and ends]</i>	<i>[We hear Jose Luis and the song reach its end]</i>
05:11	<i>[Narrator:Raji]</i>	That is Jose Luis, also a great friend of mine and of my family, and someone who deeply enjoys Silvio's music. Jose Luis is a social communicator and musician who volunteers as a counselor for countries such as Ecuador and Bolivia, specially concentrated in

		<p>indigenous populations. Therefore, his work permits him to have an amazingly illuminated view of the problems that affect communities and the process to reverse them. Counselor Jose Luis also always has a very profound reason behind the artists he chooses to listen to, and I was curious about why he liked Silvio so much.</p>
05:53	<i>[Narrator: Raji]</i>	<p>Silvio is considered a very political artist, and his art is usually referenced as a symbol of the Cuban Revolution and of the Latin American Left in general. However, Tio Luciano explains how he believes that Silvio's music transcends the purely political or ideological.</p>
06:14	<i>[Tio Luciano's words, read by Joshua. At the same time, a latin conga sounds in the background]</i>	<p>"In part, and it is only fair to recognize this, Silvio's revolutionary posture was in tune with the socio-political environment of the time when he began singing, which permitted him to have a monumental acceptance in Cuba, practically in all cuban generations. And, of course, with this came a political discourse in favor of the Cuban revolution. But, if we set the political affiliation of his art with the system aside, Silvio's revolution transcends the purely political or ideological. His most profound revolution is that which is materialized in creative innovation, in the proposals for a speech, in ideas that move the mind, etc."</p>
06:45	<i>[Latin conga fades away]</i>	
06:55	<i>[Narrator:Raji]</i>	<p>The truth is, I believe it is this more than anything that makes Silvio so unique. This is what permits his listeners to grow. Very few artists alone are good enough to read society in such a way that when you hear their lyrics you immediately feel identified, because the problems they mention you see in your everyday life in one way or another. Even less artists when it comes to an audience as wide as South America, or even arguably the whole world. But I only know of a single artist who can not only do all of this, but also as Tio Luciano puts it, "propose change and alternatives to it."</p>

07:36	<i>[Jose Luis's voice; starts loud, and gets quieter after 6 seconds]</i>	<i>[We listen to Jose Luis]</i>
07:42	<i>[Jose Luis's words, translated and read by Raji; Jose Luis in the background]</i>	<p>"We who have known Silvio's art for many years tend to feel rather attracted to his way of expressing his ideology or his way of seeing life, and therefore I think he will always be an influence in our way to find things in which we need to transcend. May these things be difficult or easy to transcend or to transcend in, when one hears Silvio's music one finds a certain inspiration towards movement. Maybe in more internal issues, but also in the collective search for a social change, or in the search for a brighter future, that for some is uncertain, but for others is clear to come. This ability to seek clarity is something that Silvio's music helps in. I believe that in many moments of my life, it has been a great thing to have Silvio's songs with me."</p>
08:10	<i>[Jose Luis's voice gets louder, then quieter after 3 seconds]</i>	
08:59	<i>["Playa Giron", song by Silvio Rodriguez; gets loud at first, then quieter after 10 seconds]</i>	
09:09	<i>[Narrator: Raji; song continues]</i>	<p>This is also so special. The changes Silvio proposes, changes in our ever-more materialistically driven society, changes in the overall lack of social justice, changes in the cultural way Latin America sees the women figure, These proposals of change inspire people such as Jose Luis to do something, to act towards achieving social justice, equality between men and women and universal education, among many other goals. These proposals inspire me as well.</p>
09:44	<i>[Song gets louder, then quieter after 10 seconds]</i>	<i>[We listen to the song]</i>
09:55	<i>[Narrator:Raji; song continues]</i>	<p>I believe it is these two main principles that act as parallel pillars in Silvio's art, permitting it to have that one thing I feel like makes Silvio's art most unique: the capacity to make people grow.</p>

10:14	<i>[Song gets louder, then quieter after 6 seconds]</i>	<p>Thank you to Luciano, Jose Luis, and my brother, who also taught me a few editing skills which I used in the making of this Podcast. Thank you also to Silvio Rodriguez, author of the songs "Ojala", "Pioneros", and "Playa Giron" which were featured in this Podcast, and thank you GCE, for guiding me through this awesome project!</p> <p>END</p>
10:21	<i>[Narrator: Raji; song continues]</i>	
10:49	<i>[Song gets louder, then fades away after 5 seconds]</i>	
11:00	<i>END</i>	