

:: Sing Along Moment in Breaza..

CLAVELITOS - A FOLK UNIVERSITY SPANISH SONG



Typically the Tunos play romantic ballads which have changed little over time and it is a safe bet you will hear standard songs such as "Clavelitos" and "Compostelana".

The capes worn by the Tunos are adorned with up to a dozen ribbons of different colours, each one representing an amorous admirer.

Today, there are around 35 bands of Tunos in Madrid and numerous others throughout the various big cities of Spain. La Tuna has also found its way to Central and South America as well as other European nations such as Portugal, Holland, Belgium, France, England, and Ireland.

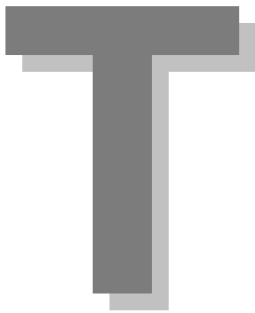
The usual number of students in a group varies a little, but is usually somewhere between 30-35."

"Los Tunos" are hard to miss. With their mediaeval dressing style and the romantic appeal of Casanova, they appear without warning in plazas and celebrations. After working the crowd of people with a passionate song or two, they toss a tambourine around asking for a bit of charity as well as romantic attention, and they are gone.

Tuno=Tunante, is an adjective in the Spanish language, usually meaning witty.

CLAVELITOS – vocabulary

- mocita (from moza = girl)
- clavel, clavelito = carnation
- mucha, mucho = a lot, much
- poca, poco = a little
- vergüenza = shame
- cascabel = bell
- das = you give
- miel = honey
- boquita (from boca) = little mouth
- corazón = heart
- colorado = red
- fresón = strawberry
- lograr = to manage to
- traigo = I bring
- coger = to pick
- guinda = cherry (red)
- linda = pretty
- pelo = hair
- pedazo = piece
- cielo = heaven



Tuna". "La Tuna" songs come from the Spanish 13th century tradition of serenading.

La Tuna began when the noblemen of the 13th century sent their sons to college with a servant. The servants were given very little to eat and so they started singing for food and money. In fact, attached to the sleeves of the Tuno was a fork and spoon ready for any food they might receive. This group of servants was later replaced by the students themselves who receive either money from the person requesting the song, or a ribbon or pin from the girl being serenaded.

Nowadays, "Los Tunos" ("La Tuna" is their collective name) are societies of college students who, like their predecessors in the thirteenth century, wear black velvet breeches, open-collared white shirts, and long black capes. The wide collar around their cloaks denotes their particular area of study; yellow for the medical school, red for law, purple for pharmacy and so on. Originally known as "sopistas" (from 'sopa = soup' their symbol remains the wooden soup spoon and fork), for centuries these students have used their musical talents to earn money for schooling and a bite to eat.

They play a wide variety of musical instruments from guitars and tambourines to the bandurria –a kind of mandolin- and the laud.

The Spanish team taking part in the Comenius meeting in Breaza presented the song CLAVELITOS, in English CARNATIONS, in the Sing Along Moment on Friday 21st of October, after the farewell dinner.

This song was selected for that enjoyable musicale for being connected with the musical tradition of Spanish Universities, and speaking about that, the University of Salamanca was founded in 1134 and given the Royal charter of foundation by King Alfonso IX in 1218. It is the oldest founded university in Spain and the third oldest European university. It was the first European institution to receive the formal title of 'University' as such; it was granted by king Alfonso X in 1254 and recognized by Pope Alexander IV in 1255.

"Clavelitos" is a very famous serenading song in Spain. It is frequently sung by groups of college students called "la



CLAVELITOS

Mocita dame el clavel,
Dame el clavel de tu boca,
Que de eso no hay que tener
Mucha vergüenza ni poca.
Yo te daré el cascabel,
Te lo prometo mocita,
Si tú me das esa miel
Que llevas en la boquita.

(Estrillo)

Clavelitos, clavelitos,
Clavelitos de mi corazón.
Hoy te traigo clavelitos
Colorados igual que un fresón.
Si algún día clavelitos
No lograra poderte traer,
No te creas que ya no te quiero,
Es que no te los pude coger.

La tarde que a media luz
Vi tu boquita de guinda,
Yo no he visto en Sta. Cruz
Otra mocita más linda.
Y luego al ver el clavel
Que llevabas en el pelo,
Mirándolo creí ver
Un pedacito de cielo.

(Estrillo)

CARNATIONS (English free translation)

Young girl, give me the carnation
Give me the carnation of your mouth
For this, there's no need for
Much embarrassment nor a little
I'll give you a bell
I promise it to you, young girl
If you give me that honey
That you carry in your mouth

Carnations, carnations
Carnations from my heart
Today I bring you carnations
Coloured red like a strawberry
If one day, carnations
I won't be able to bring you
Don't think that I don't love you anymore
It'll just be that I couldn't pick them to you

That evening at sunset
Watching your mouth coloured red like a cherry
I felt never to have seen before in Santa Cruz
Other so pretty young girl.
And then when I saw the carnation
You were carrying in your hair,
Looking at it I thought to see
A piece of heaven.

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TERRADILLOS – SALAMANCA
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