



I am working on oral history 3, Mexican American voices in Texas music. In November I interviewed, finally, Patsy Torres. I have been talking to people, beginning with Max Baca y los Texmaniacs, for 4 years. I met Patsy at a tribute to Hispanic Heritage in Uvalde a few years ago, and I was stunned by her presence as well as her talent.

I want to share a few highlights that will appear in her chapter in my book. First, her Ph.D. is an arresting credential. She did not start off with plans for a career in music; she did have a dream to be a “doctor” like her grandfather. That put her on the science trail in school, but she accidentally became the front singer for a band that garnered lots of attention with any marketing or publicity.

Suddenly the attention was on her voice even though she started as one voice also holding a trumpet. Fascinating journey she has taken to become the award-winning performer who created an educational program using her own life story as a learning tool. And she was innately shy, never knowing why she was asked to sing or speak.

HEB became a sponsor of a tour she put together called “Positive Force,” thus allowing her to include a band and staged performance for schools and

educational program. Her strong faith is at the center of all aspects of her life, and she shares that faith in many ways. In 2018 she put out a Christian album, containing some of her original writing, and she is working on a Christmas album now, November 2018. She takes advantage of the many ways to offer songs, including CD, album download, or song download. All are available on her website, [www.patsytorres.com](http://www.patsytorres.com)

Dr. Patsy, with 2 degrees in education, remembers what her grandfather told her as she reported her struggle with her success in the music business: “You have a God-given gift. You are doing preventative medicine, medicine of the soul.” She realized that she was not “giving up” a career in medicine as a doctor, she was expanding into her own calling. What an uplifting story to share with young people. Yes, follow your dreams and pay attention to what is calling you.

Young Marisa Rose Mejia, just turned 13, is also following her dream to perform as she balances that with her school. Lesly Reynaga from Monterey, Mexico, just became an American citizen and is blossoming in the fertile fields of Austin, Texas, and Dr. Patsy suggested I also talk with Vicki Carr, another woman dedicated to education and music.

Once time, years ago, I was standing in the Angela Peralta theatre in San Miguel de Allende and noticed a plaque honoring Vicki Carr as the entertainer who performed at a reopening of this theater on the corner across from Tia Luca’s steakhouse. It was around the corner from #18 Hidalgo where I housed Schreiner students for years. Yes, everything connects, and my research on this book is one way I can weave together the threads of my own life.

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