

A good array of musical Instruments from Latin American is provided for musically skilled students to play in an improvised orchestra. Music teachers are welcome to aid the students with musical instruments and/or singing Christmas carols.

A script will be sent in advance to give skilled students the opportunity to choose to participate in dancing, performance and dramatic storytelling.

The thrust of the presentation is to inspire listeners to broaden their understanding of other cultures and to contribute to growing collectively, to celebrate ethnic diversity and to challenge students to find ways of peacebuilding, all while promoting student participation.

The session winds up with a wide-open and lively Q & A period.

Optional: Student conversations may be established with students from a school in Ecuador via e-mail.

Book

Navidad Latinoamericana/Latin American Christmas (Latin American Creations Publishing, Lancaster, 1999)

A bilingual Spanish/English book and CD, comprises the most well-known Latin American Christmas carols, lyrics for singing along, Novena prayers and a description of Christmas traditions from 25 Latin American countries.

Professional Information

A lawyer in her native country and infused with the spirit of peacebuilding, Charito obtained her master's degree in Conflict Transformation from the Center for Justice and Peacebuilding at Eastern Mennonite University. She gathers from her experience in journalism, broadcasting, mediation, restorative justice and political activism new insights to convey a living experience of the most representative Christmas traditions and rituals, legends and stories of Latin America in her presentation.

Charito Calvachi

Presentation Information

Author and Peacebuilder

Latin American Creations Publishing
35 Washington Street
Lancaster, PA 17602

Charito Calvachi, a native of Ecuador who now lives in the USA, speaks inspirationally about and brings to your school or organization presentations on Latin American Christmas traditions and on rituals of peacebuilding. She can present before both public and private audiences in the Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey and Delmarva areas. If you wish to hear her speak and see the reenactment of the *Christmas traditions* or the *Ritual of Peace of the Americas* at your school, library, conference, or group, please send an e-mail, with details, to Charito at: charitocw@aol.com. **Begin your Subject Line with "Latina Author Visit" to help ensure that the message is not inadvertently deleted.** Charito will then contact you with all the information you'll need.

School Visits

Fee: \$995 + expenses

Sessions Per Day: 3 (includes one rehearsal with student participants in ritual or Christmas reenactments, one or two assemblies maximum and, only if time permits, one classroom visit.)

Rehearsal with students: Yes

Size Limit: Any

Grade Levels: Middle, high school and colleges.

School Presentation Description

Storyteller Charito Calvachi's program is a talk and performance piece made possible with the assistance of nine female students, one male student and a 10 year-old male student who would wear typical costumes from Latin America.

Her show is either a Latin American Christmas reenactment of the Nativity making, *Novenas*, *Parrandas* and *Posadas*; or the *Ritual of Peacebuilding* in which Latin American stories and indigenous rituals of purification and legends are told and reenacted in a music and spoken word performance.