



Pepe Garza
 Composer, musician, and programmer
 New York New York
 2009

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José Francisco Garza Durón (December 1, 1965) was born in Monterrey, Mexico. Composer, musician, and programmer, considered one of the most representative figures of the Mexican radio and music industry in the United States. José Garza known as Pepe Garza began his career in the radio industry as an announcer in Monterrey, over time he gained experience and made his way into the radio industry. His talent and knowledge allowed him to scale up on the radio, becoming a radio programmer. During the first years as a programmer he stood out, being hired by important Mexican stations. While working as a programmer, he began to make his own compositions, among them, *That Crazy I Am*, stands out, a song performed by the Liberation group, which was nominated for Best Mexican Regional Song at the Lo Nuestro Awards. After a long time in the Mexican radio, he decided to move to the United States, a country in which Mexican regional music has a large audience, the majority of this immigrant and where he became one of the most prominent figures on the radio. Throughout his career, Garza has promoted numerous Mexican regional music artists such as Lupillo Rivera, Jenni Rivera, Yolanda Pérez, Rogelio Martínez, Jorge Gamboa, Valentín Elizalde, Espinoza Paz, Banda Recodo and Banda La Arrolladora, among others, which in a short time they made their way into the scene. Because of this talent in finding new voices he has been called the Starmaker. After moving to the United States, he began working at KBUE-FM or Qué Buena, a radio station in Southern California, which he has directed for several years; This is one was one the most prominent stations in the United States. It transmits the successes of Mexican regional music, musical genre that has expanded in recent years to reach non-Mexican publishing. Becoming a trend in several Latin American countries. In the station he has promoted various radio characters that have won the audience's appreciation, among them El Morro, a restless and daring child created by Garza and his partner Tomás Rubio. This became a trend after the publication of his album with music for kids, getting nominated for the 2001 Latin Grammy Awards, as a children's producer. This character was recognized by the magazine Furia Musical as the Musical Event of the Year. Another prominent character of the artist is **Don Cheto**, a character inspired by the figure of an immigrant and his life in the United States, endowed with qualities such as simplicity and kindness, which can be taken for naivety in some cases. Always loyal to their traditions, **Don Cheto**, represents to the Mexican who lives in the United States. In the 2000s, Garza undertook several projects linked to the world of Mexican regional music, such as the foundation of the **Los De La Radio Awards**, where the most prominent artists of the regional music scene are rewarded. Later founded the company Arpa Music with his brother Alejandro Garza, in this, he gathered various composers such as Joss Favela, Luciano Luna, Horacio Palencia, and Espinoza Paz, among others, whose compositions have been performed by prominent stars such as Thalía, David Bisbal, Jenni Rivera, Banda la Arrolladora, Pedro Fernández, and Banda MS, among others. In 2009 he became a judge for the musical reality show **I Have Talent, Much Talent** produced by Estrella Tv. This program is one of the most popular in the United States made exclusively for the Spanish-speaking audience. In the Garza program, he is seen as one of the most important judges due to his long career and knowledge of the music industry. For this same period, he has excelled in his facet as a composer, **being awarded multiple times in the BMI awards in the category best composition with the theme Cursed Capricho**. Also won the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers to the Song of the Year for the Coyote theme with the band Oro Norteño. Years later, he published *Who the Devil is Durón ?*, which includes successful songs that have been performed by Juan Rivera, Graciela Beltrán, Jenni Rivera, Banda Limón, La Costeña, Oro Norteño and Rieleros del Norte, among many others. In 2016 he started recording the P program *Pepe's Office*, a program that is uploaded to YouTube. In this one you can see the renowned programmer advising and interviewing artists from the Mexican regional music scene, his most recent interview was to El de la Guitarra. Pepe is married to his wife Elisa Beristain who is a TV personality. The couple's married life marks a long history of togetherness. They tied the knot on 1998 and are in the run of twenty plus years of romantic married life. The duo has two beautiful daughters. **Fun Fact:** Pepe loves surfing the web; he is active on Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube. He has 492k followers on Instagram, 110k followers on Twitter, and 1.3 million subscribers on YouTube as of April 2019.



Raul "El Gordo" de Molina
co-host of the [Univision](#) Networks #1 rated entertainment news show
MGM Hotel
2009

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Bio

Raúl De Molina was born March 29, 1959 in Havana, Cuba but left at the age of 10. For the following years he grew up in Madrid, Spain and eventually arrived in the United States at the age of 16. After graduating from the Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale, Raúl worked for the Associated Press as a freelance photographer during the 1980s. Developing an interest in photography at the age of eleven, Raúl is an accomplished photojournalist whose work has been featured in national and international publications, among them "National Geographic Traveler", "Time", "Newsweek", "Life", "Hola", and "Paris Match. "His attention to detail and rare ability to capture a story has garnered him a host of awards and a sell-out exhibition at The Gary Nader Gallery in Miami. Raúl continues to document all of his many travels around the globe. For more than 20 years he has been anchoring television shows, first for Telemundo and now for Univision. A well-known television personality among Spanish speakers in the US, Raúl can be seen every weekday at 4pm EST as the host of Univision's "El Gordo y la Flaca", a show he has co-hosted with [Lili Estefan](#) since 1998. Estefan's and De Molina's popularity is demonstrated by the show's consistently high ratings. It has more viewers on its time slot than ABC, CBS, NBC and FOX combined. In 2008, Raúl was chosen as one of the most influential Hispanics in the United States by People en Español. In October 2008, Random House published his second book "La Dieta del Gordo" about his own struggles with weight, and his secret to losing 70 pounds. For the first time in its history, a "larger" celebrity was selected by People en Español magazine to appear in both the Most Beautiful and Best Dressed special issues. Raúl also serves as a brand ambassador for Louis Vuitton, often hosting charity receptions to benefit causes important to both him and his family, such as [Voices for Children](#). Raúl was an inaugural contributor to the Huffington Post's Food section. He continues to write regular columns on food, healthcare, sports and Hispanic culture. He is also a regular contributor to AOL News. His television career, spanning 21 years, includes hosting and reporting for well-known programs such as "Primer Impacto", "Ocurrió así", "Hola América", and "Club Telemundo", as well as primetime specials and his own productions. His television performances have earned him multiple Emmy awards. His television career, spanning more than 20 years, includes hosting and reporting for well-known programs such as "Primer Impacto", "Ocurrió así", "Hola América", and "Club Telemundo", as well as primetime specials and his own productions. His television performances have earned him multiple Emmy awards. Raúl is best known for his entertaining, energetic coverage of everything from the Latin Grammys in Las Vegas, to the World Cup in South Africa, to ringing in the New Year with his annual show live from Times Square. He covered the Royal Wedding, live from London. He was also a judge in the [Miss America 2012](#) pageant besides Kris Jenner, Mark Ballas, and Lara Spencer. He and co-host Lili Estefan were awarded their own stars on The Las Vegas Walk of the Stars in 2009. Raúl has covered the [FIFA World Cup](#) in France, Germany, South Africa, and Brazil. Most recently, Raúl was a judge on [Iron Chef America](#).

In 2003, Raúl published a book of all the celebrity interviews and exclusive photos he has taken of the world's best known celebrities and royals. In addition, he was a special contributor for the Spanish edition of Travel + Leisure magazine and has been featured in The New York Times Travel section. He is married to Millie De Molina (m. 1995). They have a daughter Mía De Molina.

Fun Fact: Raúl is an avid watch collector and his collection has been featured in [The New York Times](#) and [Hodinkee](#). He also collects art and serves on Art Basel's host committee. His annual party is regarded as the unofficial "kick-off" event of the international exhibition show.



Lili Estefan
Cuban American model and currently the host of *El Gordo y la Flaca* on Univision

MGM Hotel
2009

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Bio

Liliana Del Carmen "Lili" Estefan was born on March 20, 1967 in [Santiago de Cuba](#). Lili's father is José Estefan (b. 1945). Upon losing her mother at the age of ten, Lili immigrated to the United States with her widower father and younger brother Juan Emilio. She was a [Cuban American](#) model and currently the host of [El Gordo y la Flaca](#) on [Univision](#) with co-host Raúl "El Gordo" De Molina since 1998. The program can be seen every weekday at 4 P.M. EST. Estefan earned her nickname "La Flaca" ("The Skinny Girl") from the show.

Estefan first came to the spotlight in 1986, when she was hired by [Univision](#) to participate as a model on the television show [Sábado Gigante](#). She quickly became a favorite of the audience and the show host, [Don Francisco](#), himself (as he admitted in his 2002 autobiography).^[6] Estefan even appeared on Francisco's program "Don Francisco Presenta" on numerous occasions.

Estefan is also judges on [Mira Quien Baila](#) with a panel that includes [Horacio Villalobos](#) and [Bianca Marroquín](#).

In 2015, Lili Estefan received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 33rd Annual [Premios TVyNovelas](#), presented by [Televisa](#). In 2016, Estefan and her co-host of [El Gordo y La Flaca](#), [Raúl de Molina](#), were honored with the award for Outstanding Achievement in Hispanic Television, at the 14th Annual [Hispanic Television Summit](#), presented by [Broadcasting & Cable](#) and [Multichannel News](#), and produced by Schramm Marketing Group. In 2017, Estefan received the Career Award at the [Premio Lo Nuestro](#) Awards, presented by [Univision](#). In 2018, she received a Daytime Talent in Spanish Emmy Award from [The National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences](#). Estefan married Cuban businessman Lorenzo Lauces in 1992 and it was announced in 2018 that they were divorcing. They have two children: Lorenzo Jr. (b. 1999) and Lina Teresa (b. 2002).

Fun Fact: Lili Estefan was born on March 20, 1967 in Santiago de Cuba. ... 1967). She is the paternal niece of music producer Emilio Estefan, whose wife is singer Gloria Estefan.



Mary and The Maori Hi Five
Musical Bank
New York New York
2009

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Bio

The **Maori Hi Five** were a Wellington based Maori rock and roll show band. They arrived in Wellington around the middle of 1955 and were soon at the forefront of the Capital's entertainment scene. They began the era of the Maori Showbands. They played such a wide range of music that they had an appeal to many. They played dance music, country music, Maori songs, musical hits, comedy skits and many other styles. There were a number of similar groups around at the time. Some included the **Maori Hi-Liners** and the **Maori Troubadours**. It is believed that Malcolm Hayman was a member of the group for a short time in 1955 when he was only 15. Malcolm later went on to form [Quincy Conserve](#). After playing Wellington for a while, the group ventured to Australia and later went to the USA. Line-Up: Ike Mete-Kingi (Lead Guitar), Robert Hemi (Guitar), "King" Solomon Pohatu (Piano / Vocals), Kawana Pohe (Saxophone), Tuki Witika (Drums), Wes Epae (Bass Guitar), Charlotte Pohe (Vocals).

During their time some line-up changes occurred. These included Ike Mete-Kingi being replaced by Paddy Tetai, Tuki Witika being replaced by Peter Wolland, and Charlotte Pohe being replaced by Mary Nimmo. When Mary joined they became known as **Mary and the Maoris** and worked a lot on the American casino and club circuit. In 1972, [Frankie Stevens](#) worked with them for a short period. Their recorded output consisted of singles, "Oasis"/"American Patrol" on Rex in 1962, "Now Is The Hour"/"Putti Putti" on Vee Jay in 1962 and "Hippy Hippy Shake"/"Poi Poi" on HMV in 1963. They also released two EP's in 1963 and four albums. The first was "Instrumental International" in 1962. This was followed by "Serenade In Blue" and "Maori Hi-Five", both in 1963 and then "Mary and the Maoris" in 1969. From Horowhenua to Europe to Las Vegas, this Maori show band was honoured with a star on the Las Vegas Strip in 2009. Mere Nimmo (Mary McMullan) was introduced to the Maori Hi-Fives (Rob Hemi, Soloman Pohatu, Wes Epae, Kawana Pohe and Peter Wolland) in 1961. So began the successful rise of this group, which supported international acts such as Duke Ellington, Eartha Kitt, The Beatles and Louis Armstrong. Mary and Kawana are now citizens of the US, having raised their families there.

Fun Fact: The Beatles signed an autograph for Wes Epae on June 8, 1964. Wes was a band member of the Maori Hi-Five and they were one of the supporting acts for the Beatles' shows at the Princess Theatre in Hong Kong. When Wes visited the Beatles in their hotel suite at the President Hotel, he asked for their autographs. The nearest piece of paper was a sheet of the hotel stationery which they signed.

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Marie Little
Humanitarian
New York New York
2009

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Bio

Maria Angela Marotta Little, 43, of Las Vegas, was born July 20, 1966, in Buffalo, N.Y., and passed away July 15, 2010. She was a 20-year resident of Nevada. Her husband comedy legend Rich Little was smitten after meeting Marie Marotta. After two failed marriages, “all he wanted was to be in love and he found his love,” Marotta made such an impression on the celebrity impressionist that they got married 2003 in Hawaii. She became Little's third wife. She was active in many humanitarian efforts, including working with the homeless, children in need and abused animals, and in 2009 was inducted into the Las Vegas Walk of Stars. Rich Little says he found a suicide note (July 2010) along with the body of his wife in the bedroom of their dreamhouse in the Lake Sahara section of Las Vegas. Marie Marotta apparently ended her life with an overdose of sleeping pills. She had struggled with severe headaches and chronic pain for a number of years. She was in her early 40s. Marie is survived by her husband, Rich Little, comedian/entertainer; brother, Joey Marotta; and mother, Tonette Marotta, all of Las Vegas.

Fun Fact: Rich Little and Marie Little met on a blind date.



Juan Gabriel
Mexican singer-songwriter
MGM Hotel
2009

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Bio

Alberto Aguilera Valadez (born January 7, 1950 in [Parácuaro, Michoacán](#), Mexico – August 28, 2016), known professionally as **Juan Gabriel** was a Mexican singer, songwriter and actor. Having sold an estimated of 60 million records worldwide, Juan Gabriel was among [Latin America's best selling singer-songwriters](#).

He was the youngest of ten siblings, his father was interned into a [psychiatric hospital](#) during his childhood and he entered [boarding school](#), where he remained for eight years. At age 14 he returned back home and lived with his mom and sang in the choir of a local church. In 1965, Aguilera debuted on the Notivisa television show where he sang. In 1966 to 1968 he started singing at a local bar and started writing songs. He went to Mexico City looking for opportunities at record companies. After trying multiple time and not having enough money, Aguilera slept in bus and train stations. At a certain point, he was wrongly accused of robbery, and was imprisoned for a year and a half. During this time, he wrote songs which helped him meet Andrés Puentes Vargas, a [prison warden](#), who introduced him to Mexican singer and actress [La Prieta Linda](#). She helped him, and due to the lack of evidence he was released from prison. La Prieta Linda also helped him at RCA Víctor, where he signed a recording contract. He has become a world-renowned artist. Juan Gabriel's fame grew as he recorded 15 albums and sold 20 million records. He wrote and recorded over 1000 songs in a variety of music genre. In 1975, he made his acting debut. He has produced albums for many artists. Gabriel continued to do 10 to 12 performances per year as benefit concerts for charities. He was involved in politics, a lifelong supporter of the [Institutional Revolutionary Party](#) (PRI), which governed Mexico for a long time.

In 1996, he was inducted into the [Billboard Latin Music Hall of Fame](#). The [American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers](#) (ASCAP) honored Gabriel the Latin Songwriter of the Year Award in 1995, 1996, and 1998. In 1999, Gabriel received the [People's Choice Awards](#) for Best Regional Artist. He also received his own two stars, one on the [Hollywood Walk of Fame](#) in May 2002 and the second one in Las Vegas on the Walk of Stars in 2009. In 2015, Billboard listed Gabriel among their list of the 30 most influential Latino artists in history.

Juan Gabriel died in [Santa Monica, California](#), reportedly from a [heart attack](#) in 2016.

Juan Gabriel was never married. He had six children

Fun Fact: The late, iconic singer-songwriter Juan Gabriel never officially came out as gay, but on the anniversary of his death. LGBTQ Latino writers reflect on the positive impact he had on their lives.