

Paige Powell Music Blog for August 4, 2020:

The Story Behind the Song, "Noche de Palmas"

When I was 19, my mother and stepfather offered me the opportunity to go with them to **Bogotá, Colombia**. My stepfather, Arthur Barclay, was being sent there by USDA to collect plants for NIH cancer research. I would take a semester off from college, but have the chance to be immersed into a foreign culture. I had already taken several years of Spanish in high school, so I knew the language somewhat. I lived there for 6 months and visited **other places in Colombia, such as Pasto and Armero**.

The adventures I had while living in Colombia would fill a book and I might write it someday. But even back then, I was playing guitar and writing songs. "*Noche de Palmas*" is one of my oldest, earliest songs, and you can hear and/or download it by clicking on the title. At the bottom of the page, there's also a video of me playing the song to a live audience. "*Noche de Palmas*" was written at a time when my mother, stepfather and I lived with another family in the **Chico Norte section of Bogotá** and nobody spoke English. **I spoke Spanish all the time**, to the point where I started to forget English words and even dreamed in Spanish while sleeping!

I've included Spanish in another song, "*Love Never Gets Old*" and my unpublished song, "*Santa Marta*" is about Colombianos who are dancing. They did love to party and it was not unusual for them to serve dinner at midnight after everyone was drunk and dance until 4 am. Saturday was the day to sit around and recover.

In other songwriting news, I performed an abbreviated version of "*How Many Kinds Of Love?*" as the Centering part of the St. George's UMC Worship service, uploaded this past Sunday. You can see the video on YouTube. I had to shorten the song to 1 minute, so there was only enough time for 2 verses and 2 choruses. I had to re-write the verses to make the song flow better in that one-minute frame of time.

Recently, I've been writing **songs for guys to sing**, thinking in terms of what I, a woman, would love to hear from a guy! Over the phone, I read the lyrics to one of my songs to my mother, who commented that my song was too much of a fantasy. I replied that many great songs ARE fantasy songs! Right? "*Till all the mountains are valleys, and every ocean is dry, my love*" is a line from "*I'll Still Be Loving You*" by **Restless Heart**, a #1 single!

