

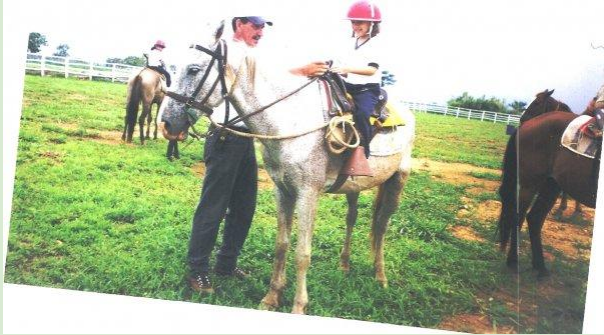
Isabella Gomez Sarmiento

Reporter, NPR Music



About Me

- Originally from Acarigua, Venezuela
- Moved to Marietta, Georgia in 2004
- Studied Journalism, Film and Gender Studies at Georgia State University



Kroc Fellowship 2019

- Rotated between Goats & Soda, National Desk and Weekend Edition
- Collaborated with NPR Music and Alt.Latino
- Hired as Producer for Weekend Edition 2021

20 Years After She Unplugged For MTV, Shakira Taught Me To See Myself

February 27, 2020 • Dancing to the mariachi horns of "Ciega, Sordomuda," one young Latina found a deep, unwavering love staring her in the face. It just took a song about being blinded by emotion to see it clearly.



Producer, Weekend Edition and Culture Desk

- Booked musicians like Silvana Estrada, Pusha T, Buscabulla, Susana Baca
- Pitched and reported stories about Spanish-language comedy, Puerto Rican social clubs and Mexican restaurant week in New York City

CULTURE

100 years ago, social clubs were everything. Now young Latinos carry them forward

August 15, 2024 • Social clubs used to help newcomers adapt to life in America. Many have disappeared over the years. But in New York City, Latinos are keeping that tradition going.

▶ LISTEN · 4:56

+ PLAYLIST



Sabrina Santiago for NPR

Reporter, NPR Music

The sound of Venezuelan protest music over the last 30 years

ALT.LATINO

The sound of Venezuelan protest music over the last 30 years

August 21, 2024 • Over the past month thousands of Venezuelans have taken to the streets to protest the disputed election of president Nicolás Maduro, while Venezuelan artists like Danny Ocean use music to reflect on this political moment. But Ocean's work is just one data point in a long history of music from Venezuela that embodies the political opinions and emotions of those within the country and the diaspora.

▶ LISTEN · 23:08

+ PLAYLIST



Photo by YURI CORTEZ/AFP via Getty Images

Why are musicians joining OnlyFans?

MUSIC

Why would a musician join OnlyFans? Because making a living is only getting harder

March 31, 2025 • In a volatile music industry, some musicians are gravitating towards OnlyFans, a social media platform that has garnered a reputation for hosting sexual content.



Art by Jackie Lay

Sean Combs trial: [Cassie concludes four days of testimony](#)

SEAN COMBS TRIAL

Sean Combs trial: Cassie concludes four days of testimony

May 16, 2025 • On Friday, Sean Combs' defense lawyers questioned Cassie Ventura about how much of the former couple's activities she willingly participated in. "I had to fight my way out," she said.



Neilson Barnard/Getty Images

There's a new generation of folk protest singers on TikTok

MUSIC

There's a new generation of folk protest singers on TikTok

November 11, 2025 • Amid a 24-hour news cycle and personalized algorithms, a wave of young artists are reviving bold, plainspoken protest music that cuts through the noise.



Hannah Gray Hall; Bao Ngo; Zayne Isom

In Conclusion

- Lean into your expertise
- Raise your hand and ask questions
- Network horizontally – build community, especially in PWI
- Trust your instincts!