

StoryCorps Interview at Park View High School

Pablo Rivera and Miroslav Loncar

Pablo: I didn't encounter music, music encountered me. It came into my life; I didn't really look for it, it's something that just came upon me and I was like, "Whoa, this is great." From that moment on I just started to go explore it, completely just learn more and more about it, and, I mean, it's made me into who I am today practically.

Miroslav: How would you describe world view to me? To somebody that doesn't know what world view is?

Pablo: I would describe it with one word: ecstatic. There's always something going on, umm, doesn't matter how bad of a day you can be having, as soon as you get the guitar in your hands, or whatever instrument you're playing, you're just ready to go—it's something that you look forward to. You really become into a sort of family atmosphere where you get along with your peers, you embrace the musical talent of your peers, and together you just get into that mindset that you're here to, you know, make wonderful music and you're in the class because you love music. I know that improvising, it really works out your mind because you're trying to prepare for something you don't know is going to happen—and that's the fun of it—I say that's the excitement, you know, just not knowing what's going to happen next, what I'm going to have to do next. That's just, you know, making your mind a lot more creative; have an open mind. I feel like that's an experience that you don't get in many other places. You don't get it in sports maybe, you might not get it in school, you might not get it outside in the community—it's something that I've acquired, being part of the group, and it's been a marvelous experience.

Miroslav: What do you think of the whole idea of having performances, live performances, in the library?

Pablo: It's amazing; because, a lot of people don't know about it then when they see us play they ask around, "Oh, you know, who are they? What are they? What do they do?" So, having those concerts before the school is just a great opportunity to just let everybody know what we're doing and what we're about.

Miroslav: I was really surprised, pleasantly surprised, when you decided to bring to our group some of the Bostanova standards from Brazil, like *The Girl from Ipanema*, which you sing very nicely in Portuguese, plus some other songs from, from that era. That's the music that, when I was your age, I liked very much listening to and playing. How did you discover that music?

Pablo: I would say the same thing, it encountered me, you know; it came to me and, as soon as I heard it, I absolutely fell in love with it. I mean, as soon as I heard Bostanova for the first time, it was like trying a new flavor that I've never ever tried it before. It was like seeing a color that no one has ever seen before. It was, I felt like I discovered something new. And, it was such a sweet sound in my ears that I was like, "Wow, you know, what is this?" So I started to look into other Bostanova songs, where it came from—it came from Brazil—so I started looking into more Brazilian culture. It's nice. I love to nurture stuff that has been lost. I feel like that's what we really need to do, you know, as much as, you know, we

love the new genres that are coming out, the new songs that are coming out, I think that we should also look back and learn to appreciate songs that were already created, sounds that were just masterpieces—we should bring them back and embrace them. But I also love people that are trying to mix in the old with the new, you know; trying to make new music but using some techniques from the past. I feel like that's where I'm around right now. I'm just trying to, you know, just make a solid performance each time that I get up there, hold the guitar, and sing.