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Mí Gran Tatara Abuelo

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Mí Gran Tata Abuelo

By Johanna Bonilla

My great grandfather, though I haven't met you, I know you're resting peacefully in the clouds. I admire your work ethics, but most of all your humbleness as a musician. When I learned qué fuiste músico I felt proud because someone in our family was able to pursue an artistic career and still work as a laborer. You gave me hope that I, too, can pursue a career I want no matter the circumstances I'm in. I heard stories about you having gigs at cantinas and en el barrio de San Miguel, El Salvador, y cuando no estabas jugando música estabas trabajando o en casa relajando. Even though you didn't earn much from doing gigs you enjoyed performing in front of everyone because money comes by most of the time but moments like those do not. You may not know this but, I'm also following in your footsteps. Evidently, your circumstances and mine are different, yet I still don't lose hope that I will live out those dreams you once wanted for yourself and your family. If I could speak to you I would ask, "Where did the inspiration come from?" and "How did you know this was what you wanted?" Your stories left an impact so powerful that I'm glad that out of the whole family you did something different. You unknowingly created a path for the rest of us to pursue life however we wanted. I'm truly grateful for being the lotus in this family but you won't be the last.