

# DE COLORES

Traditional Mexican Folk Tune

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"*De Colores*" is a traditional Mexican folk song that is well known throughout the Spanish speaking world. It is thought to have been brought to the Americas from Spain in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, and circulated widely throughout Mexico during the colonial era. The lyrics speak of joy and a celebration of all creation with its many bright colors. It has since been adopted by the Roman Catholic Cursillo movement and other related communities such as Chrysalis Flight, Tres Dias, and the Walk to Emmaus. In the Cursillo movement, being "in colors" is to be in God's grace. For that reason, Cursillo participants (cursillistas) greet each other with the phrase "*De Colores*" (in Colors). More recently, it has also been used as the unofficial anthem of the United Farm Workers union.

It is often heard during traditional Mexican celebrations with parades and folk dancing, such as Cinco de Mayo (5<sup>th</sup> of May). Originally, to commemorate the Mexican army's 1862 victory over France at the Battle of Puebla during the Franco-Mexican war, today, Cinco de Mayo is now actually a much bigger celebration in the United States than it is in Mexico. It has evolved into a commemoration of Mexican culture and heritage and is often taught in elementary schools to colleges as an example of a common Mexican folk song.

This is a 3-part arrangement containing a melody, harmony, and bass.

In music and friendship,

~Tull

