

Carla Patricia Morrison Flores (Tecate, Baja California on July 19th, 1986), better known as Carla Morrison, is a Mexican indie singer/songwriter of alternative pop music. She has won three Latin Grammys¹—two for her album *Dejenme Llorar*, which was certified Platinum², and the other for her song *Vez Primera*, from her *Amor Supremo* album.

Carla Morrison was born in Tecate, Baja California to Mexican parents, Porfiria Flores and Hilario Morrison. Her father Hilario Morrison, originally Viera, changed his last name after being adopted by William Guy Morrison, born in California to an English migrant named Laura Morrison³.

Morrison spent her early years in Tecate. From a young age she was trained in the art of drawing, dancing, and singing, developing a special talent for the latter⁴. Motivated by her conviction to dedicate herself to music, she decided to move to Phoenix, Arizona, at the age of 17. There, she enrolled at Mesa Community College⁵ where her musical studies were short-lived. Realizing that music wasn't an academic pursuit for her, but rather one that is so spiritually and emotionally rooted it had to be self-taught, she soon dropped out⁶.

Inspired by her teacher David Barrios, a Mexican lyric baritone, her first musical compositions were made under the name Babaluca, an artistic pseudonym. After Nick Kizer and Nichole Petta joined her, the project became a band that quickly became a known staple in the local scene⁷.

During this stage of her career, Morrison collaborated with Mark Erickson—a multi-instrumental musician and member of the band Colorstone from Phoenix, Arizona—who produced Babaluca's first album, although it was never commercially released. Morrison and Mark Erickson continued to work together and performed "*Tragos de Amargo Licor*", a Ramon Ayala classic, together at a country music festival. The song was later included on her EP, *Aprendiendo a Aprender*. Erickson also invited her to record vocals on his song "Go Away Closer," which was produced by Lonna Kelley.

After a short, but productive time period working with Babaluca, Morrison decided to leave the project behind, return to Mexico, and continue to pursue a career as a solo artist^{8 9}.

Career Beginnings as a solo artist and initial EPs

In early 2009, Morrison released her first EP, *Aprendiendo a Aprender*, which was independently produced in Jordan Berailut's home studio in Tempe, Arizona¹⁰. The project quickly captured audiences and media alike, positioning Carla Morrison as one of the most auspicious prospects within the new Mexican music scene, spawning performances across the country. The EP includes 6 songs that she wrote and produced,

in addition to a cover of Ramon Ayala's *Tragos de Amargo Licor*, and singles, *Esta Soledad* and *Lagrimas*, which were featured on *Soy Tu Fan*, a Mexican television series¹¹.

Shortly after, Mexican singer-songwriter Natalia Lafourcade offered to produce her second EP, and asked Carla Morrison to be her opening act at *Teatro Fru Fru*, where she was performing her album *Hu Hu Hu*. This was Carla Morrison's first, official performance in Mexico City, and the one that opened the doors for her to conquer its audience.

In 2010, Morrison launched her second EP, *Mientras Tu Dormias*, produced by Natalia Lafourcade. The project brought the singer-songwriter more success, performing in major cities of the Mexican Republic and conquering stages in the U.S. and Colombia. It is worth noting that the record gave Morrison her first Latin Grammy Nomination, contributing to sold-out venues which include *Lunario del Auditorio Nacional*, *Teatro Metropolitan*, and her participation in *Festival Vive Latino* 2011.

Déjenme Llorar

In 2011, Morrison began working on her first studio LP entitled *Dejenme Llorar*, in conjunction with Juan Manuel Torreblanca—from the band *Torreblanca*—and Andres Landon—*Sonido Landon* soloist—who produced the record, and Alejandro Jimenez—*Jandro* soloist—worked on the design, arrangement and engineering of the recording.

Dejenme Llorar debuted on March 24th, 2012 at *Vive Latino* Festival. It went on to be nominated for Latin Grammys in 5 different categories, and nominated for Best Latin Rock Album, Urban or Alternative for the Grammy Awards. The album won the Latin Grammy for Best Alternative Album, and its title track won for Best Alternative Song. The album was also certified Platinum in Mexico¹².

Shortly thereafter, Morrison went on her *Dejenme Llorar y Huespedes Del Orbe* tour with Mexican Rock Alternative band *Enjambre*, traversing almost all of the Mexican Republic to mostly sold-out shows. Both projects ended the tour on August 31st, 2013 at *Palacio de los Deportes* in front of a sold-out crowd of 20,000 people.

After concluding the tour, Morrison kicked off her international tour, *Sin Despedir*, performing in the U.S., Guatemala, Costa Rica, Panama, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, El Salvador, Spain, England, and France. Most all the shows were sold-out in advance.

During her tour for the *Dejenme Llorar* album, Morrison performed at noteworthy music festivals in both Europe and the Americas, including *Festival Vive Latino* where she had already performed three years running. Her festival debut was in 2011, where she performed in the *Carpa Intolerante* tent, breaking its attendance record where nine thousand fans gathered in a tent designed for five thousand people. In 2012, Morrison

took the stage in the *Carpa Danup* tent in front of thirty thousand people, and due to high demand amongst attendees, the performance was also broadcast on festival screens. At *Festival Vive Latino* 2013, Morrison sang her songs on the main stage, in front of sixty-five thousand attendees, just before two international bands, Tame Impala and Blur.

Morrison also participated in: *Festival Viva La Cancion* 2012 (Madrid, Spain), *Festival Centro* 2012 and *Festival Estereo Picnic* 2013 (Colombia), *Festival Pal Norte Fest* 2012 (Monterrey), *Lollapalooza* 2013 (Chile), *Pachanga Latino Music Fest* (Austin, Texas), the Latin Alternative Music Conference 2012-13 (New York), and the 2013 Neon Desert Festival (Phoenix, Arizona).

Morrison ended her *Sin Despedir* tour at *Auditorio Nacional* on May 31st, 2014, performing in front of a sold-out crowd of ten thousand people¹³.

In December 2013, Morrison was invited to collaborate with Juan Gabriel on the song *Yo Se Que Esta En Tu Corazon*, for his *Los Duos, Vol 2* album. She also collaborated with *Los Angeles Azules* on their song, *Las Maravillas De La Vida*, from their *Como Te Voy A Olvidar* album, which debuted in May of 2013. The song was the third single off the album, and debuted in September of that same year. Another significant collaboration was on in April of 2013, with Leonel Garcia on the song *Que Lloro*, from his *Todas Mias* album. The song was released as the album's third single, accompanied by a music video. Later, in June of 2014, she joined Kinky on their MTV Unplugged album's first single, *A Donde Van Los Muertos*. In December of that same year, Ana Torroja invited her to collaborate, along with Ximena Sariñana, on her song *Un Año Mas*, which was included on her album *Conexion*, and debuted in May 2015.

Pan Dulce Productions

In early 2013, Morrison created Pan Dulce Productions¹⁴, a production company that supports indie musicians. Her company's mission is to guide and provide funding to other independent artists that are just starting out, with promotion, guidance on how work independently, and financial support¹⁵.

Pan Dulce also provides loan assistance to artists so they are able to cover recording costs and release their projects. The projects that are funded subsequently pay back the interest-free loan they receive via royalties generated from small percentage contributions from record sales, shows, etc., until the loan is paid off in its entirety.

Currently, the company is backing projects from Jandro, Ramona, and Mariel Mariel.

Amor Supremo

In August of 2014, Morrison rented a house in Playas de Tijuana in order to build a home studio and start recording her second studio album, *Amor Supremo*. The album was produced by Alejandro Jimenez and Demian Jimenez and co-produced by Morrison over an eight-month period.

Once the album was recorded, and before its debut, Morrison was invited by DJ Zane Lowe from Apple Music to introduce her first single, *Un Beso*, on his Beats 1 show. Morrison was the first Mexican artist to play their music on his show. As a part of the single's promotion, a video was launched for *Un Beso* which was directed by Julio Muñoz from RaRaRa Films.

Amor Supremo was debuted in November 2015. The album was nominated in two different categories at the Latin Grammys, for Best Latin Rock Album, Urban or Alternative at the Grammys, as well as Album of the Year at *Premio Lo Nuestro 2107*. Morrison was invited to perform *Un Beso* at the Grammys with musical group Northern Cree. Morrison won the Latin Grammy for Best Alternative Music Song for *Primera Vez*. The album was well received, with favorable reviews from The New York Times, The New Yorker, The Boston Globe and Pitchfork, which gave it an 8.0 rating.

Once *Amor Supremo* was released, Morrison embarked on an identically titled international tour at *Teatro de la Ciudad Esperanza Iris* in Mexico City. The tour took place in 2016 throughout Mexico, and included performances at *Festival Pal Norte*, *Vive Latino*, *Coordenada Guadalajara*, and *Semana de las Juventudes* at the Zocalo in Mexico City. In the U.S. she performed at Coachella, Noise Fest Chicago, and at *La Tocada* Festival in Santa Anna. In South America she appeared at the *Festival FHS* in Chile, as well as *Homenja a Soda Estereo* in Buenos Aires. In Europe she performed at DCODE Festival in Madrid, *Nocturama* Festival in Seville, BBK Live Festival in Bilbao, and the *La Mar de Musicas 2017* festival in Cartagena.

After launching *Un Beso*'s music video, Morrison released music videos for four additional singles in order to promote *Amor Supremo*: *Vez Primera*, *Azucar Morena*, *No Vuelvo Jamas* and *Tu Atacas*, all directed by Broducers. *Tu Atacas* was co-directed by Chris Carrera, who is currently directing a documentary about Carla Morrison the woman, her experiences as an indie artist in the music industry, and as the head of her own company¹⁶.

La Niña del Tambor and Amor Supremo

In December 2016, Morrison released the EP *La Niña del Tambor (Little Drummer Girl)*, which she produced along side Alejandro Jimenez and Demian Jimenez. The EP is comprised of 6 Christmas songs, including *Jesus*, which she wrote, and was recorded live at Baby Jesus Hood Studio in Mexico City. Three of the songs on the EP are performed in English, the other three in Spanish. The EP was released as a free digital download.

The *Amor Supremo Desnudo* album was released on June 9, 2017. Produced by Morrison and Alejandro Jimenez, the album is comprised of 3 acoustic versions of songs from *Amor Supremo*, and 2 new songs, *Te Regalo* (whose music video was directed by Broducers), and *Dime Mentiras*. Upon its release, Morrison embarked on a *Amor Supremo Desnudo* tour starting with *Circuito Indio*, a series of concerts put on by *Vive Latino*.

Recent collaborations, TEDx and other engagements

In February of 2016, due to the success of *Amor Supremo*, Macklemore and Ryan Lewis invited Morrison to collaborate on the song “The Train,” released on their album *This Unruly Mess I’ve Made*¹⁷. In February of 2017, Morrison collaborated with *Los Pericos* on *Anonimos*, the second single off their most recent album, *Soundamerica*. In May of 2017, Dani Martin asked her to join him on *Que Se Mueran de Envidia*, the fourth single off his album *La Montaña Rusa*. Previously, in September of 2014, Morrison had also been invited to be a part of Enrique Bunbury’s *Unplugged* album, where she sang on *Porque Las Cosas Cambian*.

In May of 2017, Morrison was asked by TEDx organizers in Tlalpan, Mexico to give a talk about her experiences as a female indie artist. The talk, aptly titled “Who Do I Count On?” (soon to be released online), had Morrison discussing her ability as a singer/songwriter and how she has developed her career as an independent artist. She spoke as to why is it both feasible and important to remain an independent artist on her own terms. She also spoke about the people that comprise her team and how she runs her business.

Morrison debuted as an actress in the movie *Ana Maria in Novela Land*, which was shot in Los Angeles and premiered February 27th, 2017. The soundtrack includes 3 songs she authored: *Me Encanta*, *Yo Sigo Aqui*, and *Hasta La Piel*. She was also asked to record a Spanish version of The Velvet Underground’s *Pale Blue Eyes* for the *How To Be A Latin Lover* soundtrack, which was released in May of 2017. One of her singles from her album *Dejenme Llorar*, *Eres Tu*, also appeared on an episode of Guillermo de Toro’s *TrollHunters* in 2016.

Humanitarian work and support for social causes

Morrison has collaborated with several non-profit humanitarian organizations. She has given financial support to *Luz de Vida*, a Mexican foundation that is dedicated to helping low-income children with cancer-stricken parents. She has also served as an ambassador of the Mexican Federation of Dermatology, in order to spread skin cancer awareness. She works with PETA Latino to promote pet adoption in an attempt to deter pet sales, and the importance of spay and neutering.

From the beginning of her career, Morrison has been involved with social causes, making her stance on issues openly known in both interviews and appearances. She was vocal about supporting the *Yo Soy 132* movement, lending her voice to the cause of demanding authentic democracy—as it related to the 2012 Mexican Presidential campaign—joining other artists in recording *Un Derecho de Nacimiento*, along with a video for the song¹⁸. Morrison has also lent her support to the LGBT community in speaking out about gender equality and gay rights. Morrison’s objective when it came to shooting her video for the song *Eres Tú*, released in October 2012, was to have the story depict the wedding of a same sex couple.

Morrison was invited to participate in the *No Te Calles Cerveza Indo* campaign, which debuted in May 2016. In it, Morrison, along with other artists, speak about the importance of freedom of expression by pronouncing the words: “apathy is freedom of expression’s biggest enemy.” Stills for the campaign were shot by Emmanuel Lubezki.

In September of 2016, Morrison was a part of one of Levis Mexico’s Shaping Plus campaign, a clothing line which addresses body diversity among women. Upon sharing pictures of herself from the campaign on social media, her body type was highly criticized. This led Morrison to publish a message of love and respect for the people who dedicate themselves to put others down by criticizing and judging them based solely on their physical appearance, like they did with her during this campaign.

Recently, at the Latin Grammys, Morrison dedicated her award for Best Song, in the Alternative Music category to the Latin American community in the U.S., declaring herself against President Donald Trump and his racist politics.

New projects

Currently, Morrison is finishing up her *Amor Supremo* tour. In 2018, she plans on taking a break from touring in order to work on her next album. She will continue to actively support social causes, including women’s empowerment by speaking at schools where she plans to expound on her experiences in the music industry and as an independent artist.

Awards and nominations

Year	Award	Category	Song	Results
2011	Latin Grammys	Best Alternative Music Album	<i>Mientras Tú Dormías</i>	Nominated
	Indie-O Music Awards	Pop Folk Album	<i>Mientras Tú Dormías</i>	Winner

Year	Award	Category	Song	Results
2012	Latin Grammys	Album of the Year	<i>Déjenme Llorar</i>	Nominated
		Song of the Year	<i>Déjenme Llorar</i>	Nominated
		Best Alternative Music Album	<i>Déjenme Llorar</i>	Winner
		Best Alternative Song	<i>Déjenme Llorar</i>	Winner
2013	Grammy Awards	Best Latin rock, Urban or Alternative Album	<i>Déjenme Llorar</i>	Nominated
2013	Indie-O Music Awards	Solo Album	<i>Déjenme Llorar</i>	Nominated
2016	Latin Grammys	Best Alternative Music Album	<i>Amor Supremo</i>	Nominated
		Best Alternative Song	<i>Vez Primera</i>	Winner
2017	Grammy Awards	Best Latin rock, Urban or Alternative Album	<i>Amor Supremo</i>	Nominated
2017	<i>Premio Lo Nuestro</i>	Album of the Year	<i>Amor Supremo</i>	Nominated

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