

= Bachata Rosa =

Bachata Rosa (English : Pink Bachata) is the fifth studio album by Dominican singer @-@ songwriter Juan Luis Guerra and his group 4 @.@ 40 . It was released on December 11 , 1990 , by Karen Records . Written and produced by Guerra , the record sold over five million copies worldwide . It brought bachata music into the mainstream in the Dominican Republic and gave the genre an international audience . A Portuguese version of the record was released in 1992 under the title Romance Rosa ; it was certified gold in Brazil . The album received a Grammy Award for Best Tropical Latin Album and two Lo Nuestro Awards for Tropical Album of the Year and Tropical Group of the Year .

Seven singles were released from the record , three of which became top @-@ ten hits on the Billboard Hot Latin Songs chart . The album debuted at number one on the Billboard Tropical Albums . It remained the top @-@ selling album on the chart for 24 weeks and was certified platinum (Latin field) in the United States by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) . In Spain , the album spent eight weeks at the number one position on the chart . In the Netherlands , the record peaked at number two on the Mega Album Top 100 and was certified gold . Bachata Rosa was praised by critics , who commended Guerra 's songwriting and the record 's production , citing it as one of his most important works .

= = Background = =

At the time , bachata was defined as music from the rural areas of the Dominican Republic with lyrics considered too crude and vulgar to the public 's taste . It was characterized by an acoustic guitar accompanied with bongo drums and maracas . After releasing the album Ojalá Que Llave Café , Juan Luis Guerra began experimenting with the genre by performing bachata alongside Dominican artist Sonia Silvestre on her album Quiero Andar . The result was an early demo of " Como Abeja al Panal " (" Like a Bee to the Hive ") . Silvestre said that Guerra was dismayed when he learned that Silvestre 's album Quiero Andar was in bachata ; he did not become fully committed to the genre until after " Como abeja al panal " was released as a single where it was a hit in the United States . The song was first released for a Barceló TV commercial .

After " Como Abeja al Panal " was released as a single and achieved success , Guerra continued working on bachata music , which served as a key element in Bachata Rosa . Silvestre explained the name of the title by saying that " [Guerra 's] bachatas were rosa [rosy] while mine was red " . Guerra 's bachata focused on the language of lower @-@ class and used synthesizers for his production whereas Silvestre 's bachata relied on a synthesized accordion for her music . Recording took place in the 4 @-@ 40 studio in New York City , Guerra 's personal studio . The album was released by Karen Records .

= = Musical style , writing and composition = =

The album consists of ten tracks , including four bachata songs . The album starts with the opening track " Rosalia " , an upbeat merengue song . " Como Abeja al Panal " begins as a bachata tune and switches to salsa music in the middle of the song , falling back to bachata toward the end . " Carta de Amor " is a salsa track in which he writes a letter to his lover in his journal , punctuation marks included . " Estrellitas y Duendes " (" Little Stars and Elves ") is a bachata about living in his love 's memories as a rain @-@ shower of little stars and elves . " A Pedir su Mano " (" Asking for Her Hand ") is a cover of Lea Lignanzzy 's song " Dede priscilla " from the Central African Republic which combines merengue and Afropop .

" La Bilirrubina " (" The Bilirubin ") is a merengue song that describes a man in a hospital suffering from a high level of bilirubin from love and jealousy , which can only be cured by kisses , as no shots nor surgery are effective . " Burbujas de Amor " (" Bubbles of Love ") is a sexual bachata song about a man 's desire to become a fish and " make bubbles of love " in his lover 's fishbowl . The lyrics for the song " Bachata Rosa " were inspired by the opening lines of the poem " Book of

Questions " by Chilean poet Pablo Neruda . " Reforestame " (" Reforest me ") is a merengue track performed by 4 @-@ 40 vocalist Adalgisa Pantaleon . The last track " Acompáñeme Civil " is a merengue song performed by Beny Peregina which deals with social awareness .

= = Commercial reception = =

= = = Album = = =

In the United States , Bachata Rosa debuted at number one on the Billboard Tropical Albums on the week of January 12 , 1991 . It remained there for 24 nonconsecutive weeks and was bestselling Tropical album of the year in the United States . It peaked at number 19 on Billboard Top Latin Albums during the week of July 24 , 1993 . In 2004 , the album was certified platinum (Latin field) by the RIAA for shipments of 100 @,@ 000 copies . In Spain , the album reached number one on the Productores de Música de España chart , where it spent eight weeks . The album also performed well in the Netherlands , where it peaked at number two on the Mega Album Top 100 chart and was certified gold by the NVPI . A Portuguese version , titled Romance Rosa , was released in 1992 . It also contained songs from his earlier albums performed in Portuguese . It was certified gold in Brazil by the Associação Brasileira dos Produtores de Discos for sales of 100 @,@ 000 copies . As of 1994 , the album had sold over five million copies .

= = = Singles = = =

" Como Abeja al Panal " was the first single released from the album . It peaked at 31 on the Billboard Hot Latin Songs chart in 1989 and 55 on Mega Single Top 100 in the Netherlands . " La Bilirrubina " was the second single released from the album . It reached number nine on the Hot Latin Songs chart . The third single , " Burbujas de Amor " , was the most successful single from the album . It peaked at number two on the Hot Latin Songs chart and number three on the Mega Single Top 100 . The music video for the song features Guerra performing from a porch as he watches a couple dancing in the rain . The fourth single , " A Pedir su Mano , " peaked at 13 on the Hot Latin Songs chart . The music video shows people in traditional African dress dancing in sugarcane fields with a cartoon of a red train traversing the landscape . " Estrellitas y Duendes " , the fifth single released from the album , peaked at number three on the Hot Latin Tracks . The sixth single " Carta de amor " peaked at 35 on the Hot Latin Songs chart . The last single released from the album was " Bachata Rosa " , which peaked at 15 on the Hot Latin Songs chart .

= = Critical reception = =

The album was praised by critics . Jason Birchmeier of Allmusic gave Bachata Rosa 4 @.@ 5 out of 5 stars and referred to the record as a " milestone effort " , writing " Not only is it his career @-@ defining work , it 's also one of the finest tropical albums of its era , or any other , for that matter " . Don Snowden of the Los Angeles Times gave the album a 3 out of 4 star rating and praised the arrangements of the album as " punchy " and " well @-@ crafted " .

At the 34th Grammy Awards , the album received the award for Best Tropical Latin Album . At the 1991 Lo Nuestro Awards , Guerra received three awards : Tropical Song of the Year for " Burbujas de Amor " , Video of the Year for the music video of " A Pedir su Mano " , and Tropical Group of the Year . A year later , Guerra received two Lo Nuestro awards : Tropical Album of the Year and Tropical Group of the Year .

= = Legacy = =

Prior to the release of Bachata Rosa , bachata was generally regarded as lower @-@ class music in the Dominican Republic and did not receive media attention . After Guerra released the album ,

bachata became socially accepted by the middle- and upper @-@ classes . The genre became mainstream in the Dominican Republic , and the success of the album provided the genre with international exposure . In 2015 , Billboard listed Bachata Rosa as one of the Essential Latin Albums of Past 50 Year stating that " Guerra created an uplifting , love @-@ themed experience from start to finish and stretched bachata ? s limits by playing with merengue , salsa and Afro @-@ Caribbean rhythms " .

= = Track listing = =

All songs written and composed by Juan Luis Guerra , except where noted .
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= = Personnel = =

The following credits are from Allmusic and from the Bachata Rosa liner notes :
Juan Luis Guerra y 440
Additional personnel

= = Chart performance = =

= = Certifications = =