**Expert Opinion Letter (Confidential)**

Analysis of Positional Requirements for P-1 Status

Author: Susan Quindag

Author Info: On Q Educational Consulting

Professor of Music Education and Program Director of Strings at Bob Jones University

**Areas of Expertise**

Dedicated and creative professor of graduate and undergraduate courses in music education, education, research, and statistics. Supervises an academic program in the fine arts. Active researcher, writer, and presenter for national and international conferences and academic publications. Serves as an equity and diversity advisor/consultant, dissertation coach, and book reviewer.

**Work Experience**

**Professor of Music Education and Program Director of Strings**

Bob Jones University - Greenville, SC -

1983-01 - Present

Teaches graduate and undergraduate music education, education, and music courses in residence and online. Observes clinical experiences. Supervises an academic program (strings) in fine arts. Chairs dissertation committees. Writes, publishes, and present papers and workshops in music education. Serves as an equity and diversity advisor for Pearson Publishing. Also serves as a dissertation coach and book reviewer.

**Education**

**Ed.D. in Music Education**

University of North Carolina at Greensboro 1988-08 - 2002-11  
 **M. Ed. in Teaching Music**Bob Jones University - Greenville, SC 1981-01 - 1983-01

**BA in Music**

- Greensboro, NC

San Francisco State University - San Francisco, CA 1975-09 - 1979-12

SKILLS  
SPSS, Canvas, D2L, Microsoft Office, Finale, Adobe Connect, PowerPoint, Prezi, and Kaltura

AWARDS

**Recipient of the U. S. Speaker and Specialist Program**

2007-09

An invitation extended by the U. S. Embassy in Freetown, Sierra Leone, West African, and the West African Government as a cultural envoy and guest music lecturer on Gullah music for the commemoration of the 300th year anniversary of the abolishment of slavery. Presentations were made in universities and community centers throughout Freetown and Bo, Sierra Leone, West Africa.

CERTIFICATIONS/LICENSES

**Fundamentals of Online Teaching Certification (3 CEUs)**

2017-08 - Present

Certified to design and teach online graduate and undergraduate college courses utilizing current e-learning programs and platforms.

**Certified South Carolina Evaluator with the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching**

2017-04 - Present

Certified to evaluate student teachers in education during their clinical experience with the "South Carolina Teaching Standards 4.0 Rubric".

**Certified Accreditation Evaluation with the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools**

2006-10 - Present

Certified to serve on a team to assess Christian colleges and universities for national accreditation based on the standards established by the U. S. Department of Education.

GROUPS

**International Society for Music Education**

1995-03 - Present

International organization which conducts conferences in music education throughout the world. Currently appointed the chair of the "Spirituality and Music Education Special Interest Group" and is planning the next conference in Baku, Azerbaijan in July 2018.

**International Society for Philosophy in Music Education**

2000-02 - Present

International organization which conducts conferences and publishes, "Philosophy of Music Education Review".

**Spirituality and Music Education**

2016-03 - Present

International organization which conducts interdisciplinary conferences relating to spirituality and music education.

**South Carolina Music Educators Association**

1992-09 - 2016-09

State organization for music educators in South Carolina. Previously served as the College Division President (2006-2009) College Division Vice President (2009-2011), State Collegiate Adviser (2009-2010 and 2013-2014), and Chapter Collegiate Adviser (1996-2009).

**Music Educators National Conference**

1992-08 - 2006-09  
National organization for music educators in the United States.

**Additional Information**

Teaching and Academic Experiences

Professor and Program Director of Strings | Bob Jones University, Greenville, SC 1983 – Present

- Resident Courses: Graduate

- Testing and Research in Music Education

- Psychology of Music

- Music Curriculum

- Descriptive Statistics

- Inferential Statistics

- Quantitative Research Methods

- Dissertation Hours

- Master Thesis Hours

- String Literature Survey

- Independent Study in String Literature

• **Resident Courses:** **Undergraduate**

- String Orchestra

- Chamber String Ensemble

- Teaching Music to Students with Special Needs

- Violin and Viola Class

- Lab Orchestra

- Applied violin and viola lessons for music majors and non–majors

- Introduction to Music Education

- Intermediate String Pedagogy

- Survey of String Literature

• **Online Courses**

- Designed and facilitated the graduate courses, "Psychology of Music" and "Testing and Research in Music Education" for Bob Jones University Center for Distance Learning

- Facilitated the graduate course "Music Curriculum" for Bob Jones University Center for Distance Learning

- Currently designing the graduate course "Teaching the 'Spiritual' in Music Education" for the future

• **Committee Participation**

- Chaired and served on dissertation committees in the School of Education for candidates earning an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership and Curriculum and Instruction. Research focus of the dissertations included linguistics, English, health and fitness, music, piano pedagogy and Chinese.

- Served on the Music Education Committee for certification and accreditation

- Served as trustee for the Minority Scholarship Fund

- Served as a faculty representative on the Academic Scholarship Conference

- Served on the Philosophy Committee for the School of Fine Arts and Communication

- Served on the Music Review Committee for Bob Jones University Press

Private and Class Instructor | Bob Jones Academy, Greenville, SC 1983 – 2005

• Private string lessons to students from ages 12 to 17

• Class string lessons to students from ages 9 to 12

Consulting Experience

* Currently serves as an equity advisory for Evaluation Systems Group of Pearson Publisher
* Served as a book reviewer for Rutledge Publishing
* Served as adjunct faculty at Walsh College, Troy, Michigan, for a dissertation committee on executive leadership
* Serves as a dissertation coach for doctoral candidates:

- Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina (nursing)

- University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina (music)

- Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas (theater)

- Shenandoah University, Winchester, Virginia (music)

- Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts (music)

March 1, 2025

Dear USCIS,

I have been tasked with evaluating the history and achievements of Las Catrachas in order to provide an advisory/expert opinion letter. This letter will address the qualifications of Las Catrachas concerning the USCIS regulations for a P-1 classification as "Internationally Recognized Athletes or Members of an Internationally Recognized Entertainment Group." Unlike a general musical group, Las Catrachas is a highly distinguished cultural and entertainment ensemble, celebrated for their dynamic fusion of traditional Honduran music and dance with contemporary elements. Their artistry and recognition on an international scale make them highly qualified for a P-1 visa, allowing them to participate in a series of prestigious performances across the United States.

Las Catrachas has established itself as an elite entertainment group, representing Honduran culture not only domestically but also on an international stage. Their distinctive blend of Punta, traditional Garifuna music, and modern rhythms has garnered them a reputation as cultural ambassadors. Though their career has rapidly gained momentum, they have already earned critical and commercial recognition, affirming their status as an internationally recognized performance group. Their expertise in preserving and modernizing Punta—an iconic Garifuna musical and dance form—has set them apart in the entertainment industry, solidifying their standing as a group of exceptional ability.

Since their formation, Las Catrachas has built an extensive and impressive portfolio of performances, showcasing their craft at major cultural festivals and prominent venues across different countries. Their talent and dedication have positioned them as leaders in the entertainment industry, receiving acclaim for their high-energy performances, technical excellence, and cultural authenticity. Their participation in prestigious events such as the 34th Annual Latin American Festival in Charlotte, North Carolina, and the Festival Latinoamericano in Charleston, South Carolina, underscores their international prominence and relevance in the entertainment world.

Beyond live performances, Las Catrachas’ influence extends to media collaborations, global streaming platforms, and cross-cultural partnerships, further cementing their global recognition. Their music has resonated deeply within the Honduran and Latin American diaspora, connecting audiences to the rich cultural heritage of Punta and elevating its presence on the international stage. Through their distinctive artistic contributions, Las Catrachas has helped shape the evolving landscape of world music and entertainment, bridging tradition with innovation in ways that captivate audiences worldwide.

Their proposed engagements in the United States include performances at major cultural and entertainment venues, demonstrating the group's ongoing relevance and demand on an international scale. These engagements provide an opportunity for audiences to experience a globally recognized act that is both culturally significant and artistically compelling.

As an educational consultant, academic coach, and graduate instructor in music education, I have dedicated my career to the advancement of music performance, research, and pedagogy. With extensive experience spanning multiple decades, my work has focused on evaluating musicians, ensembles, and performers, ensuring that their contributions align with both cultural preservation and artistic excellence. My expertise extends into equity and diversity in music, statistical analysis in educational research, and music curriculum development, providing a comprehensive foundation for assessing professional musicians and entertainment groups seeking international recognition.

My academic credentials include a Doctorate in Music Education (Ed.D.) from the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, a Master’s in Teaching Music from Bob Jones University, and a Bachelor’s degree in Music from San Francisco State University. Throughout my career, I have held leadership positions in higher education, including serving as Professor of Music Education, Program Director of Strings, and Dissertation Chair. These roles have required in-depth evaluation of musical talent, technical expertise, and pedagogical contributions, giving me the authority to assess professional music groups seeking opportunities in international markets.

I have been actively engaged in research and publishing in the field of music education, with my work presented at national and international conferences, including those hosted by the International Society for Music Education (ISME). My publications include book chapters on spirituality in music education, journal articles on music pedagogy, and scholarly critiques of doctoral dissertations in music and educational leadership. My academic contributions have been recognized globally, including an invitation from the U.S. Embassy in Freetown, Sierra Leone, to serve as a cultural envoy and lecturer on Gullah music traditions, further establishing my role as a subject matter expert in cultural and traditional music.

As a peer reviewer for academic journals and an accreditation evaluator for educational institutions, I have consistently assessed the qualifications and impact of musicians, performers, and music educators. My experience in evaluating professionals and organizations in the music industry includes reviewing music ensembles, performance curricula, and research on musical traditions. This background positions me as a qualified authority in assessing the artistic merit and international recognition of entertainment groups, such as Las Catrachas, in their pursuit of a P-1 visa classification.

My extensive leadership in music education, research, and international cultural exchange enables me to offer an informed and authoritative evaluation of Las Catrachas' qualifications. Their demonstrated excellence, cultural significance, and sustained global presence align with the criteria required for an internationally recognized entertainment group, reinforcing their eligibility for P-1 visa classification.

I have been provided with extensive documentation regarding the professional qualifications of Las Catrachas, which I have reviewed to assess their eligibility for this classification. These documents include:

* Written consultation from the American Federation of Musicians
* Summary of the terms of an oral agreement between the petitioner and the beneficiary (Las Catrachas)
* Tour itinerary detailing their upcoming performances in the United States
* Letters of support attesting to the group's international recognition and artistic achievements

I have not authenticated any of the documents provided and have based my opinion on the assumption that they are accurate. I have been asked to write this expert opinion letter due to my professional background in music education, cultural studies, and entertainment industry analysis. Based on my review and expertise, I conclude that Las Catrachas meets the criteria for the P-1 visa classification, as they are an internationally recognized entertainment group with a distinguished career and a proven record of exceptional performance on a global scale.

**The applicant is coming to the United States to perform as part of an internationally recognized entertainment group with a distinguished reputation and a sustained record of excellence in their field.**

Las Catrachas has firmly established itself as an internationally recognized musical group that has captivated audiences across borders with their vibrant performances, unique fusion of traditional and contemporary sounds, and ability to bring Honduran culture to the global stage. Their distinguished reputation is supported by extensive media coverage, high-profile performances, and their ability to transcend cultural barriers with their music and choreography.

The group's impact in the entertainment industry has been acknowledged by leading publications, including La Prensa and Honduras Magazine USA, both of which have highlighted their influence in the music industry and their success in reaching global audiences​. La Prensa describes them as a combination of talent and charisma that conquers at the peak pace, noting their ability to take over digital music trends with their innovative style. Meanwhile, Honduras Magazine USA emphasizes their ability to transcend borders through their rhythm and performances, showcasing their influence beyond Honduras.

Las Catrachas has built a sustained record of excellence by performing at prestigious events such as the 34th Annual Latin American Festival in Charlotte, North Carolina, and the Festival Latinoamericano in Charleston, South Carolina. Their performances at these significant cultural gatherings demonstrate their global appeal and recognition within the international entertainment community​.

Their presence in major international music festivals and concert venues has solidified their reputation as a leading entertainment group. With a history of delivering high-energy, technically sophisticated, and culturally significant performances, they have consistently drawn large audiences and received critical acclaim.

According to the Summary of Terms of Oral Agreement with Musica Catracha LLC, Las Catrachas is contracted to perform live musical concerts before large audiences across the United States. These engagements include performances at high-profile venues and cultural festivals, further confirming their international standing and demand in the entertainment industry​. The group meets the USCIS 75% rule for P-1 eligibility, as 100% of its members have had a sustained and substantial relationship with the group for over one year. The contract outlines a nationwide concert tour, ensuring that they will be performing in front of diverse audiences and reinforcing their established reputation as an internationally recognized group.

Las Catrachas is recognized for their unique fusion of traditional Garifuna music, Punta rhythms, reggaeton, and other contemporary influences, making them a one-of-a-kind entertainment group. Their ability to merge traditional Honduran musical elements with modern production techniques has made them pioneers in their field, further proving their eligibility for a P-1 classification.

In addition to live performances, Las Catrachas has received extensive digital engagement and public acclaim through their online releases and music streaming platforms. Their songs, including "I Dreamed You", "Obsession", and "I Won't Cry", have gained widespread recognition, demonstrating their ability to reach and impact audiences on a global scale​.

Las Catrachas plays a pivotal role in promoting Honduran music and culture internationally, making them a valuable asset to the global entertainment industry. Their work has not only entertained but also served as a cultural bridge, connecting diverse audiences to the rich traditions of Honduras through their authentic yet innovative performances. With an increasing international fanbase and strategic media exposure, Las Catrachas continues to establish itself as a leading force in the Latin music industry, earning recognition among international music experts, festival organizers, and entertainment industry professionals.

Las Catrachas has met and exceeded the requirements for P-1 visa classification through their international recognition, extensive performance history, and sustained reputation for excellence in the entertainment industry. Their participation in high-profile music events, their extensive media coverage, and their ability to attract audiences both live and digitally further confirm their status as an internationally distinguished entertainment group.

Their scheduled concert tour in the United States aligns with their global presence and demand, further emphasizing their significance in the entertainment world. Given their proven record of international performances, industry recognition, and sustained excellence, Las Catrachas unequivocally meets the criteria for a P-1 visa classification, as they will be performing as an integral part of an internationally recognized entertainment group with a distinguished career and global impact.

**Importance of Las Catrachas’ presence in the U.S.**

Las Catrachas’ participation in the U.S. entertainment scene is of significant cultural, artistic, and economic value. As an internationally recognized musical group, their presence contributes to the expansion of Latin music, the promotion of Honduran heritage, and the enrichment of artistic diversity. Their scheduled performances at major multicultural festivals and entertainment venues across the United States will serve as key platforms for cultural exchange, audience engagement, and industry impact.

Las Catrachas is not just a musical group but a cultural phenomenon that bridges the past and present through a unique fusion of Punta, Garifuna rhythms, reggaeton, and contemporary Latin music. Their performances showcase the rich artistic traditions of Honduras, providing U.S. audiences with an authentic and immersive musical experience. Their presence at major festivals and venues allows for cross-cultural engagement, fostering deeper connections between Latin American traditions and the broader global music industry. The group has already demonstrated its ability to engage international audiences, as highlighted by Honduras Magazine USA, which noted their growing influence beyond their home country​.

Additionally, their participation in high-profile U.S. events will enable them to collaborate with industry professionals, festival organizers, and music experts, further solidifying their status as an internationally recognized act. Their artistic innovation and energetic performances will not only entertain but also educate audiences on the depth and diversity of Honduran culture, reinforcing their impact on the global music scene.

Las Catrachas has been formally invited by Carlotan Talents to perform at several prestigious multicultural events across the U.S., confirming their demand and relevance within the entertainment industry​. Their USA tour itinerary includes performances at:

* 34th Annual Latin American Festival (Charlotte, NC – September 21, 2024)
* Festival Latinoamericano (Charleston, SC – October 6, 2024)
* El Parrandon Festival (Greensboro, NC – December 7, 2024)
* Parranda Navideña Festival (Charlotte, NC – December 14, 2024)
* Nova Event Center (Irving, TX – March 7, 2025)
* Las Reynas (Fort Lauderdale, FL – April 4, 2025)​

These performances will showcase their internationally recognized talent on major U.S. stages, providing audiences with an unparalleled live experience while contributing to the global appreciation of Latin American music. Their engagements also serve as an opportunity to connect with industry professionals and expand their reach in the highly competitive entertainment sector.

Las Catrachas' presence in the United States promises to invigorate local economies, stimulate tourism, and bolster the prominence of Latin music in mainstream markets. Their performances are poised to draw diverse audiences, thereby enhancing attendance at cultural festivals and providing a significant boost to local businesses. Music festivals have become major economic forces in the U.S., contributing billions of dollars annually to local economies.[[1]](#footnote-1)​

The surge in Latin music's popularity has been remarkable, with revenues in the U.S. reaching $1.4 billion in 2023, reflecting a substantial increase from previous years. This growth indicates a robust demand for Latin music experiences, which Las Catrachas can fulfill through their unique performances.[[2]](#footnote-2)​ Their presence is also likely to generate extensive media coverage and digital engagement, amplifying their influence across both Latin and global music platforms. Latin music has experienced a renaissance, driven by music streaming and its ability to connect fans with music at the touch of a button. This digital connectivity can propel artists like Las Catrachas into the global spotlight, expanding their reach and impact.[[3]](#footnote-3)​

Furthermore, Las Catrachas' participation in the U.S. music scene opens avenues for collaborations and industry partnerships, reinforcing the international recognition of Honduran music. The fusion of traditional Latin sounds with contemporary genres has led to increased visibility and recognition for Latin artists. Engaging with U.S. artists and producers can lead to innovative musical blends, enriching the cultural tapestry and offering fresh experiences to audiences.[[4]](#footnote-4) The inclusion of Las Catrachas in U.S. events not only enriches the cultural landscape but also delivers tangible economic benefits, fosters media engagement, and paves the way for artistic collaborations that enhance the global appreciation of Latin music.​

Las Catrachas' participation in U.S. events aligns with the objectives of the P-1 visa classification as they are an internationally recognized entertainment group with a sustained record of excellence. Their scheduled performances at major festivals and venues further prove their demand and impact in the industry. By bringing their distinctive musical style and cultural heritage to American audiences, Las Catrachas plays a vital role in promoting artistic diversity, fostering cultural exchange, and expanding the global appreciation of Honduran music.

Las Catrachas stands as one of Honduras’ most internationally recognized musical acts, fusing traditional Garifuna rhythms with contemporary Latin sounds to create a dynamic and globally appealing performance style. Their high-energy shows, technical expertise, and sustained recognition in the entertainment industry position them as a leading force in Latin music.

Their performances have brought Punta—a dance and musical tradition rooted in the Garifuna people of Honduras—to international audiences, but their work extends far beyond cultural preservation. They have successfully bridged traditional and contemporary musical forms, blending elements of Punta, reggaeton, and other Caribbean influences, allowing them to resonate with a diverse global audience. Their ability to blend authenticity with innovation has led to high-profile invitations to major music festivals and events in the United States, solidifying their international reputation as an elite entertainment act.

The demand for Las Catrachas is reflected in their upcoming tour across the United States, where they are scheduled to perform at prestigious multicultural festivals, concerts, and major entertainment venues. These include the 34th Annual Latin American Festival in Charlotte, Festival Latinoamericano in Charleston, and El Parrandon Festival in Greensboro​. These performances place them among top-tier artists in the Latin music industry, showcasing their growing influence and sustained demand within international markets.

Their artistry has earned them widespread recognition in the entertainment industry, with media outlets such as *Honduras Magazine USA* highlighting their global reach and influence beyond their home country​. Their ability to captivate audiences worldwide is a testament to their sustained excellence and growing presence on the international stage.

As an expert in music education, performance evaluation, and cultural music studies, I can confidently affirm that Las Catrachas possesses the technical skill, industry recognition, and sustained excellence necessary for a P-1 visa classification. My expertise in assessing high-level performers across various cultural and contemporary music genres, combined with my experience as a cultural envoy and academic researcher, equips me with the authority to evaluate their qualifications.

The global impact, industry significance, and proven track record of Las Catrachas make them a highly deserving candidate for the P-1 visa. Their performances are not only commercially successful but also contribute to the growing influence of Latin music on the world stage. Given their documented international recognition, industry demand, and exceptional talent, I strongly support their P-1 visa application as an elite entertainment group with sustained excellence in the music industry.

**Conclusion**

**Las Catrachas** represent a quintessential expression of Honduran musical tradition, particularly through their incorporation of **Punta**, a traditional dance and musical form that originates from the Garifuna people of Honduras. **Punta** is known for its distinct African influences, brought to Central America by the Garifuna, descendants of West and Central African slaves who settled along the Caribbean coast. The rhythmic complexity and specific dance movements of **Punta**—notably the rapid movement of the hips while the upper body remains relatively still—are integral to Garifuna celebrations and ceremonies. This dance form serves not only as entertainment but also as a means of cultural storytelling, embodying the history and struggles of the Garifuna people.

Las Catrachas has demonstrated a sustained level of international recognition and artistic excellence, establishing themselves as a leading entertainment group in the Latin music industry. Their performances blend traditional Garifuna music, Punta rhythms, and contemporary Latin influences, making them a highly sought-after act in both cultural and mainstream music scenes. Their ability to captivate audiences across borders, combined with their extensive track record of successful performances at major cultural festivals and events, underscores their eligibility for P-1 classification as an internationally recognized entertainment group.

Their presence in the United States serves a vital role in expanding Latin music's global reach, fostering cultural exchange, and contributing to the diverse entertainment landscape. The demand for their performances at major U.S. festivals, concerts, and multicultural events is a testament to their broad appeal and artistic significance. As Latin music continues to dominate global charts and drive industry revenue, Las Catrachas represents a unique and authentic cultural force that enhances the genre’s visibility and appreciation in mainstream markets.

The evidence of their international recognition, including media coverage, digital engagement, and industry collaborations, strongly supports their qualification for the P-1 visa. Their scheduled engagements at high-profile U.S. events will not only showcase their artistic excellence but also contribute to the economic and cultural value of the entertainment industry. Their ability to bridge traditional and contemporary musical forms makes them an indispensable asset to the global Latin music movement.

Based on their distinguished reputation, documented history of international success, and the substantial impact of their work in the entertainment industry, I strongly support their P-1 visa application. Their participation in the U.S. will enhance cultural diversity, strengthen international artistic collaborations, and contribute to the continued growth of Latin music on a global scale.

The above letter is strictly my opinion and is not the opinion of any of the universities with which I am affiliated or any of their departments or affiliates.

Sincerely,

A close up of a logo

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Susan Quindag

Professor of Music Education and Program Director of Strings

Bob Jones University

1. https://festivaltopia.com/music-festivals-have-become-a-big-business-in-the-u-s/ [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. https://latv.com/latin-music-popularity-2024/ [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. https://dima.org/streaming-forward-latin-music/ [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. https://soundsm.com/the-rise-of-latin-music-and-its-global-influence/ [↑](#footnote-ref-4)