



SORAYA LAMILLA

CLASS OF 1987

Soraya Lamilla graduated from Point Pleasant High School in 1987 as class Valedictorian. She not only excelled in the classroom but also in other activities including goalie for the Field Hockey team. Even though she succeeded in high school, the seeds for her future career were sown much earlier in life. Born to Colombian parents, by the time she reached the age of five, she was a self taught guitarist. At the age of nine, she started an extensive education in classical violin that culminated in an appearance at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

After high school, Soraya attended Rutgers University majoring in English. In her spare time she played in the coffeehouses in New Brunswick. In her youth she would play Colombian folk music and listen to Carole King, Led Zeppelin and Fleetwood Mac. When she graduated from Rutgers, Soraya moved to Miami, where she became a flight attendant for



United Airlines. One of her regular passengers was the President of Polygram Latino. She passed along a demo tape, where her silken voice and gentle pop sound so impressed him that she was signed to a recording contract in 1994. By 1998 she had released two albums in both English and Spanish and had opened for Alanis Morissette, Natalie Merchant and Michael Bolton. Her song "On Nights Like This (En Esta Noche)" went Gold and Platinum in the US, Mexico, Colombia, Central America and Germany.

In 1996 she was voted MTV Latino Best Video by a Female Artist for "De Repente". In 1997 she was a musical guest on "New York Undercover" and her music was used extensively on the soap opera "One Life To Live". In 1997 she co-wrote "Wall of Smiles" with Carole King and appeared on the cover of Latino Teen magazine with Bon Jovi. In 1998 she was nominated for Latin Favorite Pop Video and Favorite Video by a Female.

Soraya has also used her success to help others. In 1998 she was a founding member on the board of "Cancer Cares," a charity organized in the Dallas area. Recently, she has had several meetings with the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and has become their Latin spokesperson for commercials, seminars and pamphlets. She has also decided to put together a charity CD with Latin artists, including a tour, with all the proceeds going to educate the Hispanic US population as well as Latin America and Spain. Soraya has also worked with the National Institute of Health as spokesperson for breast cancer education and awareness in the US Latino community and in Central and South America.