



Looking Back

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Looking Back is a nostalgic reflection on the shortwave scene of yesteryears, written from the personal experience of the author, who has been DXing the shortwave bands for over seven decades.

MUSICAL MEMORIES, Part 3

9,000 and 16,000 feet a.s.l., where many people live and work.

MOUNTAIN MUSIC

FROM the land of the huayno! The music of the Andean world is centred on the countries of Peru and Bolivia, especially the former.

This is on the western side of Bolivia and in southern Peru, with the famous Lake Titicaca straddling the border of the two nations.

This is the territory of the Indian races of Latin America - well, at least the Indian tribes of these countries - speaking the typical native tongues of the Aymara and Quechua peoples. One may occasionally encounter vocal items in their musical repertoire in these tongues, although the vast majority of the songs are in Spanish.

In former days there was a Bolivian station on 60 metres, CP38 La Voz del Altiplano, which was



Quechua is the language of the Incas and has a long history, but is not often heard in song form. There are, of course, many other local dialects and languages in Latin America, such as Guarani (Paraguay especially), but these are not found in the Andean regions.

As has been previously mentioned, the high altitude areas are where the Indian peoples are found, and typically, they have "barrel-shaped" chests to accommodate the large sized lungs they need to cope with the low oxygen levels found in the mountains. The "altiplano" is a dry, plateau-like region between

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MACHU PICCHU
CUZCO - PERU

COMPAÑIA RADIOFONICA LIMA, S. A.

Lima, 22 de Agosto de 1991

Señor
TOMAS WILLIAMSON

Confirmamos su reporter de sintonía para nuestra Onda Corta Tropical en la Banda de 61,04 mts. Frecuencia de 4915 Khz, el día 30 Julio 91

[Signature]
JUAN RAMIREZ LAZO
DIRECTOR GERENTE

Centro Cívico, Lima 1, Perú. Telfs.: 331188 - 330848 Fax: 336134

heard occasionally. I must say, however, that I associate this style of music more especially with Peru, not the least for the typical melody and dance known as the huayno. Once you have heard the characteristic "yip-ping" sound of the performers, you will easily recognize the melodic music. Andean music is so VERY DIFFERENT from the coastal "musica

tropical" that they might almost be from different continents! Personally I enjoy both, but each type has its own fans.

To western ears, the Andean music can be described as "haunting", or even sad, but it is certainly beautiful. One English pop song - I can't remember the title - was popularized by the Swedish group ABBA. It is widely known as El Condor Pasa, characterizing the flight of the huge Andean eagle of that name.

Today it is easier to hear Andean music than the tropical type, because there is no shortage of Peruvian stations (but they come and go like mushrooms!) and quite a few Bolivians.

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CERTIFICADO DE SINTONIA

La Empresa Unipersonal de Comunicaciones,
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TOMAS WILLIAMSON
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TARJETA QSL

Apreciado señor
Dr. Tomas Williamson.

RADIO CENTENARIO "LA NUEVA"
 Tel (591-3)529265 Fax (591-3)524747
 E. MAIL: mision.eplabol@scbbs-bo.com
 Casilla de Correo 818
 Santa Cruz - Bolivia
 (Sud América)

Agradecemos su informe de recepción de transmisión, el mismo que tenemos el gusto de confirmar:

FECHA DE TRANSMISION: 31/enero/1995

HORA (De Bolivia): 6:35 - 6:50 PM.

FRECUENCIA: SW 4855 Khz, 60 m

POTENCIA DE TRANSMISION: 5 Kw.

Santa Cruz, 09 de Julio de 1998

[Signature]
 Julio Acosta Campos
 DIRECTOR

is too "countrified" or "peasant music", so they try to "jazz it up", adding instruments that are not part of the culture, or including political themes in the vocals. It is still easiest to hear the real folk music on shortwave.

Good listening!

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Probably the most famous and beloved of the Peruvians was Radio Quillabamba, located in the town of that name and a target for DXers because of its beautiful music and lovely pennant. Frequently - at least in the past - they broadcast many huaynos.

Radio Cuzco is another one with frequent examples of this music style. Bolivian stations also may be a source of these melodies, but in my experience, their musical fare is more varied.

If you become addicted, be aware that it is not easy to find genuine huayno music on CDs. There seems to be a tendency among the marketers of such folk music, to think that it

Sound Sample - if you are reading this on your computer, click the link below to hear Huaynos music - probably both authentic and some less so.

<http://yumusica.com/,huaynos.html>

RADIO SAN MIGUEL
 CP 114 o.c. 60 MTS.

CERTIFICADO DE SINTONIA

RADIO SAN MIGUEL Certifica que:

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Riberalta, 08 de Junio de 1994

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