

## Once Quentos de Amor (Eleven Love Stories)

<p><b>“When I loved you”</b> (Billo Fromenta)</p> <p>When I loved you When you adored me When in my soul Only you reigned When I swore To love you till death When your ardent lips As they kissed me, told a lie.</p> <p>But it was the same old story As that tireless account You had to forget me You had to lie The farce of life The sarcasm in living To love is the easiest lie To tell.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Written in the 1930s by great bandleader, arranger and composer Billo Fromenta when he was just a teenager. This is his first known composition. Billo, as he is lovingly called in Caracas, arrived from the Dominican Republic at an early age. Initially, he played the saxophone but later he left it aside to lead his orchestra - The Billo's Caracas Boys. For over 50 years they were always without a doubt the most popular and acclaimed dance orchestra ever in the country.</p>	<p><b>“Swallows of time”</b> (Alfredo Sadel)</p> <p>Over the houses Over the church Swallows that stain the sky Tell of the time Which won't return And the afternoon dies of jealousy</p> <p>The moon also feels The coldness from love And fears the dusk and the sorrow</p> <p>Love me! Till you have no more love Love me! Burn my soul with your sun Let there be no more life; no more world But you and I</p> <p>Kiss me! The kiss won't return Look at me Stay in my soul Once and for all Fill your smile with my name And with my love Love me until my fear dies</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Composed by the most important classical and popular male singer from Venezuela, Alfredo Sadel. Sadel, a tenor with a clear passionate voice gained fame all through Latin America, even making appearances on the Ed Sullivan show. This lovely song is a cross between the bolero and the serenade, a very typical style used throughout the centuries, a style of courting and singing which now is on the verge of extinction.</p>	<p><b>“Write to me”</b> (Guillermo Castillo)</p> <p>Your letters are my hope My madness, my happiness And even if it is about silly things Write to me! Write to me!</p> <p>Your silence saddens me Worries me and predisposes me Even with mistakes Write to me! Write to me!</p> <p>I miss your letters more Than my own life It would be better to die If some day you should forget me When they reach my hands Reading them moves me And even if they are bad news Write to me! Write to me!</p> <p><b>Note:</b> This song was written by the composer Guillermo Casillo Bustamante while in jail during the Perez Jimenez dictatorship in the 50s. Written to his daughter, it was released and sung by Alfredo Sadel with the permission of Perez Jimenez.</p>	<p><b>“My soul and I”</b> (Conny Mendez)</p> <p>Till the blue of dawn Lonely we wait my soul and I Lonely with your memory Lonely my soul and I.</p> <p>The evening dies light is born Life calls and you wake up Centuries pass from light to light And always we wait My soul and I.</p> <p>The evening returns The light dies Life is silent And you sleep, Centuries pass from light to light And always we wait My soul and I Always we wait My soul and I.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> This beautiful song, originally a waltz, was written by the most important female composer of popular music in Venezuela, Conny Mendez. She was not only the author of many Venezuelan Merengues (a typical style of music from the capital, Caracas) which have become through time national anthems in their own right, but she was also well known world wide as a teacher of metaphysics and writer of many prayer and affirmation books. We did this arrangement in the fashion of the merengue style which is a 5/8 meter as a reference to her many beautiful compositions in this style.</p>	<p><b>“Softness”</b> (Stelio Bosh)</p> <p>Softness Had your eyes When they gazed at me Had your lips When they kissed me With crazy passion.</p> <p>In your fury To give me kisses And to love me that way Imprisoned in your hands My poor heart remained.</p> <p>I don't know what it is that I feel When you kiss me I only know That I would never want To leave your arms ... ay!</p> <p>But, what softness Had your eyes When they gazed at me Had your lips Anxiety and passion When I left your side</p> <p><b>Note:</b> This beautiful bolero from the 70s was made famous in the sensual and intimate voice of popular and Jazz bass player and composer and singer Jose “El Negro” Quintero. Quintero, along with composer Stelio Bosh, wrote and interpreted many boleros greatly influenced by Jazz in their chord progressions, melodies and feel.</p>
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<p><b>“Don’t come back”</b> (Elisa Soteldo)</p> <p>You left yesterday That’s nothing new Already everyone had told me That your love was not true Don’t be surprised Of what I’m about to tell you I didn’t love you either And now you know the truth.</p> <p>Together we lied These are things that happen when you’re in love It’s better this way Now that all has ended.</p> <p>Don’t come back to tell me you love me You know it was just a game And only a game And nothing else.</p> <p>(Improvisation) Don’t go on thinking About a possible reconciliation You better go your own way And let me follow mine Leave my side! Leave my life And leave me be. Forget that! Forget me!</p> <p><b>Note:</b> This humoristic but strong bolero/cha cha cha was composed by the main female Jazz composer and singer in Venezuela in the 50s. Elisa Soteldo along with other Jazz musicians and fans opened what was then called the Caracas Jazz Club of which she was the vice president. The story goes that her ex-husband, who was also a composer had written love songs to her and she responded by writing this song. The last part of the song is not written by the composer Elisa Soteldo, but they are improvisations inspired by the lyrics.</p>	<p><b>“Don’t you say it”</b> (Jose Quintero)</p> <p>It doesn’t worry me That people might say you don’t love me Nor that people go around talking about our love.</p> <p>Nobody cares how you express your feelings And nobody knows you in the world As well as I do</p> <p>It doesn’t worry me That people might say you don’t love me Nor does it interest me What the world whispers</p> <p>Nothing bothers me Let your friends say it Let everybody say it Let your friends say it But, don’t you say it Let your friends say it But don’t you say it</p> <p><b>Note:</b> This passionate bolero by singer, composer and bass player Jose “El Negro” Quintero became very popular in the 70s. It is characteristic of the boleros of that period with its intimate style and slow tempo. Although to us now they might seem extreme, the passionate lyrics were typical in those days of wine and roses.</p>	<p><b>“Quinta Anauco”</b> (Aldomaro Romero)</p> <p>I found you in the sunlight With the look of love You were the light You were the peace With the look of love I seduced you I fell in love With the look of love I brought you color for your skin And a new way to love It all began With the look of love.</p> <p>Your spring awoke With the look of love All my tears dried up With the look of love We learned how to love With the look of love And we discovered the truth That was hidden beneath us It all began with the look of love.</p> <p>When my love met yours Your youth was lit up When my love drove you mad You began to be yourself Now that your crazy passion is fading I’ll exchange my life For what is left of your love.</p> <p>It all began With love.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> This is one of the greatest compositions (in this case a waltz) by the greatest composer, arranger and pianist of Venezuelan popular music and Venezuelan Jazz, Aldemaro Romero. The title of the song is the name of a colonial style house in Caracas. He was the creator of a new musical movement in the 60s called “Onda Nueva,” or New Wave, which has no relation at all to what we know today as new wave. It was the new way to interpret our Venezuelan rhythms in 3/4 time, such as the Joropo, with the Jazz combo of piano, bass and drums. This creative and fascinating rhythm was also influenced by the growing popularity of the Bossa Nova.</p>	<p><b>“Immortal love”</b> (Willy Perez)</p> <p>I want this love to be immortal This love I feel for you Don’t deny it warmth Since it would be like letting it die Open your heart With the same sincerity as mine Love, don’t let it happen Give strength and warmth To this immortal love</p> <p>Your star and my star, together Above in the sky, will shine for ever Your life and mine On this earth Could never be separated.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> This composition by Willy Perez has the unique quality of passion inscribed in all the classic boleros. The melody is unusual in this case though, with its angular structure and use of tensions in the melodic phrase. Most of these composers from the 50s, 60s and 70s share a strong Jazz influence in their music. That is why we felt completely comfortable in presenting these revised versions with the freedom and coolness of Jazz.</p>	<p><b>“Rocco’s Bolero”</b> (Evio di Marzo)</p> <p>My melody carries you Delicately while you’re alive My melody takes care of you Takes care of you and protects you Delicately while you sleep.</p> <p>Look how pretty the The river water Listen how it sounds After the lightning flashes Look how pretty Are the flowers in the fields Don’t pick any, Let them dance Alone in the wind.</p> <p>Your melody Carries me from here to there From there to here Delicately through life Your melody takes care of me and protects me Keep the hope Of some dream.</p> <p>The Man in the sky Or something mysterious Will come in your dreams Don’t be afraid (bis) That I will be there at your side With you, with you.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> This is a fabulous composition by the talented writer, poet, singer and arranger of the new generation Evio di Marzo. Here we have a change of themes in that the lyrics are no longer romantic but instead are a lullaby written to his son Rocco. It’s a very unusual interpretation of a bolero but closer to our present realities with a deeper, even spiritual, context.</p>
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