



NANO STERN

The Story

Nano Stern's path as an artist follows richly crafted song lines laid by his family and his Chilean musical ancestry and unites those with a sound utterly fresh and relevant. The confluence of recent student and environmental political events in his home country Chile and Nano's rise as an articulate writer and performer have, much to his chagrin, positioned him as the voice of a newly politicized Chilean generation.

The grandson of Jewish refugees fleeing persecution, Nano's childhood was painted vivid by not only his own family's musicianship but by the powerful legacy of the *Nueva Canción* movement. Legends like Inti-Illimani and Victor Jara- who suffered exile and even death during these troubling times- continue to inspire Nano's breadth of sound and emotion. "I am extremely respectful of the tradition," explains Stern, "It is an enormous gift we received from the people of the past."

When only fifteen, Nano joined popular Chilean underground band, *Mattoral*, and thus was initiated into the fresh, new sounds and socio-political pulse of the South American rock/punk scene. The thick rock-energy of *Mattoral*, his classical and jazz training, and the powerful influence of traditional, Chilean revolutionary music make for something purely Nano. What has emerged is a powerhouse artist, brilliantly layering indigenous, African, and European elements into a sound all his own, and humbly bringing audiences to tears, to their feet, and to reverie with a singular kind of emotion and soulfulness unlike any other South American artist performing today. "I'm generally working to create a language of my own," he says. The world emphatically agrees.

Agile across a range of instruments, Nano's closest companions remain simply his guitar and staggering vocals, and with them come fluent, extraordinary musicianship and a wide-open heart. Oscillating between the personal and the political, outspoken, passionate, and experimental, it is perhaps Nano himself who captures his musical ethic best when remarking, "In the measure that I'm able to vibrate strongly, other people will resonate. If that frequency is intense, other things around it will vibrate together with it. Music in the end is that. We can put aside words, genre, and tradition. In the end, it is all about the movement of air that makes our bodies move. It's the most mysterious thing."

Biography

Folk legend Joan Baez remarked, “[Nano] may be the best young Chilean songwriter of his generation. With his lyrics, melodies, message, delivery, humor, and heart, he gets my vote”.

Singer / songwriter Nano Stern is a Chilean artist riding the crest of the new wave of Chilean Song, with a devoted following that stretches out from Chile, into Latin America, north to Mexico, Canada, and the USA, over to Europe and down in Australia. His musical virtuosity, mesmerizing and charismatic live performances and his passionate and poetic advocacy for social justice result in a true and honest universal message, delivered with an intense energy and a high level of musicality, dwelling deeply into tradition whilst being contemporary with the passion of youth.

Nano's style is an Indie-Folk-Rock-Jazz fusion; deeply rooted in traditional Chilean music and inspired by legends Violeta Parra, Víctor Jara, Quilapayún, Illapu and Inti-Illimani, yet combined with a host of influences absorbed from his travels around the world, as well as his early classical training. Added to the mix is a love for rock, which results in a truly unique sound, the whole becoming greater than the sum of the parts. Stern is an accomplished musician, playing a range of instruments from Spanish and electric guitars and violin to the Andean and Nordic flutes. Not to be underrated is the power and emotion that emanates from his vocal prowess and his intimate and rousing connection to his audiences, at home in Chile and across the world.

Stern's rise to fame has been meteoric, with a recording career spanning ten years that includes five award winning and critically acclaimed solo albums, a live solo album from Australia, a DVD and collaborations with Swedish guitar master Mattias Perez ("Otoñal") and youth folk super group Ethno in Transit. In 2011, Nano emerged as a producer of an award-winning album for Australian world and folk legend, Kavisha Mazella and in 2012 was invited to compose and record a song for Chilean cultural icon Inti Illimani. In 2014 Nano released *San Diego 850*, a live 2 CD/DVD set from his November 2013 concert at the Teatro Caupolicán [Santiago, Chile]. In 2015 Nano released his 5th studio album, *Mil 500 Vueltas*, featuring guests Jorge Drexler and Joan Baez. The CD immediately became #1 iTunes Chile and went Gold in September 2015.

Nano's stature in Chile has risen to the point of being woven into Chile's cultural history. His albums sit at the top of the download charts and have received unanimous critical praise. He fills theatres and halls across the country, performs at Chile's biggest festivals and is a consistently intelligent and compassionate voice in the national media. In 2013 Nano was invited to perform for the 40th anniversary of the death of Víctor Jara, recording Jara's most famous song, *Lo único que tengo*, on the university campus where Víctor Jara was captured.

Nano Stern has attracted a dedicated following wherever he goes, from the smallest local communities in the southern most human settlement of Patagonia to the biggest stages and festivals in Chile, Argentina, Colombia, Mexico, and Uruguay. At the 2015 Festival Viña del Mar (Chile) his set ran between Cat Stevens and Oscar de León and has given rousing performances at Lollapalooza Chile and WOMAD Chile. In Australia he has consistently been the stand-out performer at leading festivals, including WOMADelaide and the Woodford, Port Fairy and Brunswick festivals. While in Europe, Nano has gone from barefoot hitchhiking through Ethno gatherings to the festival stages of WOMAD UK, Sziget (Hungary), Bardentreffen (Germany), Kaustinen (Finland), Viljandi (Estonia), Sfinks (Belgium), Urkult (Sweden) among others.

Since Nano's USA debut performances at SXSW in March 2014, he has toured solo and with his trio to festivals and performing arts centers across Canada and the United States. These include 'Globalquerque' & the National Hispanic Center, Albuquerque; Chicago's Old Town School of Folk Music and World Music Festival; Lincoln

Center Outdoors, Joe’s Pub, City Winery, New York City; California WorldFest, Grass Valley; the LEAF Festival, Asheville (NC); SunFest, London (ON); Koerner Hall, Toronto (ON); Thalian Hall, Wilmington (NC); Queens College (NY); Villa Victoria, Boston; NC State University, Raleigh; the Lotus Festival, Bloomington (IN); University of Vermont, Bucknell University (PA), UCLA and Stanford University (CA), ASU Kerr Cultural Center, Scottsdale (AZ).

2016 Nano Stern celebrated 10 years of his musical journey. He began the year in style January 27th when Joan Baez invited Nano to celebrate her 75th birthday at New York’s Beacon Theatre with some of her oldest friends: Paul Simon, Jackson Brown, Judy Collins, Richard Thompson, Damien Rice, Mavis Staples, Emmylou Harris, Indigo Girls and David Bromberg. The concert was recorded and aired by New York’s Channel 13 for the PBS program *Great Performances*. In 2016, Nano premiered the vinyl edition of *Mil 500 Vueltas* with two concerts at the Teatro Oriente (Santiago), embarked on his first tour of Spain, returned to Argentina and toured the United States and Canada twice. And, Nano launched his songbook, *Cancionero* (38 songs with illustrations by Sol Díaz) with three concerts at the Nescafé Theater of the Arts, Santiago.

In 2017 Nano returned to Spain including Café Berlín (Madrid) and Festival Barnasants (Barcelona). His songbook, *Cancionero* was published, and promoted on a solo tour throughout Chile performing on 10 instruments including Spanish, folk, Scandinavian and electric guitars, piano, violin, flutes, charango and nyckelharpa. August 25, 26, 2017, Nano curated his 4th annual winter festival “Brotos de Invierno” at the renowned Centro Cultural Gabriela Mistral (Santiago) with featured guests Natalia Contesse (Chile), Magdalena Matthey (Chile), Omar Camino (Peru) and the master poet and improviser Alexis Diaz Pimienta from Havana, Cuba. With his trio he toured North America three times - highlights being the Clearwater Festival -the great Hudson River Revival (NY), the Kennedy Center’s Millennium Stage, Boston, Bing Studio, Stanford University (CA); Palais Montcalm, Quebec (QC); his debut at Musical Instrument Museum in Phoenix and a co-bill with Inti-Illimani at Koerner Hall, Toronto. 2017 also marked the 100th anniversary of Chilean legend Violeta Parra with Nano headlining at the festival in Santiago on her anniversary, October 4th; and performed a symphonic concert in Temuco September 30th.

On January 17th, 2018, Nano Stern released his EP *Santiago*, live at the Teatro Nescafé. *Santiago* is an experimental work in which Nano immersed himself completely in the whole creative process performing all the instruments. Later that year on May 18th he released *Lucero*, co-produced with Tony Platt (known for his work with AC/DC, Cheap Trick, Bob Marley, Iron Maiden, Buddy Guy, Foreigner).

2018 and 2019 saw tours of Australia, Argentina (including his debut at the Cosquín Folk Festival, one of the most important folk festivals of Argentina), New Zealand, Europe, the USA (making his debut in Los Angeles with CAP UCLA at the Theatre at the ACE Hotel), Mexico, and Canada, as well as numerous concerts throughout Chile. With the 5th anniversary of “Brotos de Invierno” Nano extends the Santiago based festival to Concepcion with guest artists Marta Gómez, winner of a 2014 Latin Grammy (Columbia), Manu Sija (Argentina), Benjamín Walker and Vicente Cifuentesson (Chile).

In 2020, Nano released 2 singles: *Regalé mis ojos (I gave away my eyes)*, written during his Australian tour mid-November 2019, dedicated to Gustavo Gatica, a 21-year-old psychology student who was permanently blinded after receiving shots to both eyes during a peaceful protest in downtown Santiago. The video of the song went viral, reaching over a million plays within the first month on all social media platforms.

The other single, *Ojo por Ojo (eye for an eye)* “was a very hard song written at a very hard time, during the long curfew nights in early November 2019”, stated Nano.

Nano Stern – Biography - Page 3

During the pandemic Nano Stern concentrated on composing, creating videos and virtual performances, among them an 8-part course entitled “A Journey Through the Music of the World” presented by the University of Connecticut, Storrs.

Nano’s 7th studio recording *Aún Creo en la belleza* was released in 2022 along with the publication of his first collection of decimas poetry. Of the recording Tony Hillier, *WeekEnd* Australian wrote “*The maestro’s ultra-soulful singing and virtuosity on guitar and violin is never less than mesmeric*”.

Aún creo en la belleza features 13 songs and the collaboration of 3 important guest artists: Raly Barrionuevo (Argentina), Omar Camino (Peru) and Magdalena Matthey (Chile). Of the recording, Stern points out that “it has an eclectic sound that relates to abstract realities, many of which are not dependent on the overwhelming urgency of everyday life in the past years.” He adds, “the overall feeling of the album is a result of the long months of quarantine; and the instruments that give the album its color are those that live with me in my home”.

In 2023, as the world commemorates 50 years since the coup d’état in Chile, Nano Stern revisits the songs of legendary folk singer Víctor Jara, who personifies the spirit of the day through his timeless music and poetry. With austere virtuosity, Stern gives new breath to this immortal repertoire.

Nano is currently touring throughout Europe and North and South America in support of his newest recording *Nano Stern Canta A Víctor Jara* and presents the documentary *En Septiembre Canta el Gallo* produced by himself and filmmaker Luis Emilio Briceño. From the impact of the figure of Violeta Parra to the creation of pieces such as the Cantata Santa María de Iquique, the documentary portrays the generation of young people who revolutionized Chilean song from 1958 to 1973. Without glorification or condescension, but with honesty and, above all, with a genuine interest in telling their story.

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Nano Stern – Links

<http://www.nanostern.cl/>

<https://twitter.com/NanoStern>

https://instagram.com/nano_stern/

<https://www.facebook.com/nanosternoficial>

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSJ4UVVTJ2j1JhW_WPKqyyg

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