

Brief Biography of Nominee

María Guadalupe Araujo Yong, otherwise known as “Ana Gabriel” is an iconic Mexican singer and composer. She was born on December 10, 1955 in the small town of Guamúchil, Sinaloa, Mexico. Even as a little girl, her family always encouraged her singing and musical ability, staging reenactments of a popular radio show where she would play the first three notes from a song and her family would guess what song it was. She felt a calling to be a singer from a very young age and first performed on stage at age six, singing "Regalo de Dios" by José Alfredo Jiménez.

While in Tijuana she studied accounting and she eventually became a Certified Accountant, but she knew in her heart that music, composing, and singing with her unique voice was in her future. On December 15, 1974 she recorded her first song.

Over the course of her career Gabriel has released 28 studio albums, three live albums, and 19 compilation albums, selling more than 40 million records worldwide. Three of her albums have reached number one on the *Billboard* Latin Pop Albums chart, and seven singles reached number one on the *Billboard* Hot Latin Songs chart, including "Ay Amor," "Es Demasiado Tarde," and "Quién Como Tú." Her work earned her numerous awards and accolades, including a Grammy Award nomination, four Latin Grammy Award nominations, thirteen Lo Nuestro Awards, as well as awards from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers; in 2006, she received the Excellence Award at the Lo Nuestro Awards.

Ana Gabriel performed at the OTI Festival in 1985, 1986, and 1987. In 1986 wrote and composed “A Tu Lado,” which she then performed at the festival. She won third place in 1987 with an orchestral version of the pop-power ballad song "Búscame," composed in conjunction with Tony Flores. This version was later released as a single in its album version. It climbed to the top position in Mexico, all-over Ibero-America, and broke records on the Billboard Hot Latin Tracks chart for 14 consecutive weeks.

In 1988 Gabriel released *Tierra de Nadie*, which was the best-selling album in Latin America, followed by *Pecado Original* in 1989. The 1989 release of the album *Quién Como Tú* made her a musical force in Mexico. Her live album *En Vivo* showcased her powerful stage act and scored several hits including “En la Oscuridad” and “Destino,” which she wrote to honor her grandparents Roberto and Florencia.

Throughout the '90s Gabriel released an album almost every year. A versatile singer, she showcased her talent as an interpreter of many different musical styles including mariachi, ranchero, romantic ballads, and pop. She honed her skills as a songwriter and a producer, releasing *Mi México*, a ranchera-influenced, mariachi-backed pop album in 1991, which is the highest-selling album of her career. The album also included a tribute to Mexico's most popular singer-songwriter, Juan Gabriel and opened the doors to her career in Europe. Her second live album, *Ana Gabriel en la Plaza de Toros México*, recorded on February 14, 1998, is the second-best-selling album of her career. It features 28 songs all written and performed by Gabriel and was re-released in 2007 with a DVD compilation, which sold over 2 million copies.

In 2009, after a short hiatus, she reinvigorated her career with the release of *Renacer: Homenaje a Lucha Villa*. According to *Rolling Stone Magazine* in 2018 she stood “...as the highest-ranking female artist on Billboard’s male-dominated Greatest of All Time Hot Latin Songs Artists list, opening the doors for future female pop titans like Shakira.”