



José Pablo Moncayo

BIOGRAPHY

José Pablo Moncayo is one of the most well-known composers in Mexican history. He worked his whole life to make music that represented Mexico, combining the music of Native Mexicans, popular songs, and classical music.

Moncayo was born in 1912 in a city called Guadalajara. His first brush with music came early in life, but unlike many other famous composers, his actual education didn't come until much later, when he was 14 years old. His first teacher was so impressed that only 3 years later, he convinced Moncayo to study at the National Conservatory, Mexico's most well-known school of music.

Moncayo made fast friends with 3 other composers, and together they formed their own artistic group. They became more and more popular until 1934, when they hit a difficult setback. The conservatory elected a new director, and this director didn't like them one bit. He canceled their composition program, so they had to study in private and organize concerts of their own. The extra challenge had its benefits, though. While it made life difficult for Moncayo, it also put him in the national spotlight.

In 1936, Moncayo joined the National Symphony Orchestra. Soon afterward, he conducted for the first time. In the following few years, his original music—including Huapango, which is his most famous—began playing in orchestras across the country. This began a stretch of conducting and composing that would last until Moncayo's death in 1958.

For his whole life, Moncayo wrote music which combined traditional and modern Mexico. Through songs, piano pieces, and even an opera, he helped create a kind of Mexican identity, and his death marked the end of an era in Mexican music.

READINGS, RESOURCES, AND VIDEOS

[José Pablo Moncayo from last.fm](https://last.fm/user/jos%C3%A9-pablo-moncayo)

[José Pablo Moncayo and Huapango from walkerhomeschoolblog](https://walkerhomeschoolblog.com/2018/05/10/jos%C3%A9-pablo-moncayo-and-huapango/)

[El Huapango de Moncayo, su historia \(6 minutes, in Spanish\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kd8Z8Z8Z8Z)