

Example of the Role of the Balladeer in Influencing Culture

*The Greek philosopher Plato said,
"Give me the songs of the nation and it matters not who writes its laws."*

Darrow Miller talks about how ideas spread, beginning with the philosophers and the intellectuals and then through the balladeers – the musicians, the poets, the writers.

His point is to encourage young Christian men and women, who love the arts and are gifted in the arts, to begin to speak prophetically to the culture; to encourage pastors, that when the church is at its healthiest, she is the wellspring of the arts for a nation.

Below is an example of ideas being spread through balladeers.

Balladeers Negatively Influencing a Culture

In 1983 the Puerto Rican Salsa music group El Gran Combo recorded the song *No Hago Mas Na*.

You can see and hear the recording at:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X9bExXPIBC4>

The lyrics are:

No Hago Mas Na'	I Don't Do Anything Else
Yo me levanto por la mañana, me doy un baño y me perfumo, me como un buen desayuno y no hago mas na', mas na'.	I wake up in the morning I take a shower and put some perfume on I eat a good breakfast and I don't do anything else, anything else
Después yo leo la prensa, yo leo hasta las esquelas, o me pongo a ver novelas y no hago mas na', mas na'.	And then I read the news and I even read "las esquelas" or I even watch soap operas and I don't do anything else, anything else
A la hora de las doce yo me como un buen almuerzo de arroz con habichuelas y carne guisada, y no hago mas na'.	By twelve I eat a good lunch of rice with beans and meat, and I don't do anything else
Después me voy a la banca a dormir una siestita; y a veces duermo dos horas y a veces mas, y no hago mas na'.	And then I go to the bench to take a little nap and sometimes I sleep two hours and sometimes a little more, I don't do anything else
Y me levanto como a las tres, y me tomo un buen café, me fumo un cigarillito con mi guitarra	And then I wake up around three and I drink a good coffee I smoke a cigarette with my guitar

<p>y me pongo a cantar.</p> <p>A la la, a la la, a la la lara la lara</p> <p>Y a la hora de la comida me prepara mi mujer un bistec con papas fritas con ensalada y mil cosas mas. Me lo mango y no hago mas na'.</p> <p>Luego me voy al balcón, cual si fuera un gran señor, a mecerme en el sillón, Con mi mujer a platicar.</p> <p>A larara la la.</p> <p>¡Ay!, cuando se me pega el sueño enseguidita me voy a acostar, y duermo hasta por la mañana y no hago mas na', mas na'.</p> <p>(Qué bueno es vivir asi, comiendo y sin trabajar) ¡Oigan!, yo nunca he doblado el lomo y no pierdan su tiempo, no voy a cambiar. ¡Qué va! (Qué bueno es vivir asi, comiendo y sin trabajar)</p> <p>Señores, si yo estoy declarado en huelga, ¡si!, ¡mi mujer que me mantenga! ¿Oiste? (Qué bueno es vivir asi, comiendo y sin trabajar) Qué bueno, qué bueno, qué bueno, qué bueno es vivir la vida, ¡comiendo, durmiendo y no haciendo na'!</p> <p>Oiga compay, ¿usted sabe lo que es estar en un sillón mece que te mece? Esperando que lleguen los cupones del Seguro Social... ¡Asi cualquiera!</p> <p>(Qué bueno es vivir asi, comiendo y sin trabajar) Recibiendo la pensión por loco, de loco yo no tengo na', ¡listo que soy! (Qué bueno es vivir asi, comiendo y sin trabajar)</p>	<p>and I begin to sing</p> <p>A la la, a la la, a la la lara la lara</p> <p>And when dinner time comes my wife cooks for me a beef steak with french fries with salad and a thousand items more I eat it and I don't do anything else</p> <p>After, I go to the balcony as if I was a big man to rock on the chair with my wife to chat.</p> <p>A larara la la.</p> <p>Ay! when I get sleepy I go to bed right a way and I sleep until the morning and I don't do anything else</p> <p>(How good it is to live like this, eating without working) Listen, I have never worked very hard and don't waste your time, I won't change, Oh no! (How good it is to live like this, eating without working)</p> <p>People, I have declared a strike, yes? my wife will take care of me! You hear? (How good it is to live like this, eating without working) so good, so good, so good How good it is to live life eating, sleeping, and doing nothing else</p> <p>Listen buddy, do you know what it is to be in a rocking chair, rocking over and over? Waiting to for Social Security coupons to arrive. Like everyone.</p> <p>(How good it is to live like this, eating without working) Receiving a pension for being crazy Yet I am not crazy, I am very smart! (How good it is to live like this, eating without working)</p>
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<p>Qué bueno... Traen un plato de mondongo, arroz, habichuela y carne guisa, para empezar. (Qué bueno es vivir así, comiendo y sin trabajar)</p> <p>¿Quién trabajara? ¿Quién, yo? Buscate a otro, yo ya hice lo que iba a hacer.</p>	<p>How good... They bring a plate of tripe rice, beans, and meat to start (How good it is to live like this, eating without working)</p> <p>Who will work? Will I? Look for someone else, I already did what I was going to do!</p>
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Balladeers Positively Influencing a Culture

In August 2011, with the unemployment rate in Puerto Rico at over 60% for persons 16 years and up, they released a new version titled: Echar Pa'lante “Qué bueno es vivir así, con ganas de trabajar” (Moving Forward: How good it is to live like this, with a desire to work.)

The new version is at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vbELdNxdIZU>.

A representative for the band said, "It's a small contribution we have made to encourage people. We have so many problems, especially young boys who are building their awareness of life and what it means to be responsible. We want to encourage people. If the message contributes to that, we are happy."

The lyrics are:

<p>"Echar Pa'lante" Qué bueno es vivir así, con ganas de trabajar</p> <p>Yo me levanto por la mañana. Salgo de casa bien elegante, listo pa' echar pa' alante, nunca pa' atrás, pa' atrás.</p> <p>Hoy le meto mano al día. Esa es mi filosofía: derechito por mi vía, nunca pa' atrás, pa' atrás.</p> <p>De las seis hasta las doce, el día me lo aprovecho. Me gano mis habichuelas aquí o allá, nunca pa' atrás.</p> <p>A las doce aprieta el hambre. Busco almuerzo en la guaguaita. Pa'l frente voy en la fila</p>	<p>“Moving Forward” How good it is to live like this, with a desire to work.</p> <p>I get up in the morning. I leave home rather elegant, Ready, to go for it (to move forward!) Never going backward, backward</p> <p>Today I put my hand up. That's my philosophy: The guide for my way, Never going backward, backward</p> <p>From six until twelve, I take advantage of the day I earn my beans here or there, never going backward</p> <p>At twelve I get hungry I look for lunch in the small truck In order to go forward I am in line</p>
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<p>con los demás, nunca pa' atrás.</p> <p>Si me da sueño como a las tres, yo lo espanto con café. Y si se pone dura la cosa respiro hondo y rompo a cantar:</p> <p>A la la, a la la, a la la lara la lara.</p> <p>Y a la hora de la salida, lo recuerdo como ayer, el sermón de mi viejita diciendo "mi'jo hay que laborar. De cabeza y nunca pa' atrás."</p> <p>Si me estanco en el tapón, lo convierto en vacilón. Aprovecho la ocasión: un momentito pa' relajar.</p> <p>A la larara la la la.</p> <p>Me acuesto a dormir con sueños, y mi motor pongo a descansar, listo pa' arrancar mañana nunca pa' atrás, pa' atrás.</p> <p>¡Qué bueno es vivir así, con ganas de trabajar!</p>	<p>With all the others, never going backward</p> <p>If I get sleepy around three, I arouse myself with coffee. And if thing gets hard I take a deep breath and break into singing:</p> <p>A la la, a la la, a la la lara lara.</p> <p>And at the time of departure, I remember it like yesterday, The sermon of my grandma saying "my son, you must work. Go headlong and never go backwards.</p> <p>If I get stuck in a traffic jam, I turn it into fun. I take advantage of the occasion a moment to relax</p> <p>A la larara la la la.</p> <p>I lay down to sleep with dreams, my motor put to rest, ready to start up tomorrow never going backwards, backwards</p> <p>How good it is to live like this, with desires to work!</p>
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