

Las Mañanitas is a traditional song in Spanish that Mexicans sing to honor a loved one on their birthday or saint's day, and it is also sung on other important holidays, such as Mother's Day and the feast day of [Our Lady of Guadalupe](#). People may sing it as an early morning serenade to wake up a loved one - so if you're visiting Mexico and hear mariachis playing at the crack of dawn, you'll know it's someone's birthday. At birthday parties, guests gather around the cake to sing before cutting the cake, as you would sing Happy Birthday To You (although it is quite a bit longer, so it's a good idea to have candles that will last through the song!).

The name of the composer of *Las Mañanitas* is not known. The Mexican composer Manuel M. Ponce (1882-1948) is occasionally credited as having composed it, although it probably pre-dates him. He does seem to have popularized a particular arrangement for the song. As a traditional song with a long history, there are multiple variations of the lyrics and a wide variety of different verses. At most Mexican parties you will usually only hear the first two verses sung, but in this translation, there are some additional verses that are occasionally included, particularly when the song is performed formally by [mariachis](#).

Lyrics and a translation of *Las Mañanitas*:

Estas son las mañanitas,	This is the morning song
que cantaba el Rey David,	that King David sang
Hoy por ser día de tu santo,	Because today is your saint's day
te las cantamos a ti,	we're singing it for you
Despierta, mi bien* , despierta,	Wake up, my dear* , wake up,
mira que ya amaneció,	look it is already dawn
Ya los pajarillos cantan,	The birds are already singing
la luna ya se metió.	and the moon has set
Que linda está la mañana	How lovely is the morning
en que vengo a saludarte,	in which I come to greet you
Venimos todos con gusto	We all came here with joy
y placer a felicitarte,	and pleasure to congratulate you
Ya viene amaneciendo,	The morning is coming now,
ya la luz del día nos dio,	the sun is giving us its light
Levántate de mañana,	Get up in the morning,
mira que ya amaneció.	look it is already dawn

** Often replaced with the name of the person who is being celebrated*

Additional verses:

El día en que tu naciste	The day you were born
nacieron todas las flores	all the flowers were born
En la pila del bautismo,	On the baptismal font
cantaron los ruiseñores	the nightingales sang
Quisiera ser solecito	I would like to be the sunshine
para entrar por tu ventana	to enter through your window

CANCION : LAS MAÑANITAS SONG : THE MORNING SONG

y darte los buenos días	to wish you good morning
acostadita en tu cama	while you're lying in your bed
Quisiera ser un San Juan,	I would like to be a Saint John>
quisiera ser un San Pedro	I would like to be a Saint Peter
Para venirte a cantar	To sing to you
con la música del cielo	with the music of heaven
De las estrellas del cielo	Of the stars in the sky
tengo que bajarte dos	I have to lower two for you
una para saludarte	One with which to greet you
y otra para decirte adiós	and the other to wish you goodbye