

# **Marlow Connects**

## **With Pepe and Carissa Romero**

Conversation from April 2020

### **Part 2**

#### **Danielle**

We're back. Good. So how are you, Carissa? How is life with you there now?

#### **Carissa**

I'm doing great. I'm very lucky that I'm with my favorite person in the world, so that's really good. I'm very ready to get out and enjoy being outside. I have spent more time in the kitchen than in my whole entire life in the last two months.

#### **Danielle**

Oh, what are you making?

#### **Carissa**

I've just been cooking whatever I could find, and then freezing because at the beginning of this whole affair, you know that there was the fear factor that, well, when the delivery trucks can't make it, and then there's no food in the grocery store. So I went into high gear on that. And now I'm more relaxed because I see that they're doing such an amazing job here of making sure the deliveries keep going, and that they're safe. I'm really impressed with that. So, and then I always said I wanted to learn how to cook. So I'm learning how to cook. Two main things: I want to learn how to cook, and I've been bugging Pepe for 30 years to take salsa dancing lessons together.

#### **Pepe**

That's an image for all my friends, to have a good laugh: to think of me dancing salsa.

#### **Danielle**

We have no problem imagining this. It would be amazing!

#### **Carissa**

So that's one of the things to try to stay, you know, moving is the hard part when you're cooped up. And so we're taking online YouTube salsa dance lessons. It's awesome.

**Danielle**

Oh, that sounds like fun! Do you have a garden? Can you go outside?

**Carissa**

We do. We can go outside. We have a patio.

**Pepe**

Let me show you the patio. Let me show you a little bit around.

**Danielle**

Perfect.

**Pepe**

Let me take you to the patio first. Can you see me? Oh, I had my hand on the camera, so. And now you can see they way...

**Danielle**

Oh, wow. We are outside. yes. Nice patio.

**Pepe**

It has the Spanish stones. It is very nice.

**Danielle**

It has beautiful sunshine.

**Pepe**

This is the front door... then I take you to my favorite spot...

**Danielle**

Look at the ceiling!

**Pepe**

... which is the balcony.

**Danielle**

Oh, wow. Look at your view. Oh, Pepe. Oh, my goodness. There it is. Wow. Oh, my goodness, you would never get tired of seeing this. There is Granada. Wow.

**Pepe**

That is the Alhambra, Granada. It's very, very nice.

**Danielle**

That's incredible. Everybody comes from all over the world to take a picture of that view.

**Pepe**

Yes, they do. Possibly the most famous view of the Alhambra.

**Danielle**

Yes. Wow, that's amazing.

**Pepe**

Of course you know that Albeniz wrote five pieces dedicated to this very spot.

**Danielle**

Good inspiration to practice those pieces.

**Pepe**

Oh, it is. It is.

**Danielle**

I can't... I'm blown away. That's amazing! I can't believe what I just saw. It is magical.

**Carissa**

It's completely magical.

### **Carissa**

I'm going to say so long, so I'll leave the two of you at it. And it was wonderful to see you, Danielle. I'm so happy you're doing this for all your people, and they will love it.

### **Danielle**

Thank you. Thank you for helping us set this up. And so good to see you. And I hope you get outside soon.

### **Carissa**

I will. Bye.

### **Pepe**

The the trails around here are magnificent.

### **Danielle**

I can imagine. So, you know, I'm speechless at what I just saw. That view is just incredible. But it's also that we associate this region of Spain with guitar and with you, and with the legacy of bringing this music to life. And there it all comes together.

### **Pepe**

It does. And I always was in love with - I fell in love with the Alhambra right from the time that I was a little child. And for me, it was - I don't know if you knew, but when I was a very, very small child, I had infantile paralysis - some kind of polio thing, and I could not walk for I am not sure how long it was. But my father would just sit and play the guitar for me. And of course, one of the pieces that touched me immensely was "Recuerdos". And "Recuerdos" is still a piece that I play most every day of my life. And I remember listening and falling in love with the piece, and then when one day the paralysis left, just it had come in, and I was fine, my father and mother brought me to the Alhambra.

And my impression to see a piece of music become realized - for me, it was in the reverse order. For me, it was the piece of Tarrega become materialized into this magnificent place. And I always kept a very special spot in my heart for this place in Granada, and for Granada itself, even though I am from Malaga, and Spaniards are very, very territorial, so I probably should have my home in Malaga, but I love this place. And when we came, there was a very run down little house here and I didn't care. I saw the view and I said, "I just want to put a chair here, and be here. It's magical." But over the years, we have reconstructed the house and made a home that is done in the style of the Mudejar style, which are the Moorish people that were kicked out of Granada and they converted - they pretended to convert. And

their homes were very Arabic, very Moorish in their construction. And so that's what we did. And here we are. And the way that destiny had it, we were supposed to spend this time in isolation here. It is not a bad place. And, of course, when this is done, you, Regis, Tim... you all should come and actually come one time during the festival of the guitar, and you will have a wonderful time.

**Danielle**

That's a wonderful idea. I would love that. And we want to have you back at Marlow, the moment we can.

**Pepe**

I want to be back the minute I can, also. I miss you guys a lot. You know that the Marlow Guitar Series has a very - and has for years had - a very special place in my heart. And I always wish all of you and all your concerts, and all the activities, my absolute best wishes. I want my wish now is to go back and play for all of you.

**Danielle**

It's so true what everybody's saying that we cannot imagine being in this place without art or without music.

**Pepe**

Yes. And my wish is that all of us that are musicians, that we take this time to play for our own spirit. To play, to use music, to search into that source of love that comes from the depths of our being. And when we are - normally we are practicing to either do a performance, do a recording, if you're a student, to play it for your teacher - now it's a chance we can play for our own spirit.

**Danielle**

Beautiful. Some true.

**Pepe**

Yes. Lots of love to all of you.

**Danielle**

Love to you too, Pepe. Thank you so much.

**Pepe**

You're very welcome.

**Danielle**

Great to see you. Safe travels home.

**Pepe**

Thank you. Bye bye. Bye bye.