English Music and the

Festival of Latin American Solidarity

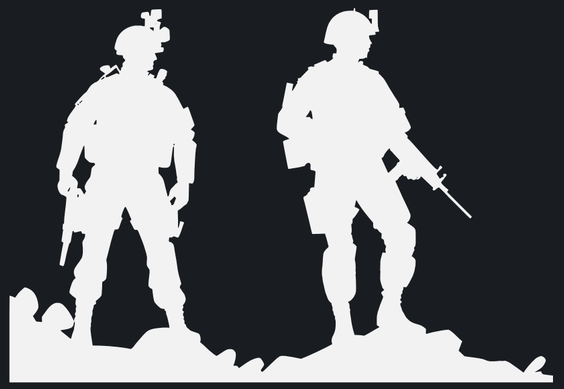
Argentina – 1982

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What was happening in 1982?

A little historical context



- In 1982, Argentina was under a military dictatorship.
- On April 2, Argentina took control of the Falkland Islands, starting the war with the United Kingdom.
- The war lasted about two and a half months and ended on June 14.
- During this period, the government tried to create a strong patriotic feeling in society.

Why was English music restricted?

Music and the media during the war

- During the war, radio stations were strongly encouraged not to play songs in English.
- The idea was to avoid music connected with the United Kingdom and to promote Argentine culture.
- It was not simply a complete legal ban on every English song. There was pressure and control over the media.
- Because of this, Spanish-language music, especially Argentine rock, became much more popular.

The rise of Argentine rock

A change in what people listened to

- Argentine rock started getting much more space on the radio and TV.
- Artists like Charly García, Luis Alberto Spinetta and León Gieco became even more important.
- For many young people, music was a way to express what they were feeling.
- Some songs talked about peace, fear, the war and the situation in Argentina.

The Festival of Latin American Solidarity

May 16, 1982 – Obras Sanitarias, Buenos Aires

- The festival was organized during the Falklands War.
- Around 60,000 people went to the event.
- Several Argentine rock musicians played to support the soldiers and collect donations.
- People brought food, clothes and other things that were going to be sent to the soldiers.
- The event was also connected with a message of peace and solidarity.

Some important artists

- Charly García
- Luis Alberto Spinetta
- León Gieco
- Raúl Porchetto
- Nito Mestre
- Litto Nebbia
- Juan Carlos Baglietto
- Not every musician agreed with the festival. Some artists decided not to participate because of the political situation.

Examples of songs

- “Solo le pido a Dios” – León Gieco: it became strongly associated with peace and opposition to war.
- “Algo de paz” – Raúl Porchetto: the song had a clear message asking for peace.
- “No bombardeen Buenos Aires” – Charly García: it showed a critical view of the war.
- These songs are examples of how music could express feelings and opinions during a difficult moment.

Why is this important?

- The war changed Argentine culture and the music scene.
- With less English-language music on the radio, Argentine rock reached a much bigger audience.
- The festival brought thousands of people together, but it was also controversial because it happened during a military dictatorship.
- In the end, 1982 was an important year for Argentine rock and for songs with messages about peace.

Conclusion

- The restriction of English music was part of the atmosphere created during the Falklands War.
- It helped Argentine music become more visible, especially rock in Spanish.
- The Festival of Latin American Solidarity was both a huge musical event and a controversial moment.
- Music became an important way for people to express solidarity, emotions and ideas about the war.

Sources

- Argentina.gob.ar – information about Argentine rock and the 1982 period.
- Educ.ar – educational material about the Falklands/Malvinas War.
- Biblioteca Nacional – material about Malvinas and Argentine music.
- CONICET – research about Malvinas and Argentine songs.