

## ONLINE AUDIO GUIDE 5.6

### PLENA

**title:** “Ahora Sí” (All Right Now)

**performing forces:** male voice, seguidor, segundo, requinto (Tito Matos), güiro (members of Viento de Agua)

**composer:** Juan “Llonsi” Martínez

**language:** Spanish

**form:** call-and-response singing, mainly with alternating verses and chorus

**function:** invitation to the plena; expression of Puerto Rico identity

**source:** *Viento de Agua Unplugged: Materia prima* (Smithsonian Folkways SFW CD 40513, 2004)

#### Listen for:

- different qualities of sounds in the drums
- unison statements of the drums
- presence of güiro
- free section (probably improvised) and departure from verse and refrain structure, especially the requinto (‘quinto) solo near the end

Timing	Structure and text	What happens
00:00	Verse 1 (solo)  Ahora sí, que yo te traigo plena ahora sí que yo vengo a cantar. Ahora sí, mi güiro y su cadencia ahora sí, mi quinto . . .	unison statements in drums mark ends of vocal phrases
00:11		slap sound in requinto, responds to tones from the lower-pitched drums
00:13	Refrain (chorus):  Ahora sí, que yo te traigo plena ahora sí que yo vengo a cantar. Ahora sí, mi güiro y su cadencia ahora sí, mi quinto va a cantar.	drummers begin plena rhythm  soloist interjects “plena buena”
00:25	Verse 2 (solo)  Yo no tengo nada en contra del merengue de la salsa y tampoco del rap. Pero si me tocan mi ritmo de plena yo te digo que ese me gusta más, me gusta más.	güiro in steady rhythm
00:37		verse concludes with unison statement in drums and güiro
00:38	Refrain (chorus):  chorus: Ahora sí, que yo te traigo plena ahora sí que yo vengo a cantar.	drums on plena rhythm

00:51	Ahora sí, mi güiro y su cadencia ahora sí, mi quinto va a cantar.	soloist interjects “plena buena”  requinto plays three slap sounds
00:52  1:05  1:06	Verse 3 (solo)  Viento de aguacera viene sonando güiro y pandereta pa poder bailar. Que ritmo, ritmo rico de mi tierra cumpa y plena te traemo’ pa cantar.  Refrain (chorus):  Ahora sí, que yo te traigo plena ahora sí que yo vengo a cantar. Ahora sí, mi güiro y su cadencia ahora sí, mi quinto va a cantar.	  verse concludes with unison statement in drums and güiro   drums on plena rhythm
1:18  1:31  1:33	Verse 4 (solo)  Esto mira que es un lindo homenaje Para los pleneros de verdad goza [unclear] del caño general del pueblo [unclear] truco vamos a bailar, vamos a bailar!  Refrain (chorus):  Ahora sí, que yo te traigo plena ahora sí que yo vengo a cantar. Ahora sí, mi güiro y su cadencia ahora sí, mi quinto va a cantar.	seguidor and requinto interact (1:21, 1:25, 1:28)  verse concludes with unison statement in drums and güiro  drums on plena rhythm  soloist interjects “plena buena”
1:44  1:46  1:51	free section  mi quinto va a cantar  quinto, quinto . .  	soloist picks up on “mi quinto va a cantar” (my quinto will sing)  unison statement in drums punctuate short statements by chorus  chorus repeats “mi quinto va a cantar”  soloist sings new melody  soloist calls to requinto player,

2:14		inviting him to do a solo
2:18		requinto plays high “slap” sound and lower tones of the requinto, all very rapidly  chorus repeats “mi quinto va a cantar”  call and response between soloist and chorus  requinto keeps solo part, now with syncopation  soloist calls for chorus to sing refrain
2:57	Refrain (chorus)  Ahora sí, que yo te traigo plena ahora sí que yo vengo a cantar. Ahora sí, mi güiro y su cadencia ahora sí, mi quinto va a cantar.	interjections from soloist
3:11	Ahora sí, que yo te traigo plena ahora sí que yo vengo a cantar. Ahora sí, mi güiro y su cadencia ahora sí, mi quinto . . .	drums play throughout, including the same unison statements from drums as in first chorus  final unison, with güiro, to end

### Summary of English translation:

All right now [repeated throughout], I bring you this plena  
that I come to sing.

My güiro and its rhythm, my requinto will sing.

I don't have anything against merengue or salsa or rap  
but if they play me a plena rhythm, I tell you,  
it's what I like best.

The wind of water keeps sounding  
güiro and drums for dancing.

What a rhythm, what a rich rhythm from my country!

We bring you plena to sing.

Look what a nice homage this is for the real pleneros

Let's dance, let's dance!

The author thanks Brian Rice for extensive assistance with this guide.

**Consider:**

- How many references to plena do you find throughout? How is the genre described?
- Does the fact that this selection is about the genre affect our enjoyment of the music and its status as a symbol of Puerto Rican identity?
- How would you describe the melody of this selection?

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