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# TIENTOS Y DIFERENCIAS DE LA *GUANTANAMERA* COMPUESTA POR JULIÁN ORBÓN. POLÍTICA CULTURAL DE LA REVOLUCIÓN CUBANA DE 1959

### **Abstract**

An analysis of bibliography, phonograms and scores documenting the genesis of the well-known Cuban folk song *Guantanamera*, reveals the identity of its true author, and demonstrates the causes of the uncertainty that surrounds the authorship of the famous setting of José Martí's poem. The author of this article concludes that the piece is an original creation of the Cuban-Hispanic composer Julián Orbón (1925–1991), rather than Joseíto Fernández, to whom it has been repeatedly attributed.

The article concludes as well, that the melody of the tune known as *Guajira guantanamera* –made famous as a setting of improvised decasyllabic verses, and also attributed to Joseíto Fernández– is completely different from the one used by Orbón, which was the one internationalized by Pete Seeger with Martí's words.

Political causes motivated Cuban government to broadcast (wrongly) that the author of the tune, with words by José Martí, known as *Guantanamera* is Joseíto Fernández, and that Julián Orbón was responsible only for the setting of Martí's poem to Fernández melody.

**Keywords:** Tune *Guajira guantanamera*, Joseíto Fernández, Julián Orbón, Song *Guantanamera*, Pete Seeger, Cuban Government, cultural policy, wrong authorship attribution.

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