



Raquel Mora Martínez Honored as Fellow of The Hymn Society

Raquel Mora Martínez, composer, teacher, church musician, and hymnal editor, is receiving the designation of Fellow of The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada in 2025. This title is a testament to her significant contributions to the field of church music and hymnody.

Raquel was born in Allende, Coahuila, Mexico, to Josué Mora, a Methodist minister, and Amada Mora, a homemaker who devoted all her time to church service, including singing as a soloist with her church choir. She received her education from the Lydia Patterson Institute, El Paso, Texas

(1957–1960), University of Texas, El Paso (BA 1975), and Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, in Dallas, Texas (MSM 1989). She was also certified as Associate in Music by the General Board of Discipleship, Perkins School of Theology (1987).

She has served in a variety of capacities in United Methodist congregations in Texas, including organist and music director in San Antonio, El Paso, and Dallas. A popular workshop leader, she has also held leadership positions in the broader United Methodist Church as Administrative Assistant, and later, Director of the former Women's Division (now United Women in Faith), General Board of Global Ministries, and as Executive Secretary, Rio Grande Conference Pensions Crusade. She was the music leader and director for the World Federation of Methodist Women, Antigua, West Indies (1987), and has held visiting professorships in Hispanic American Hymnody at the Evangelical Seminary, San Juan, Puerto Rico; Perkins School of Theology, Dallas; and Baez Camargo Methodist Seminary, Mexico City. Raquel led workshops at the Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago, for the introduction of *Libro de Liturgia y Cántico* (1998), the Spanish-language hymnal for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Raquel Martínez was the *editora* of the official United Methodist Spanish-language hymnal *Mil Voces Para Celebrar* (1996). This hymnal drew upon translations of classical Anglo-European hymns, *coritos* (shorter choruses), and a wealth of newer songs from Central and South America, resulting in the most

diverse Spanish-language hymnal of its time. She was among the first to include selections from the six editions of *Cancionero Abierto* (“Open Songbook”) (1974–1994), edited by Argentinian Methodist pastor and musician Pablo Sosa, FHS. With her husband, United Methodist Bishop Joel Martínez, she prepared *Fiesta Cristiana* (2003), a compilation of bilingual worship resources. She has recently edited *Fiesta Jubilosa* (2022), a collection of bilingual worship resources, and over one hundred of her hymn tunes and arrangements for Spanish-language and English-language hymns frequently sung by Protestant Hispanic congregations.

Her honors include the Distinguished Alumni/ae Award, Perkins School of Theology (1997), and the *Soli Deo Gloria* award as a distinguished alumna of the Master of Sacred Music program, Perkins School of Theology (2010). Nebraska Wesleyan University (Lincoln) bestowed upon her an Honorary Doctor of Music (1997). An active member of The Hymn Society, she has made numerous presentations at the Society’s annual conferences, contributed to *The Hymn*, and served on the Executive Committee as Member-at-Large.

Submitted by C. Michael Hawn, FHS.