



Performer  
Composer  
Arranger  
Instructor

## OVERVIEW

Jackeline Rago is a multi-instrumentalist, composer, arranger, producer and educator who specializes in Venezuelan folk music and also music from other Latin American and Caribbean countries. Born in Caracas, Venezuela, Rago began playing music at the age of four and was educated in both Venezuelan and classical music with leading musicians in Venezuela. She studied mandolin and “cuatro” (small four-stringed guitar, national instrument of Venezuela) under Venezuelan folklorist Angel Guanipa; classical mandolin with maestro Ivan Adler at the Caracas Philharmonic Orchestra Conservatory and Afro-Venezuelan percussion with Hector Pacheco and Alexander Livinalli at the “Fundación Bigott” (Venezuelan Folkloric Institute). In 1982, she arrived in the US to continue her musical studies. In 1989, Jackeline Rago graduated from the Music & Arts Institute of San Francisco, California, earning a BA in Music and majoring in classical mandolin. In addition to her mandolin and cuatro expertise, Rago is an accomplished percussionist and vocalist.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

- Venezuelan Folk-Music workshop leader across the US for over 25 years
- Musical Director at EBI (Escuela Bilingue Internacional), Berkeley CA (2006-present)
- Music Specialist at the French American International School, San Francisco CA (2006-present)
- Faculty member of the Jazzschool, Berkeley, CA (2004-present)
- Musical Director of Playsongs (toddlers to 4 years old), “World Music Program” (2005-2007)
- Guest Professor at the UC Berkeley Latin American Studies/Department of Music (1998-2001)
- Instructor and Program Designer of the “Young Musicians Program” (YMP) at UC Berkeley (1998-1999)
- Music Specialist at “AIM” (Adventures in Music), San Francisco Symphony Orchestra (1997-2007)
- Artist in Residence of the State of California (1989-2001)
- Music Teacher at Centro Vida and Bahia Schools, Berkeley, CA
- Summer Camp Music Teacher for over 20 years (various campuses within the US)
- National and International performer for over 25 years

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## AWARDS / GRANTS

- Alliance for California Traditional Arts
- 2007 Award of Excellence in Music, Mission Cultural Center for the Latino Arts
- The Rockefeller Foundation
- California Arts Council
- Meet the Composer
- Readers Digest Commissioning Program
- The National Endowment for the Arts
- Lila Wallace Readers Digest Foundation
- Si Se Puede Award / Live in the Water
- Zellerbach Family Foundation

## MUSIC ENSEMBLES

- The Venezuelan Music Project\*\* - *Venezuelan Folk-Music*
- The VNote Ensemble\*\* (formerly The Snake Trio) - *New Directions in Jazz & Venezuelan Music*
- Contacto Musical\*\* - *Children's World Music*
- Keith Terry and Crosspulse\* - *World Percussion*
- Wild Mango\* - *World Music*
- Altazor\* - *Nueva Cancion, Latin-American Music*
- Altamira\* - *Contemporary Latin Music*

\*\* Musical Director, \* Founding Member



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## RECORDINGS

Jackeline's compositions, arrangements and musical productions can be heard on several recordings such as:

- "The VNote Ensemble" (The VNote Ensemble, self-produced, 2009)
- "Light the Candle" (The Snake Trio, self-produced, 2003)
- "The Dance of the Snake" (The Snake Trio, self-produced, 2000)
- "El Campanazo" (Jackeline Rago & The Venezuelan Music Project, self-produced, 2000)
- "Serpentine" (Keith Terry and Crosspulse, 1998)
- "Keith Terry and Crosspulse" (Keith Terry and Crosspulse, 1994)
- "Spanish for Kids" (Optimalearning, 1990, 1996)
- "Made in Mango" (Wild Mango, 1994),
- "Concurrencia" (Altazor, 1989, 1993)
- "Circulo Vital" (Mango Jam, 1992)
- "Trio Altamira Live" (Trio Altamira, 1986)

Additionally, she has contributed as a guest artist on recordings and live shows by John Santos & The Machete Ensemble, Linda Tillery and the Cultural Heritage Choir, Andy Narell, Mike Marshall, Los Cenzontles, Holly Near and Windham Hill artists, as well as contemporary Venezuelan musicians such as Aquiles Baez, Marco Granados, Leo Blanco, Jimmy Kansau, Gonzalo Grau and Maria Marquez, among others.

## SELECTED PERFORMANCES

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- Carnegie Hall. New York, NY
- Caramoor Music Festival. Yonkers, NY
- Lincoln Center for the Arts - Summer Outdoor Series Concerts. New York, NY
- Yerba Buena Gardens Music Festival. San Francisco, CA
- Monterey Jazz Festival. Monterey, CA
- Barbados Jazz Festival. St. Michael, Barbados
- MOAB Music Festival. Moab, UT
- Festival de las Artes. San Jose, Costa Rica
- San Francisco Jazz Festival. San Francisco, CA
- Great American Music Hall. San Francisco, CA
- Venezuelan Sounds at the Smithsonian Institute. Washington, DC
- Venezuelan Sounds at Bolivar Hall, Venezuelan Embassy. Washington, DC

## INSTRUMENTS

Cuatro, mandolin and voice plus Afro-Venezuelan, Caribbean and Latin American percussion instruments.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Bilingual (Spanish/English)
- California Arts Council Panelist
- Arts Commission Adviser for the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, CA
- National Association of Latino Arts and Culture (NALAC) Panelist/Workshop Leader

## LINKS

[www.jackelinerago.com](http://www.jackelinerago.com), [www.venezuelanmusicproject.com](http://www.venezuelanmusicproject.com), [www.vnoteensemble.com](http://www.vnoteensemble.com)