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## Operator Martin Gourzong's Second Career is Latin Jazz Singer

- 'The groovy one' brought his talent to the U.S. from Costa Rica

By RICH MORALLO



(July 13, 2006) Martin Gourzong dances the salsa as he croons out a melodic Latin jazz song he has written to glorify women.

Singing "Mujer, Mujer" in an office at Arthur Winston Division 5, Gourzong displays his many years of performing experience.

"I started singing when I was a young man in Costa Rica," explains the 54-year-old Gourzong, a Metro Bus operator on his morning break. Gourzong sang through high school and college.

One day, a local producer invited Gourzong to join a 10-member band as one of the singers. That was Gourzong's start in the professional ranks. Through the years, while he worked as a baker and later in shipping, Gourzong continued to perform with bands after he arrived in New York from Costa Rica.

Even after Gourzong came to Los Angeles and joined Metro in July 1991, he always found time for his passion.

### Humming a tune

One morning when he was on a bus layover break, Gourzong started humming a tune that was in his head. He grabbed paper and pencil and in 90 minutes he wrote "Mujer, Mujer."



Born in Puerto Limon, Costa Rica, Martin Gourzong performed with local bands before moving to the United States where he has sung with "El Tren Latino," and has recorded several records under the Guarjito Records label, including the hit song, "Carinoso se, Mentireoso no."

"The song praises women for all of their contributions as wives, mothers and home makers," says Gourzong, who also included in his song that some women fall prey to domestic violence.



Members of the salsa band Opa Opa call Metro Bus Operator Martin Gourzong "El Sabroso," meaning "the groovy one." He's shown here, at right, during a performance.

"Mujer, Mujer," one of several tracks produced by Universal Records Latino, is on the CD "Los Paisajes."

Gourzong appreciates his current band, Opa Opa, and Division 5 Transportation Manager Curley Little for continuing to encourage his singing career.

"I'm thankful for their support and this latest CD, the third I've performed on," Gourzong says. "Music is just in me; I like music."