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[▶ Safety](#)[▶ Pressroom \(web\)](#)[▶ Ask the CEO](#)[▶ CEO Forum](#)[▶ Employee Recognition](#)[▶ Employee Activities](#)[▶ Metro Projects](#)[▶ Facts at a Glance \(web\)](#)[▶ Archives](#)[▶ Events Calendar](#)[▶ Research Center/Library](#)[▶ Metro Classifieds](#)[▶ Bazaar](#)

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Singer-Songwriter Carina Ricco to Give Free Concert Tuesday



- Earth Day concert begins at noon on Union Station's South Patio

By NED RACINE, Editor

(April 21, 2008) Latin singer/songwriter Carina Ricco will give a free Earth Day concert for Metro and Metrolink riders tomorrow from noon to 1 p.m. at the Union Station South Patio.

Ricco, filling in for Canon, whose appearance was cancelled because of a band member's illness, wants to thank Metro and Metrolink riders for their contribution to making the earth a better place by leaving their gas-guzzling, air-polluting cars behind.

Metro Board Chair and Santa Monica City Council Member Pam O'Connor and Metro officials, will join Ricco in marking the 38th anniversary of Earth Day.

The Union Station South Patio is located at 800 N. Alameda St., Los Angeles, CA 90012.

"I think it is very clear what is going on with our planet," Ricco said. "We are lots of people, generating lots of trash, pollution, and the weather is going through drastic changes as a result of global warming. Every day more and more animals are added to the endangered species list. Our resources are dwindling: less water, less forests. And we are directly responsible for this. It is vital that we change our habits and old ways."

Born in Veracruz, Mexico, Ricco spent her childhood in Argentina. She began her professional musical career when she returned to Mexico as a teenager. She now lives in Southern California.

"Artists have a tremendous responsibility in society," she said. "We are in the public eye and what we think, say and do is known by the rest of the world. We are opinion leaders as people listen to us. When we have a microphone in hand, [we] have a responsibility not only to share our music but also to help raise awareness."

Regarding Earth Day issues, Ricco hopes people leave her concerts realizing "what we don't do today will affect us tomorrow. Every little thing we do makes a huge difference. It doesn't matter how small the effort, it should be done. To conserve water, to turn off lights when not in use, recycling, Going Metro more and driving [less], generate less trash."

Rocco sees signs that her environmental messages do affect her audience. "Often people will come to me after a show or an interview and say something like: 'Carina, thank you for what you said. I am in agreement and I am doing something about it.'

"I have two little ones who are very concerned with the planet," she explained. "This planet is our legacy to them. As a family, we work together as a team to raise awareness inside our own house . . . When we educate [children] on the subject we will guarantee that they won't repeat the errors of the past and do a better job.

"It is all a matter of awareness," she added. "We have to keep repeating the message until it is understood."

Ricco's latest album, "viaje personal (Personal Journey)," is her third album. She released her first album in 1993.