



## VIKKI CARR

### *Biography*

Vikki Carr is one of the best-loved and most accomplished entertainers in the United States, Latin America and Europe. She is approaching the fifth decade of a career in which she has won three Grammy Awards and has released over 60 best-selling recordings. Her Summer Tour of 2006 sold-out shows in the U.S., Mexico and South America. She has performed for the Queen of England, five United States Presidents, wartime soldiers in Vietnam and sold-out audiences around the world. She has worked in radio, television, film and theater. Her music embraces two languages and she is among the first artists to bridge the cultures of the United States and Latin America, paving the way for many performers today.

In March of 2007, EMI-Gold released a 3-disc set, "*Vikki Carr: The Ultimate Collection*" to rave reviews. Recordings made in the very early years of Vikki's career debuted on this compilation. Along with many of her well known hits such as *It Must Be Him*, (in English, Italian and Spanish), *With Pen In Hand, He's A Rebel*, and concert staple, *Can't Take My Eyes Off You*. In April of 2007, EMI-Gold released "*Vikki Carr: Ways to Love a Man/Nashville by Carr*" a 2 on 1 CD that allowed fans to hear a very emotional delivery of classics like *Sunday Mornin' Comin' Down*, *Singing My Song*, and *A Dissatisfied Man*. Sony Mexico just released a CD/DVD collection titled "*Las Numero 1*" featuring 20 of Vikki's top Spanish hits on CD along with 10 of her television performances on DVD.

In 2002 Vikki starred in the Reprise production of Steven Sondheim's beloved musical "Follies" in Los Angeles. She garnered glowing reviews for her performance from the LA Times, Hollywood Reporter, and Variety. Her latest recording projects include, *The Vikki Carr Christmas Album*, released on Delta, which features Christmas Classics in both English and Spanish. Another recording, the PBS special *Vikki Carr: Memories, Memorias*, is a salute to the English-language hits of the 1940s and 1950s, which were originally composed by Latinos. Produced by KCET/Hollywood, the program recreates the elegant setting of Hollywood supper clubs and theaters where popular artists of the era performed. The show, which features Jack Jones, Pepe Aguilar and Arturo Sandoval, was first released on video and CD through the national PBS pledge campaigns for 1999.

The diversity of her rich voice is impressive. She can belt out the blues or touch the heart with a soft romantic ballad. Frank Sinatra said, "She possesses my kind of voice", Dean Martin called her "the best girl singer in the business" and Bing Crosby and Ella Fitzgerald named her among their three favorite female singers of all time. Elvis Presley was also very fond of her and even remarked on stage in Las Vegas many times that Vikki Carr was one of his favorite singers and that he liked her because "she sang from the gut" and introduced her at many of his personal appearances in which she attended.

Born in El Paso, Texas, and raised in the San Gabriel Valley of California, Vikki Carr, the eldest of seven children, began performing at the tender age of four singing *Adeste Fidelis* in Latin at a Christmas program. She was signed to a contract with Liberty Records in 1961. She recorded *He 's A Rebel*, which first became a hit in Australia. That title was soon followed by the unforgettable release, *It Must Be Him*, which charged up the charts in England. One year later, the single was released in the United States and earned Carr three Grammy Award nominations. The international hit emerged again when she and the song were featured in the storyline of the Academy Award winning movie *Moonstruck*. After *It Must Be Him* came a string of hits including *With Pen In Hand*, for which she received her fourth Grammy Award nomination, *The Lesson*, *Can't Take My Eyes Off of You* and *For Once in My Life*.

Her international appeal was so great that she was invited to perform at a Royal Command Performance for Queen Elizabeth. She additionally packed the London Palladium setting a precedent for her sold out concerts in Germany, Spain, France, England, Australia, Holland and Japan. Vikki toured military bases in Vietnam with Danny Kaye, which provided one of the most fulfilling experiences of her career. In 1990, she made a loving return to England with a date at London's Royal Albert Hall.

In the States, Vikki became a darling of the White House, performing regularly at State Dinners and at President Richard Nixon's 1973 Inaugural celebration. President Ford called her his "favorite Mexican dish." She also performed for Presidents' Reagan, Bush and at the 1992 Presidential Summit hosted by President Clinton.

A frequent guest star on major network variety shows, including Dean Martin, Ed Sullivan, Perry Como, and Carol Burnett, Vikki also taped six specials for London Weekend TV. Vikki was the first female to regularly guest host for Johnny Carson on the *Tonight Show*. She was also a visitor and guest host on Michael Jackson's ABC radio show.

Vikki made her acting debut on the *Bing Crosby Show*. She has had several guest roles in numerous television series ranging from *Mod Squad* to *Fantasy Island*, and has co-hosted the nationally syndicated *Mrs. America* and *Mrs. Woman of the World Pageants*. Carr also made two guest appearances on the popular series *Baywatch*, most recently in the motion picture "*Puerto Vallarta Squeeze*" now available on DVD.

The critics praised Vikki for her stage performances in *South Pacific* at the Starlight Theatre in Kansas City and in *The Unsinkable Molly Brown*, with the John Kenley Players in Ohio. In 1983, her starring

performance in *I'm Getting My Act Together and Taking It on the Road* broke house records at the Westport Playhouse in St. Louis.

Columbia Records signed Vikki Carr in 1970, releasing such favorites as *Love Story*, *Live at the Greek* and *One Hell of a Woman*, and *Ms. America*, which was so ahead of it's time.

Proud of her Mexican heritage, Vikki Carr has always shared her birth name with her concert audiences and held a deep desire to one-day record an album in Spanish. In 1972, she went to the head of Columbia Records for permission to do so, and while her request was initially met with resistance, Carr had a solution to every argument. "My Anglo audience has asked me to do this," she responded firmly. Several months later, she released her first Spanish language album, *Vikki Carr en Espanol. Somos Novios, Grande, Grande Grande* and *Se Acabo* became momentous successes and Vikki was established as one of the most popular and loved recording artists in the Latin World.

Since making her first personal appearance in Mexico in 1972, the country has had a love affair with Vikki Carr. She is the first non-National named Mexico's "Visiting Entertainer of the Year". Playing nightly to standing ovations and appearing on numerous TV programs, her two-hour special broke ratings records, attracting more than half of the viewers in Mexico.

In 1980, because of the enormous success of her first Spanish language album, Columbia Records in Mexico offered her a contract and beginning with *Vikki Carr y El Amor*, her triumphs were unbridled, especially in Latin America. Songs like *Total*, *Disculpame*, *Esos Hombres*, *Mala Suerte* earned her Gold and Platinum albums in the United States, Mexico, Chile, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Colombia and Ecuador. Carr followed with Grammy Award nominees *Simplemente Mujer* in 1986, *Cosas del Amor* in 1992, *Brindo a la Vida, al Bolero y a Ti* in 1993, *Recuerdo a Javier Solis* in 1995, and *Emociones* in 1997 taking three of the five awards.

She has received prestigious awards, which include the 2005 National Hispanic Media Coalition Impact Lifetime Achievement Award, 2003 Latino Spirit Award, 2003 Tito Guizar Award, 2002 Trefoil Award, 2000 Inductee, Latino Legends Hall of Fame, 1998 Imagen Foundation "Humanitarian Award, 1996 Hispanic Heritage Award, 1988 Nosotros Golden Eagle Award, 1984 Hispanic Woman of the Year, 1981 Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, 1974 Doctorate in Law from San Diego University and Doctorate in Fine Arts from St. Edwards University, 1972 American Guild of Variety Artist's "Entertainer of the Year", and the Los Angeles Times' highly respected "Woman of the Year" for 1970.

She earned the career achievement award of the Association of Hispanic Critics, Chicago's Ovation Award, the YWCA Silver Achievement Award and was honored in 1990 by the City of Hope with the Founder of Hope Award. In 1991, she was presented the Girl Scouts of America Award.

Respected as both an artist and a humanitarian, she devotes time to many charities including The United Way, The American Lung Association, Cancer Therapy and Research Center, The Muscular Dystrophy Association and St Jude's Hospital. For 22 years she held benefit concerts to support Holy Cross High School in San Antonio. In 1971 Vikki established the Vikki Carr Scholarship Foundation, dedicated to

offering college scholarships to Latino students in California and Texas. To date, the Foundation has awarded more than 280 scholarships totaling over a quarter of a million dollars.

“My voice is a gift and a gift is nothing unless you can share it. The Foundation is one of the ways that I am able to share my gift,” said Carr. “The Foundation seeks to help young Mexican-American students achieve their goals through a college education, something I myself was never able to do.”

Juggling engagements, recording sessions, charity events, and family, the pace is frantic, but she remains calm. Smart, successful, warm and engaging, Vikki Carr's energy and style are as radiant and irresistible as her extraordinary voice.