



## **A Song in My Heart**

*Roma Calatayud-Stocks , Roma Calatayud*

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Alejandra Stanford is born into a privileged bicultural family in Minneapolis of 1902. Growing up, she and her artistic family experience the intermingling of American, Mexican, and European cultural influences, as well as national events that challenge their lives; yet, Alejandra finds music is the perfect expression of her own artistic inclinations, emotions, and ambitions. As a young pianist and budding composer, she is affected by Minnesota's musical pioneers and resolves to become an orchestral conductor despite the obstacles. Alejandra travels to the great cities of the world in pursuit of her dreams. Along the way, she will meet two men who are her match in ideals and intellect. Ultimately, it is the passion for music and love which guide, inspire, and determine Alejandra's destiny. History and fiction converge impeccably in this historical novel infused with music, art, and romance, creating a compelling first installment to the A Song in My Heart trilogy.

## A Song in My Heart Details

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Author : Roma Calatayud-Stocks , Roma Calatayud

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## From Reader Review A Song in My Heart for online ebook

### Mayda says

is an interesting blend of music and story. This novel comes with a CD of original music specifically written for this novel by the author, Roma Calatayud-Stocks. Throughout the story, the reader is encouraged to listen to specific tracks at the ends of some chapters. Music is as much a part of this novel as the story itself, and lends much to the overall enjoyment of the tale. In this book, the first of a trilogy, we follow the life of Alejandra Stanford from her birth to having children of her own. While the novel is somewhat less descriptive in its content, this nevertheless allows the plot to move along in a timely fashion. I recommend that the reader plays the CD while reading the novel, replaying the tracks as indicated. But when you finish this fascinating tale, do not store the CD back in the book – it holds its own as an enjoyable music CD even without the accompanying story. While I anxiously await the next installment in this series, it is my hope that the author takes the time to compose and include another CD with it. I now cannot imagine one without the other. I received this book free through Goodreads First Reads.

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### Bea J. says

I just finished A Song In My heart, a historical novel, and I think it is one of the best books I have ever read. It has the three qualities necessary for a very good book. First, the writing is very entertaining. Secondly, it is an intelligent book and interesting. I particularly loved the historical events and references to the arts during this period as some of the characters in the novel are artists and play a significant role in the protagonist's life.

The author takes the reader on a journey from Minneapolis to New York, to Mexico to several countries in Europe. The story moved me as it follows the life of Ale Stanford. And finally, the music history is marvelous as each chapter is titled with a musical composition that becomes part of the story. This book is unique with a soundtrack also composed by the author, and the music is just beautiful. I enjoyed it every aspect of it.

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### Diane S ? says

Really enjoyed this book about a bi-cultural family in Minneapolis, starting in 1902. The music and discussions of art as well as the characters are very well done. The CD that comes with the book is fantastic and really adds a nice touch to the story. Covers a lot of historical and cultural ground as well as Alejandra's romantic life. First in a trilogy will be reading the 2nd.

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### Kristina Franken says

I highly recommend this book for anyone

FTC: I received a free copy of this book and was not reimbursed in any other way.

## **Nancy says**

Loved it! The history, the characters, and the music, a unique combo of narrative and songs. Read it in three days, and could not stop.

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## **Jen Gamberg says**

Received the book for free through Goodreads First Reads.

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## **Tami says**

Haven't received the book yet, just received notice I had won. 7/8/11  
Received my copy in the mail. Have 2 wins ahead of it but hope to start really soon. 7/13/11  
Started this morning. 7/18/11  
Finished Saturday. 7/23/11

Alejandra Stanford is born into a privileged bicultural family in Minneapolis of 1902. First line of blurb on book. Her mother is from Mexico and her father is European. The story is about her life as she visits, lives and studies music in Mexico, New York, Europe, and at home in Minneapolis.

There was way too much going on. I expected a book about Ale growing up and music to be heavily emphasized, almost accompanying the book. What I got was this, but also art, painting and sculpture, architecture, history and politics, and so much more. It was cluttered and really confusing in parts. A lot of it seemed like a boring college professor lecture to get the information out that the author felt the reader needed. I felt that the story could have mentioned her mother's artistic side and her father's fascination with architecture, but it didn't need to be delved into so much. Also politics really shouldn't have affected a child so young. I could go on and on, but that really isn't important. I liked the story but it was just too much.

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## **Carmen says**

I won this book for free through Goodreads giveaways.

This book was amazing. At first I was intimidated because I do not know much about fine art and music, but the author captured my attention, interest and heart almost immediately. Then, to top it off with putting music with the book, just made it even more beautiful to read. I love this book and the music. I'm also a big fan of stories about old recipes. The book "The Perry" cookbook was mentioned and I actually found it and the recipes on-line. Just a fun little bonus for me. I now have a deeper appreciation also for "fine" art and music and will be checking out some art museums with my family.

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## **Marcia says**

While this book got off to a slow start and I hadn't finished by time we met the author at book club, I did really enjoy it. The music was good but a distraction as I felt I needed to stop and listen at each point and I didn't always have the music with me.

Meeting Roma was fabulous, I think perhaps part of the reason the book started off slowly was that English is not her native language. She is very detailed and this shows in her book. I do look forward to the second one which she says is due in 2014.

I truly enjoyed meeting Roma!

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## **Gayle says**

A great book taking place in 1920 Minneapolis. The story is about a girl, Alejandra, from a wealthy family who grows up surrounded by music and the arts. She learns to love art galleries and concerts as she learns to play piano. Her real dream is to become an orchestra director, though that is not thought of as something a female would ever be able to do. She searches out other women in music and aspires to make her dream come true.

Events in her life influence her goals - traveling to relatives in Mexico and needing to stay during a political upheaval that lasts 4 years or so. Upon returning to Minnesota, she matures and falls in love. WWI also influences her life. Seeing her German friends and classmates being oppressed makes her more determined than ever to seek unity through music.

The author did a great job of weaving musical themes into the storyline. However, much more important is the fact that the author composed a CD of music to accompany the story. The music pulls together the Latin and American influences in this character's life.

Our book club had the honor of having Roma Calatayud-Stocks attend our discussion and share her perspective of this lovely book. We talked about the characters, the story, the music, and history. It was a special time with a talented author and musician. Our group looks forward to the next book from Roma.

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## **Leo says**

Very interesting, page turner, love the characters and the music that comes with the story. Looking forward to book 2 in the series.

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## **Roma Calatayud-Stocks - Author says**

Award Winning book by Mom's Choice Awards  
Award - Adult Fiction - Multimedia - Gold

ALL PROFESSIONAL REVIEWS SEE - <http://www.romastocks.com/reviews.html>

1. Book Reviewer List - Archer Anderson - "An Extraordinary Fusion of Music and Literature - A Song in My Heart - Through her novel, Calatayud-Stocks establishes herself as a first-rate storyteller, showcasing her equal talents for both writing and music through the story of Alejandra Stanford. The theme of music is interwoven throughout the storyline; and Calatayud-Stocks deftly interweaves the themes of music, art, romance, passion, and history. The novel is absolutely spellbinding, transporting readers to another time and place with its words and accompanying musical journey, whisking them into the realm of the extraordinary."

2. HEARTLAND REVIEWS-BOB SPEAR GIVES A SONG IN MY HEART 5 STARS

<http://www.heartlandreviews.com/Histo...>

"If you enjoy American and world history and culture, especially of the arts such as music and paintings and their interplay with cultural developments, women's issues, and politics, you will love this book.

This is a first volume in a family saga trilogy. Ms Calatayud-Stocks' writing style is a "You Are There" approach that is intensely personalized. The author's unique approach to telling this story is demonstrated by her composing and recording music that exemplifies the moods of different story segments as they unfold. Ms Stocks' music is a joy to experience. I found myself playing her accompanying CD while I read her entertaining book. In all, this was a highly unusual and well-done project that marries the written word with the musical words. We rated it five hearts."

3. The Internet Review of Books - <http://internetreviewofbooks.blogspot...>

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