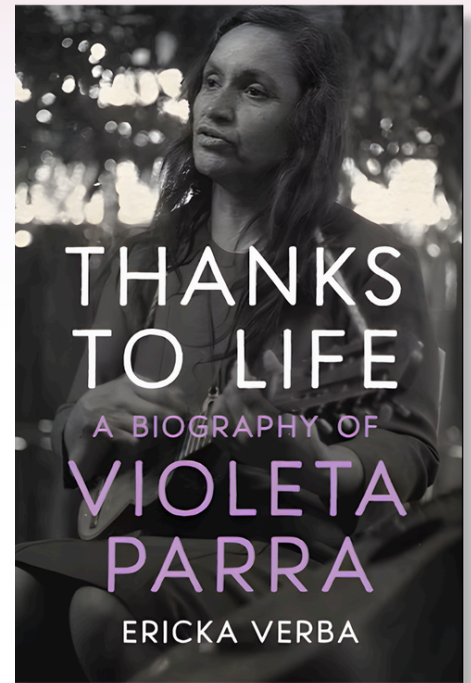


THANKS TO LIFE

A BIOGRAPHY OF VIOLETA PARRA

Chilean musician and artist Violeta Parra (1917–1967) is an inspiration to generations of artists and activists across the globe. Her music is synonymous with resistance, and it animated both the Chilean folk revival and the protest music movement Nueva Cancion (New Song). Her renowned song "Gracias a la vida" has been covered countless times, including by Joan Baez, Mercedes Sosa, and Kacey Musgraves. A self-taught visual artist, Parra was the first Latin American to have a solo exhibition at the *Museum of Decorative Arts* in the Louvre. In this remarkable biography, Ericka Verba traces Parra's radical life and multifaceted artistic trajectory across Latin America and Europe and on both sides of the Iron Curtain.

Drawing on decades of research, Verba paints a vivid and nuanced picture of Parra's life. From her modest beginnings in southern Chile to her untimely death, Parra was an exceptionally complex and talented woman who exposed social injustice in Latin America to the world through her powerful and poignant songwriting. This examination of her creative, political, and personal life, flaws and all, illuminates the depth and agency of Parra's journey as she invented and reinvented herself in her struggle to be recognized as an artist on her own terms.



PRaise FOR THANKS TO LIFE

"A stunning achievement. This comprehensive analysis of Parra's life provides an unparalleled opportunity to appreciate one of Latin America's greatest artists. *Thanks to Life* is an outstanding piece of biographical work on a world-class artist whose legacy continues to shape Latin American music and culture." —Heidi Tinsman, author of *Buying into the Regime: Grapes and Consumption in Cold War Chile and the United States*

"This extensive biography provides us with a detailed picture of Parra's life and multiple artistic endeavours. Verba eloquently synthesizes a vast amount of archival resources in a text that is rigorously researched, beautifully written and a joy to read. The book is a real masterpiece." —Lorna Dillon, Research Associate, Department of History of Art, University of Cambridge, author of *Violeta Parra's Visual Art: Painted Songs*



Ericka Verba is Director and Professor of Latin American Studies at California State University, Los Angeles. Her research interests include the cultural Cold War, the role of music in social movements, and the intersection of gender and class politics in Latin America. She is also an accomplished musician and was a founding member of the LA-based new song groups Sabiá and Desborde.

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