

# Singer of All Time

By: Cianna Ortiz

Chula Ignacia is a young teen who wants to pursue her dream of singing. Chula is also from the Bahamas and wants to be the first great singer on the island. She loves to sing and wants the whole world to experience it. Chula studies other singers on how their music flows and believes she can do it too. Chula writes a new tune every day and proudly sings it in her room. The only thing holding her back from her desire is the people and things she loves most of all.

For starters, her beloved parents had always doubted her. Chula's mom told her to be a lawyer so that she can make tons of money each week. Her father told her to be a doctor to try to find a cure for cancer. Whenever she wanted to show them her talent, they pushed her away and told her to return to her studies. Even at school, she attempted to join the Choir, but her mom said she wouldn't spend her cash on such nonsense things. Chula didn't know how to convince her parents so she tried something new, something more significant.

On March 18th, Chula searched for music studios on her laptop and found one called Malin's Studio. She wrote to the man's email that she was looking for a place to sing her music. No more than an hour later he replied, he said that she would need to bring \$150 for them to have a meeting. Chula was ecstatic, and couldn't hold in all the joy the email brought her. She knew she would get the money in no time.

The next day Chula set up a fundraiser that stated she was a young singer trying to find herself. She said that she needed about \$200, for the thing she wanted to do most, sing. By the end of the day, Chula had about 170 dollars. She took her money and went straight to the bank to cash it out. They gave her the money, and she put it safely away at home until the next day.

The morning of the 20th was bright and sunny. Chula sprung up from her bed, grabbed the money from under her bed, and left on her bike for the studio three blocks away. She peddled fast. Chula laughed and sang the whole ride there. When she finally made it she parked her bike, then walked in. She met eyes with the front desk lady, who nicely directed her to Mr. Malin himself. Chula introduced herself and handed him the cash and they started to talk.

As Chula showed him all the songs she wrote, he read them and held his hand to his head, as if he was stressed or bored. She didn't think that way and didn't care, maybe he was tired or didn't have his morning coffee. Chula asked what he thought about her songs and he asked her to grab a notebook from the table behind her. She grabbed it

confidently and handed it to him. He took it from her hands. Chula was curious about it, so she asked. He lifted his head and said, "Why this, this is just for all the people I deny!"

Chula lowered her head and a tear ran down her cheek. She left the room with all her things, crying and didn't know what to do. First her parents, now an actual producer?! Chula jumped on her bike and rode off. She was wiping her tears and thinking of other people who would actually listen to her. The only people in the world that she could talk to to figure things out would be music artists. Chula knew that she could never get one of those. She had to do something else, but what.

When she got home she ate dinner and watched some TV in her room. She watched as a commercial came on. It was a woman in some Advil ad who had headaches all the time because she sang outside of a restaurant. Chula knew where her pain was coming from. Singing can cause bad migraines. It happened to her all the time. As she kept watching, the girl started attracting crowds of people. Then an idea came to her. "That's it", she thought. All she had to do is go out and sing to the people. Chula didn't need her parents or a producer. Not even a famous person like Celine Dion.

Chula gave up on all the things that were keeping her from her favorite thing to do. Tomorrow would be the day she changed her way of seeing things. The way she always thought she needed someone by her side the whole ride through. That wasn't true though, she could do it on her own. She woke up and rode downtown. Chula set up a spot in front of the popular burger shop and sang her heart away. People crowded around just like the TV and money filled her jar on the floor. Some listened and cheered, and others recorded and hummed along.

When she finished four songs she decided that was all for the day. Everyone applauded and Chula bowed. She collected her things and headed home. When she got there she looked at her phone. There were notifications like crazy. Chula Ignacia had gone viral. Many videos of her were on almost every app that people knew. TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, Youtube, and even Facebook. Chula smiled and held her phone as if it were a trophy.

Chula did what she was best at and no one would stop her. She sang all the time now in front of almost every place she found. People loved her and she loved her fans too. Eventually, a famous producer that everyone knew invited her to make her very own album. He said he would pay her 200 dollars per song. She was the happiest person alive at this point. Chula knew she was going to be a star. In the end, Chula Ignacia would have the most important name in the Bahamas. Everyone knew her, and even the ones that denied her regretted every moment they didn't listen.

Like Toni Morrison said, "If you want to fly, you have to give up the things that weigh you down."