



MindStormPhoto Ecuador 2014 pt 5

Burt and Evelyn Johnson

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Singing The Blues

Singing The Blues



If you love music, Cuenca is the place to be. There are musical performances pretty much every week. Many are free, or have a small cover charge. Tonight we had dinner at La Parola, and listened to [Bobcat Jack](#) perform his style of Blues. He popped up on the Cuenca scene while we were on our recent Iceland / New York vacation and seems to be playing every restaurant in town with a stage. Jack is primarily a Blues musician, though he mixes in some Jazz. He is known for his interaction with the audience and modifying the standard tunes on-the-fly to reference local places and events ("I've got the blues in Cuenca").

Unfortunately it was too dark for me to record any video of him, but you can go [here](#) to see his official videos.

Singing The Blues



As we left Bobcat Jack's show, we discovered there was a free street show going on right outside the restaurant. We stopped for awhile to listen to them too.

UFO Vans

The Cuenca football game had just concluded at the Stadium a couple blocks away, so that is where all the people walking through my video were coming from. Cuenca won their game tonight, but are in 6th place, so not really in contention for the national playoffs.

, December 11, 2014

Ecuador, Music

Christmas Music

Christmas Music



Stephanie sings as part of the University of Azuay choir

Christmas Music

Cuenca is a city filled with music, as I have said several times. Now that Christmas is around the corner, there are several music festivals every week. We were invited to Stephanie's [birthday party](#) last May. When we heard she was performing today as part of the University of Azuay choir, we went to hear her. The performance was outdoors. Fortunately the performers were under some heavy trees, as it rained during much of the afternoon. Portable canopies were erected quickly for the audience.

There were also a series of children's choirs from local schools performing more Christmas music, both "standards" and new music we had not heard before.

Christmas Music



, December 17, 2014

Music

Cuenca International Chorale

Cuenca International Chorale



This is the time of year to hear Christmas music. In the past two years, there has been a choral presentation at the Old Cathedral on Parque Calderon, which we have gone to. This year, the group was comprised mostly of gringos for the first time, with the songs both in English and Spanish.

We got there 45 minutes early, expecting to get a good seat, only to find the line already more than a block long. In a departure from prior years, gringos dominated the line this time -- probably because the chorale was also dominated by gringos.

I'll admit that my expectations were not very high for a group of amateurs performing for the first time. I was blown away though. The voices were beautiful, and the acoustics of the cathedral are so excellent that their voices floated over the audience with no need for electronic amplification.

Cuenca International Chorale 2014

, December 22, 2014

Art, Event, Music

Pase del Niño Viajero Otra Vez*

Pase del Niño Viajero Otra Vez*



**Parade of the Traveling Child Again*

Every Christmas Eve there is a massive parade in Cuenca. The centerpiece is a statue of baby Jesus that was sculpted in 1823, then carried by Monsignor Miguel Cordero Crespo on a pilgrimage in 1961, where it was blessed by Pope John XXIII. This is our third annual parade -- you can read see our images from [2012 here](#) and [2013 here](#). We came back with over 1300 photos this year, so here is an attempt to give a small view of what it was like.

Pase del Niño Viajero Otra Vez*



The day started out raining. I first thought that rain would be the theme of this year's parade, but the rain stopped just a few minutes after the parade started.

Pase del Niño Viajero Otra Vez*



Angels were a favorite costume again this year.

Pase del Niño Viajero Otra Vez*



Santa was there -- mostly a very young Santa though...

Pase del Niño Viajero Otra Vez*



Children were the biggest draw in the parade... though many of them tired out before the end...

Pase del Niño Viajero Otra Vez*



The military is fully involved -- passing out free drinks and parading with bands

Pase del Niño Viajero Otra Vez*



Some audience stayed out of the fray, though others joined right in the parade

Pase del Niño Viajero Otra Vez*



A few other images I liked, but didn't fit in any other group above...

Video of some of the dancers at the start of the parade.

Video of some of the military bands in the parade.

, December 24, 2014