

De Colores is a traditional Spanish-language folk song that is well-known throughout the Spanish-speaking world. It is associated with Mexican folklore but it is not known for certain when and where it originated (probably Spain), but it's believed to have been around since the 16th century. By the 20th century it was one of the most well-known Mexican folk songs throughout the world. Perhaps most famously in the U.S., it became the unofficial anthem of the United Farm Workers movement in the 1950s and 1960s. The text celebrates the beauty of diversity as well as unity. Multiple verses are known to exist and the song appears in many music textbooks. You can find wonderful performances on YouTube—this one has all the verses below as well as some additional verses. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cWRDu-qwvvgA>). We had our mariachi director come in to work with us on style. You can find a link to two free versions on our website. There also are many arrangements of it—the SATB one I like is published by Alliance and is arranged by Vicente Chavarria. You can use any combination of verses in any verse, although the first one is usually sung first and the third one below is the other most commonly sung verse. ~Elizabeth Schauer

De colores, de colores
Se visten los campos en la primavera.
De colores, de colores
Son los pajaritos que vienen de afuera.
De colores, de colores
Es el arco iris que vemos lucir.

Refrain:

**Y por eso los grandes amores
De muchos colores me gustan a mí.
Y por eso los grandes amores
De muchos colores me gustan a mí.**

De colores, de colores
Brillantes y finos se viste la aurora.
De colores, de colores
Son los mil reflejos que el sol atesora.
De colores, de colores
Se viste el diamante que vemos lucir.

Refrain

Canta el gallo, canta el gallo
Con el quiri, quiri, quiri, quiri, quiri.
La gallina, la gallina
Con el cara, cara, cara, cara, cara.
Los pollitos/polluelos, los pollitos/polluelos
Con el pío, pío, pío, pío, pío.

Refrain

De colores, sí, de blanco
Y negro y rojo y azul y castaño.
Son colores, son colores
De gente que ríe, y estrecha la mano.
Son colores, son colores
De gente que sabe de la libertad.

Refrain

In colors the fields clothe themselves in
Spring. In colors are the little birds that come
from outside. In colors is the rainbow we see
shine.

Refrain:

**And that is why the great loves of many
colors are pleasing to me.**

In colors brilliant and fine the dawn is clothed.
In colors are the thousand reflections that the
sun treasures. In colors the diamond is
dressed that we see shine.

Refrain

The rooster sings with his "kiri-kiri."
The hen sings with her "kara-kara,"
The chicks sing with their "pio-pio."

Refrain

In colors, yes, white and black and red and
blue and brown. All the colors from people
laughing and shaking hands. All the colors
from people who know freedom.

Refrain