

Emily Esperanza is an imaginative singer/songwriter born and raised in Connecticut. She released her early EP *Letters to Myself* in 2020 under the name Emily Hope, developing her raw, acoustic singer/songwriter sound and showcasing her heartfelt lyrics.

When COVID-19 quarantine hit in 2020, Emily began exploring new music styles and passions, and became captivated by the Latin music genre. As she explored the Latin American language and culture, she grew passionate about the region and its people. She used music, telenovelas, and connections with Spanish speakers from all over the world to reach a native level of Spanish, and could soon communicate with an entirely new audience from the vast number of Spanish-speaking nations worldwide. In studying a language and culture, music is key, and Emily decided to share her experience with her audience in 2021 under the new name Emily Esperanza (Esperanza meaning hope in Spanish!). This new unique, bilingual audience opens her repertoire to double the music, and allows her to promote language learning and being open to other cultures. Emily's favorite way to do so is through her Translation Tuesday segment, in which she translates her favorite Spanish music into English, or vice versa. She hopes these covers will help people enjoy music they would not have otherwise been able to understand, and to use them as resources for learning Spanish or English through music.

Stemming from her love of languages, Emily created her podcast *La Gringa Bilingua* in 2021. Now in its third season, the podcast features fun yet informative episodes that also challenge conventions and stereotypes about everything from language learning to Latin American culture. The third season focuses on Emily's exploration of Mexico City, and features live interviews with city natives, showing that learning languages can foster meaningful connections all over the globe. Overall, Emily's goal is to explore the beauty that comes from crossing cultural divides, and to amplify brilliant music that is worth listening to no matter what language you speak.