



Fact Sheet

Location:	Brooklyn, NY
Year Founded:	2008
Profile:	The brainchild of husband and wife team, Fatima (Fati) Sfiligoi and Charles Mister, Abbasubi produces fun Spanish language CDs, DVDs and books that families can enjoy together.
Products:	The first product, <i>El Baile del Sombrero</i> , is a professionally produced Spanish language CD featuring original music and charming lyrics. Guaranteed to have your whole family salsa-ing, tango-ing, mariachi-ing, cumbia-ing, and giving high fives every time you listen.
Events:	Abbasubi also produces fun, family-focused, interactive shows at libraries, outdoor festivals, parks, and greenmarkets in and around New York City. Available to entertain at children's birthday parties.
Mission:	<p>To create affordable, high-quality Spanish language products that are fun and engaging for both parents and children. Our goal is to get families to dance and sing or read and learn while playing together.</p> <p>All materials use the immersion technique -- to reinforce Spanish already spoken in the home or to develop an ear for the language in non-Spanish speaking families.</p>
Markets Served:	Children ages 6 months - 5 years. Our primary market is bilingual families in the US. Secondary markets include Spanish-speaking families (within and outside the U.S.) and English-speaking families seeking to expose their children to Spanish.
Distribution:	CD and digital formats. Available on Amazon , CD Baby and iTunes . Carried in selected local stores.
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Fatima (Fati) Sfiligoi & Charles Mister

Founders of Abbasubi and Creators of “El Baile del Sombrero”

Husband and wife, Fati Sfiligoi and Charles Mister, are Brooklyn parents who decided to share their love of singing and dancing with their kids with other families. They composed original children’s music in Spanish and produced a Spanish language CD, El Baile del Sombrero. Their company Abbasubi is a word made up by Charles’ mother when she was trying to distract her headed-for-mischief children.



Photo: Flynn Larsen

Some Background

Fati is from Lujan, Argentina and a native Spanish-speaker. By profession an accountant who spends her workdays at a Manhattan firm, writing lyrics and performing her own songs was something far removed from her daily life. But when her children were born, she discovered that singing, dancing, and making up creative games and stories came naturally to her.

Charles, who is from Washington, DC and Brooklyn, is the musical half of the duo. He grew up playing piano and guitar and has played semi-professionally his whole life. A stay-at-home-dad, he loved sitting with his daughter Chloe on his lap, playing through a favorite songbook of children’s songs. And he was delighted to find that Fati shared his love for singing and dancing. So he began learning songs in Spanish that Fati knew. He particularly loved the songs of Maria Elena Walsh, a celebrated Argentine songwriter.

Budding Entrepreneurs

Fati wrote lyrics on the subway to and from her job crunching numbers in Manhattan. Charles wrote music in between feedings, diaper changes and naps. And despite having two young children, together they managed to write seventeen happy, fun, ear-catching songs.

They worked with Daniel Beltran, an amazing arranger and musician based in Mexico, via video chats and emails, and recorded nights or weekends at a friend's studio in Brooklyn.

Once the CD was finished, Fati and Charles began doing shows on the weekends -- at parks, outdoor festivals, libraries, and greenmarkets in the Brooklyn area. The shows are family affairs with their children, Chloe and Kylen, dancing and singing along with their parents. And soon after each show begins, children and parents in the audience join in the fun.

The music has become a wonderful way for their family to come together and interact with other English and Spanish-speaking families in their community.

Next Up

In the works are Spanish-language DVDs, more CDs and books.

To learn more about Abbasubi, visit: abbasubi.com become a fan on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/abbasubi), and follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/abbasubi).

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On the subway and between diaper changes, Brooklyn parents write a CD of children's music in Spanish

Fati & Charles wrote their CD "El Baile del Sombrero" for families like theirs who are raising bilingual kids

Brooklyn, NY, October 16, 2009—As Fatima Sfiligoi commuted to and from her midtown job on the 5 train she feverishly wrote song lyrics. Between feedings, diaper changes and naps, her husband, Charles Mister, would pull out his guitar and write music for a few more verses. Somehow, bilingual Brooklyn parents, Fati & Charles, have authored a CD of children's music in Spanish called "El Baile del Sombrero" for families like theirs who are raising bilingual children.

The inspiration for the CD came from a sing-along in Spanish that Fati and Charles hosted for families in Prospect Park in the summer of 2008. They had such fun playing music with other families and seeing their children, Chloe and Kylen, playing, dancing and singing with new friends in Spanish, they realized they wanted to continue.

Music has always been a very important part of Fati & Charles' family. They have made up songs for their children and danced with them since they were born--often to get them to get dressed, eat dinner, or go to bed. In their home, Fati, who is from Argentina, always speaks Spanish, and Charles, who is from Brooklyn, always speaks English. Chloe and Kylen have grown up learning both languages and speak Spanish to Fati and English to Charles.

Fati & Charles have found that an important part of raising a bilingual child is to develop a community of peers and activities in the non-majority language that gives their children a purpose and context to continue speaking Spanish. There are many Spanish speakers in New York City but there is a lack of activities and products for Spanish speaking children which help



foster a community of Spanish speaking families. Fati & Charles feel they have an opportunity to provide this with their music.

The creation of the CD “El Baile del Sombrero”

Fati wrote all the lyrics for the songs on “El Baile del Sombrero.” The songs came directly from the lives of her children, characters from stories she had made up for them, and from songs that she had already made up over years of singing to and playing with her children. There is a song about her daughter’s favorite blanket, a lullaby that she made up for her son, and a song about a playful cat named Fermin.

Charles, who is from Brooklyn, wrote the music for “El Baile del Sombrero”. He knew he wanted to include a variety of musical styles on the CD with a particular focus on Latin styles of music. He took Fati’s lyrics and created a salsa about a rag doll, a cumbia about going to bed, and a tango about a present for a mother’s birthday. These ideas were then arranged and produced by Daniel Beltran, a highly-regarded musician and music producer based in Mexico, who transformed Charles’ ideas into reality.

Performing “El Baile del Sombrero”

Since the CD was completed in June of 2009, Fati & Charles have been performing throughout New York City. They have played at Children’s Day at the South Street Seaport, at greenmarkets, libraries, parks, schools and festivals. Their spirit and enthusiasm for playing music for children has made each show successful and the feedback they have received has been very positive. During the show Charles speaks English to introduce the songs, and Fati speaks Spanish. With shakers, sponges, a rabbit puppet, and of course hats, their interactive show has entertained adults and children wherever they have played.

Fati & Charles are looking forward to creating a DVD and book using music and lyrics from “El Baile del Sombrero” and then beginning work on a new CD of music for children in Spanish.



We create professionally-produced, Spanish language CDs (and produce shows) featuring original fun music and lyrics, for children 6 mos. – 5 years. Our products foster interaction between parents and children – to play, dance, sing, talk, learn and have fun together.

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