

Live Shot - Karol G

The closing day of the Austin City Limits Music Festival feels different than the other days.

A diverse and vibrant audience enjoys every last second of live music in its premiere downtown park. On Sunday, the Latin *sazón* did not go unnoticed. After a noticeable lack of Latin artists in the lineup released in May, the festival made up for the criticism after the fact by adding artists such as Lunay, a Puerto Rican singer and rapper, and Colombian Latin Grammy Award winner Karol G.

Right after Lunay's show, a big Latino and Spanish-speaking mass started moving towards the Honda stage to wait for the Colombian artist – families with children, people wearing Colombian soccer team shirts, flags from different places of Latin America, people of different ages, and backgrounds all standing there waiting for her.

Born in Medellín, Colombia, Carolina Giraldo Rivera is a best-selling rapper/singer, who blends a soulful mix of trap beats, reggaeton, and pop. She's collaborated with artists including Bad Bunny, Daddy Yankee, and Nicky Minaj. This year she presented her third studio album, *Marcha* KG0516, which yielded seven hit singles, among them the chart-topping and career break single "Tusa."

6:29 pm: "*Bichota, Bichota, Bichota ...*," the audience screams; it is the only thing we can hear.

6:30 pm: The screens turn on, a DJ stands on stage right, dressed in red, the guitarist and dancers take a position on stage. The first song, "El Makinon," starts playing and between the audience's euphoria, she enters the stage sporting stunning long blue hair, red cargo pants with chains falling to the sides, and a red triangle top and matching red microphone.

After her first two songs and between nervous laughs and a deep breath, she tells the mass assemblage at the headlining Honda stage: "People, this is my first time speaking in English. Thank you so much for being here.

My name is Karol G; I'm from Medellín Colombia... *y vinimos a perrear* because I don't know how to say it in English."

With a track of 13 songs, most features, she manages to make them her own singles. Between lip-singing and later taking the chance to sing acapella or accompanied by her guitarist, she enjoyed the performance just like a kid going for the first time to Disneyland. Running from side to side, screaming from the excitement she felt for the audience response, La Bichota didn't stop saying how much she loved Austin and how grateful she was for being here.

The audience was just as excited as her. If they didn't know the song, they would dance, scream, clap along with the rhythm of the beats. Everyone was genuinely happy, all waiting for her world-recognized hit.

7:23: "Tusa" starts playing along. It sounds like an anthem, everyone singing like there's no tomorrow. The song ends.

7:25: "*Otra, Otra, Otra,*" the audience doesn't want the party to stop; she doesn't want to leave either, so she makes those who make this single a hit sing it acapella – the boys from the audience – they start screaming their heart out, and as everyone joins them she left the stage.

Red became the color of the evening – hot, warm and powerful. On a day with little sun and a lot of wind, the Medellín vocalist, on a 60-minute concert, makes us travel to the Caribbean to feel the warmth and Latin tumbao' in every corner, creating an atmosphere where standing still was not an option. Making the audience feel at a Latin party, she empowered women and left the message of accepting that it is okay to feel and show love.