

“CHARO” (MARÍA ROSARIO PILAR MARTÍNEZ MOLINA BAEZA), (1942–)

Known as the “cuchi-cuchi” girl, Charo, (María Rosario Pilar Martínez Molina Baeza) was born in Spain and began playing the guitar at age nine. She pursued her interest in music and trained as a classical guitarist. An accomplished entertainer, Charo is fluent in Spanish, English, French, Italian, and Japanese. Her album *Guitar Passion* (1994) remained on the Billboard Top 50 album charts for four months. *Billboard Magazine* named it the best Latin pop album by a female artist in 1995. Although she maintains the image of a ditzy blonde as a television persona, Charo has been recognized for her musical talents. She received Best Flamenco Guitarist from the *Guitar Player* magazine’s Readers Poll, and the Distinguished Career Award from Hispanic Exhibitor and Distributor. Charo appeared in the movies *Tiger by the Tail* (1968), *Joys* (1976), and *Moon over Parador* (1988). She is remembered for television appearances in *Fantasy Island*, *The Love Boat*, and *Hollywood Squares*.