

CLASS OF 2024

Outstanding Graduate



EMMA ALVAREZ DE LA ROSA

College of Arts and Sciences

Ciudad Juárez native Emma Alvarez de la Rosa will graduate with a Bachelor of Music in music performance and a Bachelor of Arts in anthropology.

By the age of nine, Emma was already deeply dedicated to playing the cello, and in high school, her talent took her across the country with the Orquesta Sinfónica Infantil de México. She had planned to attend a music conservatory, but with input from her parents decided to go to university instead, choosing NMSU to pursue a bachelor's in music. She stumbled upon anthropology by chance when she took a world cultures class that captivated her so much that she added anthropology as a minor, eventually turning it into a second major because it "was so much fun."

“NMSU has provided me with opportunities I didn’t know existed and prepared me for a future I did not think was possible.”

Blending her passions for cultural anthropology and music, she has presented her Honors capstone thesis, “Lullabies in the Border: Lullaby singing and parenthood in the maquiladora society of Cd. Juárez,” at three conferences, including the Association for Borderlands Studies. Dr. Lois Stanford calls her thesis a “small yet important contribution through her focus on lullabies . . . and the challenges women face as they are drawn into working in border maquiladoras.”

Two of Emma’s standout achievements include competing for and receiving the Undergraduate Scholar Award from the Presser Foundation — a prestigious scholarship awarded through the NMSU Music Department — and being selected for an advanced-level internship at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington, D.C. “I learned so much about working with the public and made sure to always be there helping the bluegrass musicians in the ‘pickin’ parlor.’ It inspired me!”

In her spare time, Emma enjoys yoga, painting, crocheting, and playing folk music on the cello. She speaks fluent Spanish and English, and although she eventually plans to pursue a Ph.D. in ethnomusicology, right now she is applying for jobs in the public sector and hopes to work with Latin American communities. ▲