

Ents & Tech televisi

FESTIVE RADIO

CELEBRATE WITH GLORIA ESTEFAN'S LATIN CHRISTMAS

Last December, Radio 2 grooved to the sound of Gloria Estefan's Latin Beat. That series is being repeated, with the icing on the cake this year being Gloria Estefan's Latin Christmas, a riveting journey through the queen of Latin pop's life in music.

In it, Grammy award-winner Estefan (pictured right), who has sold more than 100million albums, offers a taste of Christmas in Cuba, where she was born.

'It revolves around food, music and dancing – we roast a pig, prepare black beans and rice, sweet plantain and potatoes, and flan for dessert,' she explains. 'People often wait until midnight on Christmas Eve to eat, dance and drink with family and friends.'

So how do the Estefans celebrate Christmas in their hometown of Miami? 'We start the holiday vibe early by putting up our tree by Thanksgiving,' she says. 'There's no snow in Miami but by December, we have our sweaters out. On Christmas Eve, we gather at our niece's house for celebrating, dancing and dinner, and on Christmas Day, we go to my mother's to have dinner and celebrate again.'

Unsurprisingly, music plays a big part at Christmas in the Estefan household and on her radio show, the singer will be talking through the Latin songs, and stories and memories they evoke. 'My favourite Latin Christmas songs are Feliz Navidad by José Feliciano; Arbolito, which I recorded in Spanish for my Christmas album; and Noche De Paz [Silent Night].'

Rahul Verma

Gloria Estefan's Latin Christmas is broadcast on Radio 2 at 6pm on Christmas Eve.



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