



Aaron Nathans  
& Michael G. Ronstadt

## “Esperanza”

Folk radio and street release date:  
July 3, 2026

**The new album from Aaron Nathans & Michael G. Ronstadt is called “Esperanza,”** which is Spanish for “hope.” In these uncertain times, Aaron and Michael capture two ways of looking at the future, and at hope itself.

There’s the optimistic case for hope, which Michael makes in “**La Madrugada Tucsonense,**” an ode to the desert borderlands of Arizona where he grew up. He looks out at the vast dry expanse and sees possibilities, comfort, and the warmth of family. Michael is joined on vocals on this beautiful song by the great **Tish Hinojosa,** who also hails from the American Southwest.

And then there’s the idea when you only feel hope when you’re coming from a place of heartbreak, and the need to heal. Aaron captures this in “**Thankful Anyway,**” his ballad about finding reasons to press on through hard times.

This album, their fifth, was a different sort of project for this guitar-cello songwriting duo. It’s the first album of theirs that they recorded entirely “in house,” with Michael producing, engineering, and mixing. Most of the recording was done at The Record Co. in Boston, a comfortable community studio on that city’s south side that allows musicians to record themselves. They finished the project in the third-floor studio in Michael’s home. Glenn Barratt of Morningstar Studios mastered the album.

One of the highlights of “Esperanza” is their seven-minute flamenco-and-jazz-inflected cover of **David Bowie’s “Space Oddity.”** Nathans & Ronstadt reimagine the song as a character study, showcasing Michael’s out-of-this-world cello work. It features Serenity Fisher on keyboards and harmony vocals. Aaron and Michael’s previous album, “Hello World,” reached #7 on the Folk DJ charts in March 2023. Their single “Rebuild” was #3 in December 2022.