

# I Am Quisquella la Bella

By Amiris Ramirez

I am  
from Quisquella la bella,  
from *merengue, bachata, perico, rippiao*,  
and church bells on Sundays.

I am  
from the words  
*Dios, patria, libertad*  
from the feeling of sadness, but also of not giving up.

I am  
from the promise of friendship and love,  
from "always be yourself,"  
"believe in who you are."

I am  
from rice and beans,  
roast chicken, pernil,  
*plátanos*, mangos, coconuts, corn.

I am  
from beautiful  
gardens with palm trees,  
from mountains and precious beaches.

I am Latina.  
Dominican.  
Proud.