How the music of Ramon “Chunky” Sanchez energized the Chicano Civil Rights Movement

Friday, February 12
5 p.m. PST
Adrian Pantoja in conversation with Paul Espinosa on the music and activism of Ramon “Chunky” Sanchez. Espinosa’s feature-length documentary Singing Our Way to Freedom profiles Ramon “Chunky” Sanchez, a musician, composer, and community activist from San Diego. From the early days of the Chicano civil rights movement alongside Cesar Chavez through today’s immigrants’ rights protests, Ramon Sanchez used music to energize the struggle for social justice. Espinosa’s film examines how Sanchez’s career as a musician was interwoven with the Chicano movement. A portrait of one charismatic musician and activist, it revisits a pivotal era in American history and provokes dialogue about the many hurdles that had to be overcome to secure equal rights for Mexican Americans.

Singing Our Way to Freedom, now available to the Pitzer Community on Sakai, was purchased with funds from President Oliver’s Racial Justice Initiative (www.pitzer.edu/racial-justice-initiative) and is part of the campus-wide programming for Pitzer College Art Galleries’ Manifesto: Eight-Minutes and Forty-Six Seconds project (www.pitzer.edu/galleries/manifesto-eight-minutes-and-forty-six-seCONDS), which focuses on protest songs in Spring 2021.