

JOSÉ “El Patrullero” MORENO

El Fideler Del Valle

1. ROSA ELVIA (polka)
2. MARIA BONITA (vals)
3. BAILANDO EN OAXACA (huapango)
4. PATRICIA ERIKA (polka)(mandolin)
5. EL CIPRES (redova)
6. EL CAPITAN CANELA (huapango)
7. ANA LUISA (vals)
8. LAS PERLITAS (polka)
9. BAILANDO EN PHOENIX
(huapango)(mandolin)
10. ROSA PATRICIA (redova)
11. SANTA JULIA (polka)
12. EL RUBI (redova)
13. DIANA ODILIA (polka)
14. LAS TRES PELONAS (huapango)
15. JALE GRIEGO (huapango)(mandolin)
16. SON MATACHE (son matachin)
17. EL PICHU HUILA (son matachin)
18. EL CORRIDO DE GREGORIO CORTEZ (corrido)

José Moreno – violin
(mandolin #4, 9, & 15, vocal #18,
tambora #16 & 17, accordion #18)

Amado Banda – bajo sexto (vocal #18)

Mark Rubin – tolaloche (string bass)

Produced by Chris Strachwitz
Recorded at Toby's Sound Studios,
San Antonio 2/23/1999

Engineered by Toby Torres

Dub-down mixed by Henry Kaiser

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hospitality in San Antonio and to
David Champion and Ramon De Leon for
writing notes for this album (with additions
and editing by Chris Strachwitz)

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All selections composed or arranged by José
Moreno (except: # 2 by Augustin Lara; #5 by
Chencho Cardenas and #9 by Amado Banda)
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José Moreno

“EL PATRULLERO”

El Fideler Del Valle



JOSÉ "EL PATRULLERO" MORENO

The music of José Moreno harks back to a time over a hundred years ago, to the turn of the last century, to the late 1800s when a fiddle, guitar, mandolin, and perhaps a string bass made up an "orquesta típica" or "conjunto regional" along the lower Rio Grande Valley (El Valle). Out on the ranchos of south Texas, northern Tamaulipas, Coahuila & Nuevo Leon the accordion was just beginning to let out its first infantile squeals with no notion of soon dominating the sounds of popular music throughout the Texas-Mexican border region.

José Moreno has not only mastered the older music of the border but has persevered in keeping the older traditions alive and can be considered as one of our national treasures. Not only has he kept alive the border fiddle style (first heard via recordings by El Ciego Melquiades in the 1930s) but he is also quite accomplished on the mandolin, guitar and bajo sexto. He is also a song writer, composer, arranger, singer with a large repertoire of corridos and canciones, and he can push the "squeezebox" with the best of them!

This recording features José's fiddle music (thus our "Spanglish" invention: "El Fidelero Del Valle") but you also hear his mandolin and accordion as well as singing one duet

with Amado Banda on the historic border corrido "Gregorio Cortez". Amado Banda of the famous 1960s conjunto Los Hermanos Banda, accompanies José magnificently on the bajo sexto throughout this album. On string bass, or "tolaloche" we had the pleasure of having the versatile Mark Rubin from Austin who is at home with almost any style of regional or ethnic music.

José Moreno was born on March 20, 1930 near the city of Torreon in the state of Coahuila, Mexico and has been an active musician since the age of ten. By the time José was eight he had already demonstrated the ability to play the violin, not a new or used violin however, but one fabricated from pieces lying around his home. By the time he reached his tenth birthday his mother had saved seventy-five pesos for a used violin. In order to pay his mother back the money she had invested, José took a gig playing for a group of religious devotional dancers known as "matachines." These dances pay homage to the gods through music and dance. The performance for which he was contracted lasted twenty-four hours and included his brothers on guitar and bass. They soon performed at weddings, baptisms, and other social functions in the area. They became quite

popular and gained a considerable following despite their young ages. After several years the brothers broke up and José Moreno worked his way toward the Frontera (border), eventually reaching the city of Reynosa, Tamaulipas - just across the Rio Bravo from McAllen, Texas. Mr. Moreno would spend the next forty-plus years in this area honing his craft and establishing himself as a master musician.

Under the name of Los Patrulleros Del Norte, "Fideleros" Moreno began to make recordings in the 1970s with his singing partner Herminia playing mandolin, including two 45 rpm discs (#156 & 158) for the Charro label in San Juan, Texas. By the early 1980s he was recording for Ramiro Cavazos, of the famous conjunto Los Donneños, who had been releasing recordings on his RyN imprint for some time. Several 8 track tapes, LP records (# 1110 & 1123) and cassettes were issued by RyN Records again with mandolin player Herminia. Both albums feature the unconventional sound of fiddle and mandolin instead of the by-then standard accordion conjunto. In 1991 he recorded

a tape for the Triple E label in Monterrey, N.L. (Cass # 103) and a further cassette (# 1357) for RyN in 1996. In 1998 a CD of accordion instrumentals was issued by Santiago Jiménez Jr.'s Chief label (# 1014).

José Moreno is highly regarded along the border and has been recognized as one of the true interpreters of traditional Tejano/Mexican music from that region. His talent has recently brought him invitations to perform throughout the United States and Mexico. One of the highlights of these tours was an appearance at Wolf Trap Park, Vienna VA, in 1996 where he shared the stage with the famous singer/composer, Lalo Guerrero and accordion maestro Santiago Jiménez Jr. For the past five years Mr. Moreno has been an instructor at the Narciso Martínez Cultural Arts Center in San Benito, Texas where he teaches violin, accordion, guitar, and mandolin. He wants to be remembered simply for "mi musica" (my music) and is to be commended for his willingness to share his talent freely with those around him - all for the simple joy of watching people dance and rejoice.

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RECORDED IN SAN ANTONIO 2/23/99.

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