

1. BIEN SABES TU (bolero) (1764) (A. Esparza Oteo)
2. EL DESCALZO (ranchera) (1398) (Juan Gaytan)
3. SABRA DIOS (bolero) (1449) (Alvaro Carrillo)
4. CULPABLE DE AMARTE (ranchera) (1714) (Jose A. Morante)
5. ERROR (bolero) (1249) (Carrion)
6. ISIDRO ROMERO (corrido) (1590) (Leonardo Garcia)
7. SIEMPRE FELIZ (bolero) (1370) (DAR)
8. ALMAS PERDIDAS (ranchera) (1549) (Rodolfo Leal)
9. NO DEBEMOS ENGAÑARNOS (bolero) (1379) (Guillermo Meade Aguilar)
10. AUNQUE PASEN LOS AÑOS (ranchera) (1540) (E. Alarcon Leal)
11. POR EQUIVOCACION (bolero) (1402) (Charlie Lopez - Raul Vicente)
12. EN BRAZOS DE OTRO HOMBRE (ranchera) (1509) (Jose A. Morante)
13. MIENTEME MAS (bolero) (1379) (DAR)
14. LA VACILONA (ranchera) (1495) (Isidro Lopez)
15. AMOR MIO (bolero) (1418) (Alvaro Carrillo)
16. Y-YA (bolero-ranchera) (1453) (DAR)
17. MIRANDO LAS ESTRELLAS (ranchera) (1458) (A. Armendariz)
18. POR JUGARME TRAICION (ranchera) (1495) (Cuca Ornelas)

Chris Sandoval - vocals with:

His Orquesta: # 1, 4, 6, 8, & 10.

Conjunto Bernal: # 3 (& Reynaldo Barrera -  
gtr.), 7, 9, 13, & 17.

Conjunto Latino: # 2 (with Carmen y Laura),  
11, & 15.

Conjunto Ideal: #5, 14, & 18.

Cuarteto Mayab: # 16.

His Conjunto: # 12.



Original recordings produced for IDEAL

Records by Armando Marroquin

Original IDEAL catalog release number is in  
parenthesis following title

Re-issue produced by Chris Strachwitz

All photos courtesy Chris Sandoval

Cover by Wayne Pope

Booklet and tray card layout by Morgan Dodge

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# Chris Sandoval

## Pioneer of Tejano Music





# Chris Sandoval • Pioneer of Tejano Music

In 1983 Chris Sandoval (born in Laredo, Tx. December 17, 1924) was inducted into the Tejano Music Hall of Fame as one of the true legends of Tejano music. With "Tejano" being today the dominant form of Spanish language music in South Texas, some of the genre's originators and pioneers have unfortunately been unjustly neglected. This CD attempts to correct this situation in respect to Chris Sandoval, a remarkably popular singer and interpreter of Tejano and Mexican songs, from rancheras to boleros, by the mid 1950s toured widely with a ten-piece band along the Chicano/Tejano circuit from California through the southwest up into Ohio and beyond. That was in Chris'

heydays as a Tejano music star during the decade of the mid to late 1950s through the 1960s. He was soon recording steadily not only with his full band as well as with smaller conjuntos and trios. Paulino Bernal, himself then a rising star, frequently backed Chris Sandoval with his beautiful accordion work especially on the moody, brooding boleros.

## Chris Sandoval's story:

Ever since I was a young boy, I realized that I had an unsurpressable desire to sing. I would sing along with records, and eventually my family, as well as my peers, let me know that I had a good voice. My family



encouraged me to enter a singing contest which I won to my surprise! I continued to enter different amateur contests and surprisingly, to me, I kept on winning.

Since my stream of good luck continued all through my teens, I was eventually offered a shot at a radio program. For a teenager, this was a dream come true. I was given a fifteen minute spot to sing for KPAB in my home town of Laredo, Texas. Once I got the exposure via the radio, I began to get offers to sing at weddings, hotels and even clubs.

One year during our Washington celebration, which is a major event in Laredo, I happened to be singing at one of the dances and a gentleman named Armando Marroquin, from Discos Ideal approached me and told me he would like to get together with me so that we could discuss the possibility of recording some demos for him. We later met in his hometown of Alice, Texas. He liked the demos and I was on my way to recording many records, of which several became major regional hits.

My first recordings were made in October 1955, and one of the songs was the nice bolero "Error" (cut # 5) accompanied by El Conjunto Ideal with Amadeo Flores on accordion. The flip side was "De Aquel Amor" and unanticipated by me, the record was a complete success. Due to this initial hit, my career was launched by Mr. Marroquin. This was the beginning of my rise into the entertainment world and culminated with my being inducted into the Tejano Music Hall of Fame in 1983.

I recorded with various conjuntos throughout my career. Conjuntos such as Paulino Bernal, Wally Armendaris, Rodolfo y Lalo, Chano Cadena and many others. I also had the privilege of recording with

orchestras such as Mike Ornelas, Felipe Perez, Beto Villa, and Juan Colorado. I later joined the Juan Colorado orchestra and became the singer. We traveled extensively all over Texas and out of the state. We played in California, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico and many other states. While in Mr. Colorado's orchestra I continued to record, including "Porque Eres Tan Mala" (heard on Arhoolie CD/C 368), which was one of my biggest hits.

After Mr. Colorado's death I continued with the orchestra and later, with the help of Mr. Marroquin, and a drummer named Celedonio Casso, we formed a conjunto. This was a big responsibility but with the help of these two men and many others, I was able to continue to record and to reach newer and higher distinctions. After realizing that I was at a point where I could project and sell myself to the public I shifted over and formed my own ten-piece orchestra. This astounding endeavor lasted for almost 20 years. We traveled all over the United States and were accepted with open arms and bountiful cheers and support.

I was fortunate enough to record two LPs with my ten-piece orchestra for Discos Falcon during 1961-1962. However, at the height of my career, I had a difficult decision to make and I chose to retire from the entertainment business. I moved to San Antonio, Texas, but continued from time to time to sing with various orchestras. I am still interested in singing and we shall see what the future holds for me!

Chris Sandoval - with some editing  
by Chris Strachwitz - 1998



**Other selections available by Chris Sandoval:**

"Porque Eres Tan Mala"

- on Arhoolie CD/C 368: "ORQUESTAS TEJANAS"

"Una Noche Vacilando"

- on Arhoolie CD 109: "15 EARLY TEJANO CLASSICS"

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CONTIGO "MIRANDO LAS ESTRELLAS"

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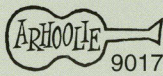
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