

- 1) **Querida Mujer** (Ranchera) (DAR) (2)
(Beloved Woman) voces: Salvador y José Antonio
- 2) **Voy A Tirarme A Los Vicios** (Vals Ranchera) (DAR) (2) (I'm Going To Fall Into Ruin) voces: Salvador y Emiliano
- 3) **La Peineta** (Son) (DAR) (2) (The Comb)
- 4) **Una Plegaria A Mi Madre** (Ranchera) (DAR) (1) (A Prayer To My Mother) voces: Elisa y Salvador
- 5) **Aguililla** (Huapango) (DAR) (2) (Aguililla, Michoacán)
- 6) **Cautiva Y Triste** (Ranchera) (DAR) (2) (Captive And Sad) voces: Salvador y Emiliano
- 7) **Cantinerero Amigo** (Ranchera) (DAR) (1) (Bartender Friend) voces: Salvador y Emiliano
- 8) **Clavel De Primavera** (Ranchera) (DAR) (2) (Spring Carnation) voces: Salvador y José Antonio
- 9) **El Corrido De Los Hermanos Mendoza** (Corrido) (Salvador Baldovinos - Tradition Music Co. / BUG Music - BMI) (2) (The Ballad Of The Mendoza Brothers) voces: Salvador y Elisa
- 10) **Joven Divina** (Ranchera) (DAR) (2) (Wonderful Girl) voces: Salvador y José Antonio
- 11) **El Estillero** (Son) (DAR) (2) (The Twig)
- 12) **Tu Delirio** (Ranchera) (DAR) (2) (Your Delirium) voces: Salvador y José
- 13) **El Quiosco** (Ranchera) (DAR) (2) (The Village Square) voces: Salvador y Elisa
- 14) **Lindo Coalcomán** (Ranchera) (Salvador Baldovinos - Tradition Music Co. /BUG Music Co. BMI) (1) (Beautiful Coalcoman) voz: Salvador

- 15) **San Juan Huetamo** (Son) (DAR) (1)
- 16) **Caricias Baratas** (Ranchera) (DAR) (1) (Cheap Kisses) voces: Salvador y Calixto
- 17) **Cadena De Llanto** (Ranchera) (DAR) (1) voces: Salvador y Elisa
- 18) **Alma** (Ranchera) (DAR) (1) voces: Salvador y José
- 19) **La Gallina** (Son) (DAR) (1) voce: lead by Calixto
- 20) **Pero Chatita** (Ranchera) (DAR) (1) voces: Salvador y José

(1) indicates recorded at first session:
Salvador Baldovinos - vocals & harp (arpa);
Emiliano Preciado Sánchez - 1st violin; José González - 2nd violin; Calixto Heredia - guitar;
Antonio Landa - vihuela; Elisa Baldovinos - vocals; Recorded 11/10/1985 at Bay Records - Alameda, Ca.; Mike Cogan - engineer

(2) indicates recorded at second session:
Salvador Baldovinos - vocals & harp (arpa);
Gumecindo Saucedo - violin; José González - violin; Emiliano Preciado Sánchez - vihuela (& tamborero on some *sones*); José Antonio Prado - jarana; Elisa Baldovinos - vocals; All seen on the cover photo; Recorded 02/03/1987 at Renown Sound - Redwood City, Ca.; Brett Brown - engineer

Produced & edited by Chris Strachwitz
All photos © by Chris Strachwitz

© & © 2003 by Arhoolie Productions, Inc.
10341 San Pablo Ave, El Cerrito, CA 94530, U.S.A.

Los Campesinos De Michoacán



LOS CAMPESINOS DE MICHOACÁN de Salvador Baldovinos

Mexico is very rich in regional musical traditions and many of them are now well represented north of the border. Some, like Mariachi, Norteño, and Banda have gained widespread popularity while others, like Jarocho (Veracruz), Huastecan (N.E.) or from Michoacán (S.W.), have remained somewhat hidden or in the background. I have had the pleasure and opportunity of recording several fine Norteño conjuntos in Texas with their accordions, some of the best Jarocho groups from Veracruz with their big harps, and excellent Huastecan groups featuring two fiddles and falsetto vocals. But I was absolutely delighted when I suddenly encountered groups from the state of Michoacán with their emotional singing accompanied by fiddles and a harp, and all right here in my own back-yard!

Back in the early 1980s, I was having dinner with two friends, historian Philip Sonnichsen and mariachi musician and expert, Jonny Clark. We were on Valencia Street in San Francisco's Mission district where mariachis serenade regularly. Both were interested in mariachi history and curious if any groups in this area still used a harp which was common with many early mariachis. Several of the mariachis at the restaurant (and Jon Clark

seemed to know them all) said they heard that some harp groups were working in Redwood City, just a half hour drive south of San Francisco, at a bar on Middlefield Road. A few weeks later, my curiosity and a visitor from England, Bruce Bastin, led me down the peninsula. As we walked into the club, where a long bar was at the far right and several pool tables in the middle, I was amazed to hear not one, but two such groups hard at work. They were not at all your usual mariachi bands, rather each consisted of two fiddlers, a harpist, along with vihuela and a jarana with various members singing solo or in duet style. One such "conjunto de arpa grande" or "Conjunto Michoacáno," as they referred to themselves, was at the left end of the bar playing for a customer. As soon as they had finished their song the group on the other end of the bar segued into a song for a customer on their end. I felt I was in paradise, or at least deep in Michoacán, surrounded by wonderful, pure, rhythmic, fierce and honest rural Mexican music.

The unincorporated part of Redwood City where I met Los Campesinos, is almost a suburb of Apatzingán, Michoacán because for blocks and blocks there are restaurants, discotecas, cantinas, and other businesses which all let you know,

some via their names, that everyone here is from the state of Michoacán. And from the most rural, isolated, flat "hot lands" of the southern part at that! Musicians can be seen wandering from bar to bar, just like in Mexico: Norteño conjuntos with their accordion, a bajo sexto and a string bass trailing behind, trios, guitar duets, and full mariachis with several violins and two or three trumpets. The musicians appear wherever homesick workers congregate who gladly pay from \$3 to \$5 per song to have a conjunto serenade them while drinking a beer and thinking about their lost love or friends in far off Michoacán. The musicians serenade not only in the cantinas, or in restaurants, but in parks, at picnics or at outdoor events or wherever you might hire them to play. Los Campesinos are also often asked to play for house parties where they get paid by the hour or by the night. They have also begun to perform outside their own communities, at Arhoolie's 25th anniversary party for example (available on Arhoolie video 402), at San Francisco's Mexican Museum, at the Mission Cultural Center, and in July of 1987 were scheduled to play the American Folk Festival in Lowell, Mass. Los Campesinos sing with feeling and vitality, usually in the Mexican duet style, and play to stir the emotions, to remember good times, to drink to, and to cry to, or to be reminded via corridos of events which primarily affected their own community. Their repertoire

consists of currently popular rancheras, corridos, huapangos, boleros, as well as older sones and the very old valonas. During a son, and there are a number heard on this CD, someone in the audience will usually come up to the harp player, crouch down and with his two hands beat out a very intricate rhythm on the box of the harp. Los Campesinos have a very excellent such "Tamborero" in Emiliano Preciado who has won many contests for this talent in Apatzingán where annual festivals are held featuring the best "conjuntos Michoacános" in the area.

Michoacán and South Texas are about the same distance from the rich farm lands and industrial areas of California which have attracted workers for generations. Southern Michoacán's strong agricultural tradition has helped make the state a leading supplier of field workers for many Western US communities (and more recently the rest of the USA!). In the early part of 20th century, US recruiters traveled through Western Mexico actively looking for workers to help lay railroad tracks. In the early 1940s many Michoacános were invited to come to California's San Joaquín Valley to work in the fields as part of the government sponsored BRACERO program. Whenever the US wants cheap labor it invites neighbors from the south, but when times and employment gets tight, we brutally deport them. No one yet knows what effect the Immigration Reform and Control Act

of 1986 will have on the workers and their communities who have contributed so much to the wealth and culture of the West Coast.

Salvador Baldovinos, founder and leader of Los Campesinos de Michoacán tells his own story: "I was born May 29, 1948 Salvador Baldovinos Mendoza on a ranch called 'Ranchos Viejos' near the town of Coalcomán in the state of Michoacán. My parents were very poor farmers and I grew up in poverty, ashamed of not having enough clothing. I never went to school because our ranch was too far from the town. My father taught me how to work in the fields and to plant crops and eventually I taught myself how to read and write and basic arithmetic. I had always felt drawn towards music ever since I was a little boy. My father managed to scrape together enough money to buy me a guitar in Uruapan and from then on I started to play a little and sing songs with my mother. I heard harp groups since childhood and a preference for the traditional instrumentation of these groups stayed with me. I liked some harp groups who made records especially Trio Los Aguillillas (from Aguillilla, Michoacán) and Los Hermanos Jiménez; and for vocals I also enjoyed Las Jilguerillas and Dueto América. In 1973 I came to the United States for the first time. I worked in the fields of the Salinas Valley, in California, and then at a garlic processing plant. On weekends I practiced my guitar but I still did not make any money with it.

I later went to Washington state and worked in a slaughter house where I was often alone attending machinery and practiced singing, trying to develop my voice and I dreamed of someday making a record, but I continued to work in the fields. In 1981, when I was living in Greenfield, Calif., I bought a harp from another musician and started to play it a little. Together with my compadre who played violin, we started playing a few parties. Later my cousin who played guitar joined us. While playing a party in Livingston I met a friend who has family in Redwood City who were also musicians and we began to commute to play on weekends and finally I decided to move there. I played in the bars around Redwood City to crowds of fellow Michoacáños and some weekends we would drive across the state with my harp loaded in back of the truck, just to play one party! But I continued to work as a laborer. I organized Los Campesinos in 1983 and since then I have spent all my time with music and building up the group's repertoire and I even wrote a few songs. My wife Elisa is from the same town of Coalcomán and we had been sweethearts since childhood. Our daughter Norma is now four years old and she likes music, likes to dance when we play, and I hope I can buy her a guitar soon.

(Chris Strachwitz & Salvador Baldovinos with help from Zac & Juanita Salem - 1987; with some revisions by C.S. in 2003).

Since the original release of these recordings, Salvador Baldovinos has moved with his family

to Yakima, Washington, where he operates a store and continues to play music for parties.

9. EL CORRIDO DE LOS HERMANOS MENDOZA

(Salvador Baldovinos - Tradition Music Co. / BUG Music - BMI) voces: Salvador y Elisa

Voy a cantar un corrido
Para aclarar bien las cosas
Mataron en Michoacán
A los hermanos Mendoza.

Año de setenta y siete
Una fecha inolvidable
Murieron Jesús y Leopoldo
En presencia de su madre.

Fue una injusticia señores
Todos están en lo cierto
Por no pensar bien las cosas
Cuatro hombres fueron los muertos.

Era una tarde por cierto
La fiesta se comenzaba
Mandaron quitar las armas
Pa' que no pasara nada.

Que suceda Remative
Llamándole la atención
Entrégüenme las pistolas
Se las pido de favor.

Ysile le contestó
Yo no me cruzo de brazos
Y luego manda a su hermano
Que le diera dos balazos.

THE BALLAD OF THE MENDOZA BROTHERS

I'm going to sing you this ballad
So that the record will be straight
The Mendoza brothers were killed
In the state of Michoacán.

In the year of seventy seven,
An unforgettable day,
Jesús and Leopoldo were killed
In the presence of their mother.

It was unjust, people
Everyone agrees
For not thinking things through
Four men lost their lives.

It was in the afternoon
The party had just begun
It was ordered that everyone
Should leave their weapons at the door.

It was then that Remative
Asked for everyone's attention
"Give me all your guns,
We don't want any trouble here,"

Isile answered him:
"I'm not just going to stand by,"
And he ordered his brother
To shoot him.

La balacera se oía
Por toda la vecindad
Murió, Jesús y Leopoldo
Atondo y Natividad.

Ya habían pasado nueve años
Manuel estaba tomando
Cuando se encontró Valencia
Como él estaba deseando.

Manuel Mendoza decía
Cuando lo estaba retando
Mis hermanos no eran perros
Por eso estoy reclamando.

El día seis de septiembre
Allá por la madrugada
Delante de un policía
Manuel luego se mataba.

Año de ochenta y seis
Un sábado en la mañana
Ha muerto José Valencia
En presencia de su hermana.

Voy a echar la despedida
No se les vaya a olvidar
La muerte de los Mendoza
Ya la empiezan a pagar.

The shots were heard
Throughout the neighborhood
Jesús and Leopoldo died
In the barrio of Natividad.

Now nine years had passed,
And Manuel was in a bar
When in walked Valencia,
Which was what he was waiting for.

Manuel Mendoza said
While he threatened him;
"I'm going to settle our account,
Because my brothers weren't dogs."

On the sixth of September
In the early dawn hours
In front of a policeman
Manuel killed him (Valencia).

In the year 1986,
One Saturday morning,
José Valencia was killed
In the presence of his sister.

Now I'm going to say farewell
But don't forget about
The death of the Mendoza brothers
It is starting to be repaid.

Produced & edited by Chris Strachwitz

All photos © by Chris Strachwitz

© & © 2003 by Arhoolie Productions, Inc.
10341 San Pablo Ave, El Cerrito, CA 94530, U.S.A.

14. LINDO COALCOMÁN

BEAUTIFUL COALCOMÁN

(Salvador Baldovinos - Tradition Music Co. / BUG Music - BMI) voz: Salvador

Quisiera tirar un suspiro
Para empezar a recordar
Y decirles a mis amigos
Ay qué lindo es Coalcomán!

Es un pueblo muy hermoso
Y su gente a todo dar
Sus mujeres muy bonitas
No se pueden comparar.

Ay, qué lindo es Coalcomán!
Solo tiene dos salidas
Una va para Colima
Y otra rumbo a Apatzingán

Ya con esto me despido
Ya me voy a retirar;
Yo le digo a mis amigos
Si uno no lo conoce
Que lo vayan a visitar.

To start this song
I'd like to sigh,
And tell all of my friends
How beautiful Coalcomán is!

It's a beautiful town
And the people right-on.
The women are beautiful
Beyond compare.

Ay, how beautiful Coalcomán is!
There are only two ways out of town
One heads towards Colima
And the other towards Apatzingán

With this I say goodbye
It's time for me to leave.
I say to all my friends
If they don't know the town
they should go visit.

ARHOOLIE RECORDS

For our complete illustrated catalog of CDs, Cassettes, Videos & more, send \$3 to:

Arhoolie Catalog, 10341 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, CA 94530

To order by phone, call toll free: **1.888.ARHOOLIE (1-888-274-6654)**

website: www.arhoolie.com

Los Campesinos De Michoacán

de Salvador Baldovinos

- 1) **Querida Mujer** (Ranchera) (DAR)
(Beloved Woman) voces: Salvador y José Antonio
- 2) **Voy A Tirarme A Los Vicios**
(Vals Ranchera) (DAR) (I'm Going To Fall Into Ruin)
voces: Salvador y Emiliano
- 3) **La Peineta** (Son) (DAR) (The Comb)
- 4) **Una Plegaria A Mi Madre** (Ranchera)
(DAR) (A Prayer To My Mother) voces: Elisa y Salvador
- 5) **Aguililla** (Huapango) (DAR)
(Aguililla, Michoacán)
- 6) **Cautiva Y Triste** (Ranchera) (DAR)
(Captive And Sad) voces: Salvador y Emiliano
- 7) **Cantinerero Amigo** (Ranchera) (DAR)
(Bartender Friend) voces: Salvador y Emiliano
- 8) **Clavel De Primavera** (Ranchera) (DAR)
(Spring Carnation) voces: Salvador y José Antonio
- 9) **El Corrido De Los Hermanos Mendoza** (Corrido) (Salvador Baldovinos - Tradition Music Co. / BUG Music - BMI) (The Ballad Of The Mendoza Brothers) voces: Salvador y Elisa
- 10) **Joven Divina** (Ranchera) (DAR)
(Wonderful Girl) voces: Salvador y José Antonio
- 11) **El Estillero** (Son) (DAR) (The Twig)
- 12) **Tu Delirio** (Ranchera) (DAR) (Your Delirium)
voces: Salvador y José
- 13) **El Quiosco** (Ranchera) (DAR)
(The Village Square) voces: Salvador y Elisa
- 14) **Lindo Coalcoman** (Ranchera)
(Salvador Baldovinos - Tradition Music Co. /BUG Music Co. BMI) (Beautiful Coalcoman) voz: Salvador
- 15) **San Juan Huetamo** (Son) (DAR)
- 16) **Caricias Baratas** (Ranchera) (DAR)
(Cheap Kisses) voces: Salvador y Calixto
- 17) **Cadena De Llanto** (Ranchera) (DAR)
voces: Salvador y Elisa
- 18) **Alma** (Ranchera) (DAR) voces: Salvador y José
- 19) **La Gallina** (Son) (DAR) voces: lead by Calixto
- 20) **Pero Chatita** (Ranchera) (DAR)
voces: Salvador y José

© & © 2003 by Arhoolie Productions, Inc.
10341 San Pablo Ave, El Cerrito, CA 94530 U.S.A.
www.arhoolie.com

