

- 1) **LA ARREPENTIDA** (The Repentant Woman) – canción  
(Tomás Ortiz) (F 1571)
- 2) **EL CORRIDO DE MARIANO** (RESENDEZ)  
(The Ballad of Mariano Resendez)– corrido (Tomás Ortiz) (F 1572)
- 3) **SIN TU AMOR** (Without Your Love)– canción (Tomás Ortiz) (F 1573)
- 4) **EL CICLON** (The Cyclon) – redova (Eugenio Abrego) (F 1570)
- 5) **YA NO ME IMPORTA** (I Don't Care Any More)– canción  
(Tomás Ortiz) (F 1644)
- 6) **PREFIERO SUFRIR** (I'd Rather Suffer)– canción (Jesús Cabral) (F 1647)
- 7) **LA OFICINA** (The Office)– polka (Eugenio Abrego) (F 1643)
- 8) **HONORIO FARIAS** (The Ballad of Honorio Farias)– corrido  
(Tomás Ortiz) (F 1645)
- 9) **TU CRUEL AUSENCIA** (Your Cruel Absence)– canción (DAR) (F 1682)
- 10) **TRAICION COBARDE** (Cowardly Treachery )– ranchera  
(Tomás Ortiz) (F 1756)
- 11) **LA PALANCA** (The Influential One)– polka (Eugenio Abrego) (F 1753)
- 12) **FALSA ILUSION** (False Illusion)– ranchera (DAR) (F 1686)
- 13) **NUEVO CORRIDO DE EZEQUIEL** (RODRIGUEZ)  
(The New Ballad of Ezequiel Rodriguez)– corrido (Tomás Ortiz) (F 1754)
- 14) **PIENSAS** (Think About It) – ranchera (Tomás Ortiz) (F 1685)
- 15) **LA LLOROSA** (The Crying Woman) – ranchera (Tomás Ortiz) (F 1796)

The F number in parenthesis indicates the Falcon Matrix #  
The name in parenthesis indicates name of composer.

# Los Alegres De Terán

Tomás Ortiz & Eugenio Abrego



Grabaciones Originales 1952-1954  
Original Recordings



## Los Alegres De Terán Grabaciones Originales, 1952-1954

Los Alegres De Terán (Eugenio Abrego & Tomás Ortiz) became the first super stars of the Mexican Regional music today known universally as *Musica Norteña*. I like to call them the "Founding Fathers" of this delightful, lyrical, lilting, danceable and widely popular accordion driven music. The two men met and started their career in the little town of General Terán in the northeastern Mexican state of Nuevo León. By combining the popular rural *dueto* vocal tradition with Eugenio Abrego's button accordion and Tomás Ortiz's heavy 12 string guitar, called a *bajo sexto*, they formed what was to become the most successful, influential and long lasting *conjunto norteño* of that pioneering era.

The music of Los Alegres De Terán, (the name was first used by Eugenio Abrego for his instrumental duo), developed in the cantinas, at parties, and on the streets of Terán. Around 1947 Eugenio Abrego and

Tomás Ortiz performing with several other duet singers became more widely heard and accepted after making their first radio broadcasts over powerful radio station XET in Monterrey, N.L.. Slowly their regional fame grew and they eventually moved to the border town of Reynosa, across the Rio Grande from McAllen, Texas. During this period of developing their style and finding the right second voice to Tomas' lead, the group also made their first recordings for the tiny, Monterrey based ORFEO label. (If you have any ORFEO discs in good condition, please call or E-mail me at once!!). But the road to wider popularity, which Los Alegres de Terán eventually reached throughout the Spanish-speaking Western Hemisphere, was still a long way off.

In the beginning accordionist Eugenio Abrego did not consider himself a singer and the *dueto*, as we know it today with both men singing, did not fully jell until they

moved to Reynosa. Tomás Ortiz tried out various singers from his home town, including Pablo Maldonado, Manuel Lazo, and Ramiro Cavazos (who soon became famous as half of Los Donneños). Mr. Ortiz was obviously trying to form the perfect *dueto* but at that time used Eugenio Abrego only as the accordionist. During those formative years the group, in addition to recording for ORFEO, also made their first recordings for Columbia Records of Mexico with Ortiz and Maldonado doing the vocals. However, by the time they arrived in Reynosa in 1950, Tomás Ortiz and Eugenio Abrego were doing all the singing and playing themselves and had finally become the soon to be famous, LOS ALEGRES DE TERÁN!

For some time they struggled to make a living by playing in the *zona rosa* but also gathered fans, friends and supporters, and made occasional appearances on local radio. The owner of a Reynosa record shop, Señora Adela Morales, is said to have repeatedly tried to persuade Arnaldo

Ramírez, who in 1949 had started the Falcon label in McAllen, TX., to record the duet. However he remained reluctant and kept putting her off. Legend has it that the lady finally threatened not to buy any more Falcon records unless Mr. Ramirez gave Los Alegres De Terán a chance to record for his by-now widely and well distributed American firm. He finally gave in and released their first records in 1952. Luck had it that one side of their third 78 rpm disc on the Falcon label, "Carta Jugada" (recorded in 1953), became a huge hit! Their next big boost came 3 years later in 1956 when Los Alegres De Terán recorded "Los Ojos de Pancha" which firmly put them on the road to success. Over the next 30 years the *conjunto* continued to record for Falcon Records in the United States who licensed many masters to Peerless for distribution in Mexico. In the 1960s Los Alegres de Terán also entered into an agreement with Columbia Records of Mexico which had access to a huge distribution network via their parent

company in the USA. Columbia, and later Sony, distributed Los Alegres de Terán in the US and throughout the Western Hemisphere not only on the Columbia label, but on CBS, Caytronics, Miami, Seeco, Tico, and other imprints.

On this CD we bring you 15 of the early Falcon master recordings. Unfortunately we had to leave out the “hits” since they, along with most of their Falcon LP catalog, were sold to EMI in Mexico.

Eugenio Abrego was born on either February 22<sup>nd</sup> or May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1922 (he

supposedly favored the 2/22/22 date!!), on the rancho de la Soledad near General Terán, N.L. and he died on May 30, 1988, in McAllen, Texas. Tomás Ortiz, according to Sony/CBS publicity, was born December 29, 1922, in San Rafael near China, N.L., but according to the Civil Registry of Nuevo León – he was born on June 2, 1924, at the rancho San Rafael, near General Terán, N.L. (Of course China is not that far from Terán either!) He lives today in McAllen, Texas.

Chris Strachwitz – 2004

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If you enjoy Los Alegres de Terán you will want to get the DVD (also still available on video) entitled “Chulas Fronteras & Del Mero Corazon” (Brazos Films) which cinematographer Les Blank and Chris Strachwitz produced in the 1970s and which documents performances by several important norteño and conjunto musicians such as Lydia Mendoza, Narciso Martínez, Santiago Jiménez, Flaco Jiménez, Los Pingüinos del Norte, and Los Alegres de Terán. The two hour long DVD has 30 minutes of previously unreleased footage added, including two more songs by Los Alegres de Terán, several by Lydia Mendoza, Narciso Martínez and Los Hermanos Cardenas etc. To order call, toll free, 1-888-274-6654.

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# Los Alegres De Terán

**Tomás Ortiz** – vocals & bajo sexto

**Eugenio Abrego** – vocals & accordion

with:

**Spiros “Pete” Arfanos** – bass (on # 1,2,3, & 4 recorded 12/16/1952) and (on # 5,6,7, & 8; recorded 4/18/ & 23/1953) and (on # 15 & 16; recorded 2/16/1954).  
or **Mario Saenz** – bass (on # 9, 12, & 14 recorded 8/8/1953) and (on # 10, 11, & 13; recorded 12/21/1953)

These recordings were originally made for FALCON (ARV)Records of McAllen, Texas.

In 2000 Arhoolie Records purchased all Falcon masters NOT issued on LP albums (mostly early 78 rpm masters and some 45s) along with about 100 LP masters by

lesser known artists. Almost all Falcon LP masters of *norteño* music, including those by Los Alegres de Terán, were sold to EMI of Mexico. The master recordings on this CD appeared originally only on 78 or 45 rpm discs and have never been released on any other format.

Graphic design by Morgan Dodge

Edited and re-issue produced by Chris Strachwitz

Cover photo from the Arhoolie Foundation Archives

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# Los Alegres De Terán

Tomás Ortiz &  
Eugenio Abrego

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- 6) PREFIERO SUFRIR – canción (Jesus Cabral)
- 7) LA OFICINA – polka (Eugenio Abrego)
- 8) HONORIO FARIAS – corrido (Tomás Ortiz)
- 9) TU CRUEL AUSENCIA – canción (DAR)
- 10) TRAICION COBARDE – ranchera (Tomás Ortiz)
- 11) LA PALANCA – polka (Eugenio Abrego)
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