

SANTIAGO JIMENEZ JR.



Front: JUAN P. AROCHA, SANTIAGO JIMENEZ, JR.
Rear: JUAN VIESCA,
JUAN GARCIA

Santiago Strikes Again

SANTIAGO STRIKES AGAIN!



Santiago Jimenez, Jr.

It's Friday night at Lerma's Night Club on San Antonio's West Side. The large dance floor is crowded with couples dancing counter-clockwise around the floor. The music is loud and comes from a set of drums, an electric bass, an amplified bajo sexto (heavy 12 string guitar), and an accordion whose right side is held up to the PA mike and squeezed right into it giving a piercing, slightly distorted sound to the lead instrument which drives the music the entire evening. The tunes vary from slow waltzes, to cumbias, huapangos and on to the ever popular polkas. Most songs are sung in the dueto style with the bass player joining the leader who nevertheless enjoys doing some songs especially boleros, by himself. This is "conjunto music" (conjunto = group) at its best dished out by Santiago Jimenez Jr. who has been playing dances for over twenty years following in the footsteps of his father, Don

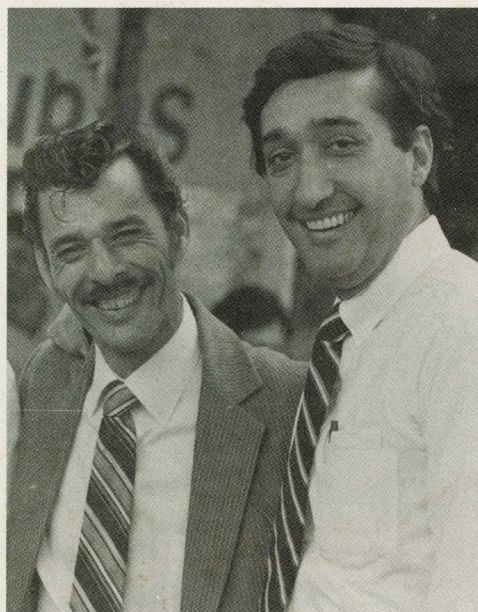
Santiago Jimenez who is one of the founding fathers of this accordion music in the San Antonio area. Santiago Jr. is very much his own man even though he has often been in the shadow of his more famous brother Flaco Jimenez who in recent years has gained an international following through his travels with Ry Cooder and Peter Rowan.

In 1981 I recorded an album by Santiago Jimenez Jr. which featured one of his own compositions, "El Corrido De Henry Cisneros" about the 1981 election of Henry Cisneros as the first Mexican American mayor of San Antonio (Note Arhoolie LP 3016). The song was used as an election tool and was widely heard over KEDA and on juke boxes in San Antonio and reflects the great pride the Hispanic community felt because of Cisneros's victory. Mayor Cisneros has since then become not only a remarkable leader of the San An-

tonio community but has become an important member of the Democratic party leadership.

Born April 8, 1944 in San Antonio, Santiago Jimenez Jr. has made records for various San Antonio labels, sometimes under the name of Jimmy Jimenez (for the Corona label) at a time in the early 1960s when his father was still an active recording artist. Over the years he has recorded for Disco Grande, Jose Morante's Lira and Sombrero labels and recently many good sellers and albums for Salome Gutierrez's D.L.B. label. On Lira there were even some accordion and vocal duets with his older brother Flaco! Being the youngster in this family of musical giants obviously has not been easy but Santiago Jr. has developed a large popular following along with his own singing and accordion style. Of course you will detect a lot of his father's and even a bit of Flaco's style in Santiago's accordion work but that is part of being a member of a long and beautiful tradition.

On this album Santiago Jimenez Jr. is joined by Juan Garcia who is one of the best bajo sexto players in San Antonio and who knows many of the older tunes not generally heard much any more. On string bass is Juan Viesca who started with Don Santiago Jimenez and spent many years with Fred Zimmerle of the conjunto Trio San Antonio (note Arhoolie LP 3004). He is one of the great bass players of all times and also adds enormously to the drive and feeling of the whole group. Side one of this album features instrumental selections while on side two Juan Arocha joins Santiago Jr. on five vocals which are really an essential part of "conjunto music" even though the international folk audience will probably prefer the instrumental selections. In recent years Santiago Jimenez Jr. has appeared at many folk festivals here in the United States and in Canada and is quickly becoming one of our best ambassadors for Musica Nortena. (Chris Strachwitz-1984)



Santiago Jimenez, Jr. with Mayor Cisneros



SAS Y SAS POLKA

CAROLINA (Vals)

ROSA DE SAN ANTONIO (Polka)

LOS TRES SABINAS (Vals)

ELIDA (Polka)

FLOR DE DALIA (Mazurka)

HASTE LA VISTA (Polka)

PORQUE ERES MUJER CASADA
(Ranchera)

LOS BARRANDALES DEL PUENTE
(Cancion)

PA QUE ANDAS DICIENDO (Ranchera)

CHIPINA (Vals)

LA BOLA NEGRA (Ranchera)

MORENA MORENITA (Ranchera)

Santiago Jimenez Jr.—*accordion & vocals*

Juan Arocha—*vocals*

Juan Garcia—*bajo sexto*

Juan Viesca—*string bass*

Cover & liner photos by Chris Strachwitz

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Recorded in San Antonio, Texas June 5, 1983 with two Neumann KM 861 microphones and a Nagra IV-S tape recorder at Santiago's house by Chris Strachwitz

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