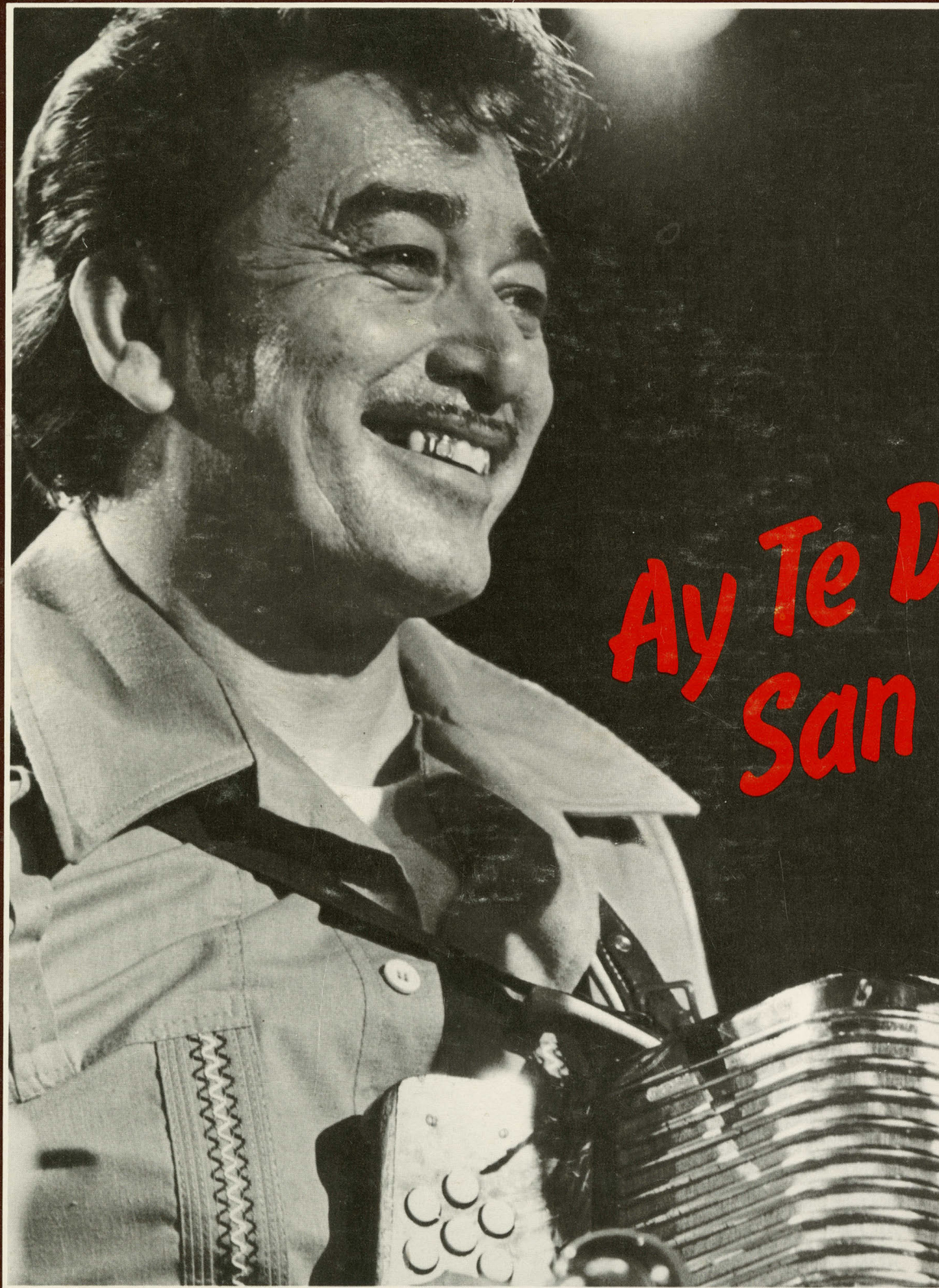


# FLACO JIMENEZ



*Ay Te Dejo En  
San Antonio*





Left to Right: Santiago Jimenez, David, & Leonardo

## FLACO JIMENEZ

### "AY TE DEJO EN SAN ANTONIO" (I'm Going To Leave You In San Antonio)

Flaco Jimenez is finally making home grown Texas "conjunto music" reach the ears, souls, and dancing feet of fans around the globe. The Spanish word conjunto means group and in Texas, Northern Mexico, and wherever Tejanos and Nortenos have settled or worked, conjunto music means duet singing with accordion, bajo sexto (a heavy 12 string guitar), bass, and drums. Mexicans usually call it Musica Nortena (music from the North) and Anglos like to refer to it as Tex-Mex, but whatever the label, it's country music with soulful lyrics and a variety of very danceable rhythms. Leonardo "Flaco" Jimenez was raised with this music and has been plying dances since the early 1950s when he became a member of the conjunto LOS CAMINANTES and made his first recordings for the Rio label (several of these sides can be heard on Folklyric LP 9019).

Born in San Antonio March 11, 1939 into a musical family, Leonardo learned from his father Santiago Jimenez who was the first conjunto accordionist from San Antonio to make recordings in the 1930s, but young Flaco soon developed a much faster and flashier style which is already evident on his very first records. By the mid 1950s Flaco had formed his own conjunto and soon had his first local hit with the polka "Hasta La Vista". A steady stream of records followed for various local labels like Corona, D.L.B., Norteno, & Joey and every weekend the conjunto was booked to play dances someplace in Texas.

In 1972 Flaco Jimenez became one of the first conjunto musicians to record with an Anglo rock band when he made an album with Doug Sahm for Atlantic. In 1974 Chris Strachwitz teamed up with film maker Les Blank to produce the award winning documentary on Texas-Mexican border music CHULAS FRONTERAS in which Flaco makes a spectacular appearance along with his father, younger brother Santiago Jimenez, Jr., and Flaco's son David, who I think was only 9 years old at the time! This film was aired on national TV in England, Sweden, Germany and later over PBS in the US. During the filming singer/guitarist Ry Cooder met Flaco and within a few years invited him to tour the United States and Europe. They also recorded together and in 1977 they were seen on national TV's "Saturday Night Live" as well as on several programs of PBS's "Austin City Limits". In 1981 Ry Cooder was hired as musical director for the film "The Border" and got Flaco along with Freddy Fender to do the sound track. During this time Country-Bluegrass singer/guitarist Peter Rowan met Flaco while playing a job in San Antonio. They enjoyed each other's musical company and Flaco joined the Rowan band on several tours both in the US and Europe. They also recorded together in 1978 for the Flying Fish label (FF 071) which includes Rowan's delightful "Free Mexican Airforce" with Flaco just wailing on the accordion over a rolling conjunto beat backing Rowan's humorous lyrics. That song was

quite a hit especially in California and is still one of my personal favorite collaborations between Rowan and the Texas accordion king! All along Flaco Jimenez continued to play dances in Texas and make records for the local conjunto market. Over the past few years Flaco has toured Europe again with Peter Rowan but in 1985 he went overseas successfully with his own conjunto for promoter David Hatfield, who has already scheduled another tour for 1986 with appearances at many of Europe's most popular folk festivals and dance halls.

Flaco Jimenez has enjoyed playing in varied musical settings but when the opportunity arose to make another album with Flaco we both wanted to present him once more within the pure conjunto frame work because his soul and inner spirit is first and foremost bound to the songs and sounds of conjunto with its heartfelt love songs and the powerful beat and drive of the polkas and waltzes which are the rhythm foundation of the rancheras. Flaco's heritage is a rich and varied one and this record presents some of these rich strains.

The spirit of Flaco's late father Santiago Jimenez is especially noticeable via several of his compositions including the title selection AY TE DEJO EN SAN ANTONIO (I'm Going To Leave You In San Antonio) which was first recorded by Santiago Jimenez with Flaco playing bajo sexto on their Arhoolie LP 3013. Los Lobos, a young Chicano new wave rock band from Los Angeles but with roots deep in Mexican regional music, heard this song and included it on their first album. Thanks to Los Lobos' swift rise to popularity their performance of AY TE DEJO was included in two films: Columbia Pictures' "Sylvester" and Warner Brothers' "Fandango". After the lovely old danzon JUAREZ, we hear MARGARITA which was a big hit again for Don Santiago back in the early 1950s. The nice bolero UN VIEJO AMOR has Toby Torres taking the lead vocal and his joining Flaco on this record is sort of a reunion for both of them. Toby started in music professionally in 1957 and hired Flaco as an accordionist to join his conjunto about 1958. They worked at the East Side Club for many years. In 1968 Toby Torres quit playing dances and started ZaZ studios with Joey Lopez as partner. They went broke but since then Joey Lopez has built his Joey label, the studio, and pressing plant into a major enterprise. In 1972 Toby joined Flaco's conjunto as second voice and bajo player and a few years later they had a strong hit with CLAVELITO. Today, Toby is no longer a regular member of Flaco's conjunto but has a successful conjunto of his own still playing dances most weekends and running the studio where this album was recorded. Side A ends with Flaco's wonderful version of what is perhaps the world's most famous polka! Side B opens with one of my own personal favorites, LAS GAVIOTAS which became a monster hit in the 1930s (two early Mariachi versions by Cyrilo Marmolejo can be heard on the Folklyric LP 9052 and Los Hermanos Chavarria recorded a magnificent version back then which is now available on their Folklyric LP 9037). After a lovely old waltz and a contemporary cumbia sung by Eddie Torres who usually performs with the conjunto Los de Teran, we hear another polka from Don Santiago's repertoire, this time recorded live at a dance in Dilley, Texas. After AMOR DE LOS DOS, the record ends with yet another of my personal requests, a polka which has been popular in the lower Rio Grande Valley for a long time: LA BARRANCA and Flaco gives us a superb rendition.

Chris Strachwitz - 1986

Other related recording are: Arhoolie 3007 Flaco Jimenez—Y Su Conjunto; Arhoolie 3013 Santiago Jimenez with Flaco; Arhoolie 3014 Flaco Jimenez—El Sonido de San Antonio; Arhoolie 3016 Santiago Jimenez, Jr.—El Mero, Mero (Flaco's brother); Arhoolie 3020 Santiago Jimenez, Jr.—Santiago Strikes Again.

The film "Chulas Fronteras" is available on VHS \$50.00 from Arhoolie Records.



**AY TE DEJO EN SAN ANTONIO**  
(I'm Going To Leave You In San Antonio)  
(Ranchera)

**JUAREZ** (Danzon)

**MARGARITA** (Ranchera)

**UN VIEJO AMOR**  
(An Old Love)  
(Bolero)

**MENTISTE CUANDO DIJISTE**  
(You Lied When You Said It)  
(Ranchera)

**EL BARRILITO**  
(Beer Barrel Polka)  
(Polka)

**LAS GAVIOTAS**  
(The Sea Gulls)  
(Ranchera)

**MORIR SONANDO**  
(Die Dreaming)  
(Vals)

**ROSA MARIA** (Cumbia)

**TRAIGO UN RECUERDO**  
(I Have A Memory)  
(Polka)

**AMOR DE LOS DOS**  
(Our Love)  
(Ranchera)

**LA BARRANCA**  
(The Ravine)  
(Polka)

*Leonardo "Flaco" Jimenez: Accordion & Vocals*

*Toby Torres: Bajo Sexto & Vocals*

*Henry "Big Red" Ojeda: Bass*

*Isaac Garcia: Drums*

*With:*

*Eduardo Garcia: Bajo Sexto & Vocal on ROSA MARIA*

*George Ramirez: Fiddle on MARGARITA*

Recorded at Toby's Recording Studio in San Antonio, Tx. May 21 & 22, 1985 except TRAIGO UN RECUERDO which was recorded by Chris Strachwitz on portable equipment at a dance at Pancho's Pallace in Dilley, Tx. May 18, 1985.

Produced by Chris Strachwitz & Flaco Jimenez  
Cover photo from Austin City Limits  
Cover by Epop Productions

©P 1986 by Arhoolie Productions, Inc.

For our complete catalog of over 300 LP's, cassettes, and video tapes listing all titles and selections, and a copy of the latest Down Home Music Co. Newsletter, send \$2.00 to cover postage to: ARHOOIE RECORDS CATALOG, 10341 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito, Ca. 94530.