

Steve Jordan

ARHOLLE

3023



“El Corrido De JHONNY EL PACHUCO”

Steve Jordan has been a conjunto musician in South Texas for 40 of his 47 years on this planet. He comes from the Valley—and in Texas that means the Rio Grande Valley, or Rio Bravo Valley to most Spanish speaking Texans. He is a musician's musician and keeps up with the latest developments in the music world. His accordions (and he usually carries several three row button models in various keys in order to be able to play almost any tune in any key) are often hooked up to a phase shifter and he enjoys using synthesizers and the latest electronic gadgets. Steve's repertoire, although solidly grounded in the traditional polkas, rancheras, and corridos, includes a nice dose of other Mexican regional musics, rock, jazz, country, and even zydeco. Steve fuses many musical ideas with taste and introduces interesting harmonies into the traditional and usually very stylized genre known as Musica Nortena. Steve and his conjunto are busy playing dances all over South Texas and on several occasions they have traveled to Florida and other parts of the US where Tejanos have settled. Steve is simply one of the best, most interesting and inovative accordionists in the Tejana Conjunto field.

This album is one of the best examples of what Steve Jordan sounds like when you hear him in person. It was originally released on the regional RyN label out of McAllen, Texas, a label run by the bajo sexto playing member of Los Donnenos: Ramiro Cavazos, who has recorded some of the finest conjuntos along the Rio Bravo. But Steve Jordan's recording career began in the 1960s when he was in his twenties. With his brothers, Bonnie and Silver (Los Hermanos Jordan) they made a lot of 45s for the McAllen based FALCON label (also issued as LPs). FALCON was at that time probably the most important and prolific company releasing regional Mexican—American music, and most of their masters were also licensed for release in Mexico. Steve recorded some straight ranchera material, several original compositions (“En Este Cabaret”, the first waxing of his polka “Squeeze Box Man” etc.) and even an item called “Polka Psicodelica” on the label and titled “Me Traes Colgando”, which is Spanish for the Holland—Dozier composition “You Keep Me Hanging On”! For FALCON the Jordan Brothers also recorded several fine Rancheras by one of San Antonio's best accordionists and composers, Valerio Longoria, and then covered Ray Charles' hit of “Georgia On My Mind”. Out in California Esteban Jordan recorded for the Los Angeles based AGUILA label with Virginia Martinez singing duet, resulting in a wonderful version of “La Traicionera”. They also recorded for Art Walker's FAMA label in San Jose, all the while playing dances and building their reputation all over the Southwest. By 1975 Steve was recording for the FREDDIE label out of Corpus Christi, Tx. with “La Camelia”, his version of the hit by Los Tigres Del Norte, “Contrabando Y Traicion” released as a single and also the title track for the LP. In 1977 he introduced his son Steve Jr. on the OMEGA label with an LP entitled “That's My Boy!”. About this time Steve started his own label: EL PARCHE, after his nickname derived from the patch he wears over his right eye. By now he called his conjunto Steve Jordan Y Rio Jordan. Several of the 45s became good sellers especially “La Polka Loca” (The Crazy Polka) and “El Kranke” which he called a “Son Tejanense” and which got a lot of air played over San Antonio radio stations especially KEDA, the “Jalapeno Station”. An LP on EL PARCHE called “Canto Al Pueblo” has Steve playing all the instruments, and shows heavy use of electronic effects. In 1979 he started with the new HACIENDA label in Corpus and released the album “Ahorita” which includes a re-make of “Kranke”. The album “Soy De Tejas” followed in 1979 and “Con Una Sonrisa” in 1980. Early in 1981 The Jordan Brothers were back in California and played some gigs with Queen Ida. I recorded some songs for Arhoolie but Steve was not satisfied with the results but did use several of the basic tracks on his later LPs. During that visit to the Bay Area Steve sat-in one night in Palo Alto with Clifton Chenier's band and I only wish we could have caught that performance on tape-it was hot! By 1985, after several 45s on various labels, Steve was back with FREDDIE Records who released an LP called “Miradà Que Facina”.

That same year Steve appeared on RCA's International Series with the LP “My Toot Toot” and in 1986 his LP “Turn Me Loose”, also on RCA, was nominated for a GRAMMY in the Best Mexican—American category, which however was won by Flaco Jimenez with his Arhoolie LP “Ay Te Dejo En San Antonio”. In 1982 Esteban Jordan was inducted into the Conjunto Music Hall of Fame and in 1986 Steve did the sound track for the film “Born In East L.A.”. Steve Jordan has made several appearances at the now annual San Antonio “Tejano Conjunto Festival” which is produced by Juan Tejeda and the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center. This festival presents the great legends from the past as well as the best of the current Texas conjuntos. It is a remarkable series of celebrations usually held in the middle of May, honoring a musical genre which until recently was considered to be very common and ordinary but which has proven to be a powerful, poetic, functional, and vital cultural expression of the Spanish speaking population of the Southwest.
(Chris Strachwitz 1987)

EL CORRIDO DE JHONNY EL PACHUCO

“Este es el corrido de un pachuco de por alla de Robstown, Texas; se cria muy slika y le dieron chicharron. Ahora veras;”

Voy a cantarles un corrido muy al alza,
Lo que ha pasado en la Main en Robstown;
Este es la historia de un pachuco muy rocote
Era muy loco traficante y corredor.

Juan se llamaba pero le decian “el Jhonny”,
Muy taralailo, muy ingreido en el amor
A las pachucas mas grenudas se llevaba
Alla en McAllen no dejaba ni una flor.

Un dia domingo que andaba muy taralailo
A la cantina le corrieron a chismear
Cuidate Jhonny, que por alli te andan watchando
Son muchos cholos, no te van a pilorear.

No tuvo tiempo de montar en su carrucha
Y le rembais hasta le echaron de a monoton
Ando muy alto-les gritaba-y no me aguito
Cuando un pilero traveso su corazon.

Ya las cantinas de la Main estan cerradas
Todos los cholos se dedican a rezar
Y por las calles las cholitas van pasando
A ver al Jhonny que lo van a embalsamar.

Alla en un chante ya muy triste llora un chavo
Y las pachucas ni se acuerdan por su Juan
Y entra su jefa y lo consuela con carino
Porque al “Jhonito” no le queda ni un carnal.

Aqui termino de cantarles esta historia
De un pachuco muy engreido en el amor
Que se crayo de las pachucas mas grenudas
Por eso mismo lo mandaron al panteon.

ESTRELLITA DEL NORTE

Estrellita del norte al oriente
Recorria una luz mineral
Son tus ojos que alumbran mi mente
Son tus ojos que me hacen llorar.

Yo mil veces te he dicho que te amo
Con ascento de luz de ternura
Me ha robado la eterna ventura
Y he conocido la gloria por ti.

No deseo las prendas ni aretes
No deseo la plata ni el oro
Te amare como rico tesoro
Que en el mundo he podido encontrar.

Ya no llores, tu llanto me mata
Deja ya de llorar alma mia
Porque siento una fuerte agonia
Porque lloras amandote yo.

Ya me voy, el destino me lleva
Como hojas que el viento arrebatada
Ay Deli tu no sabes, ingrata
Lo que sufro y padezco por ti.
...Bastante, Deli....

JAMAS VOLVERE

He venido para verte
Y gozar de tu querer
Pero Siento que me enganas, traicionera.
Lo comprendo al ver tus ojos
Y tus labios tambien.

Ay que bonita es la vida
Cuando se empieza a gozar
Sin pensar que en este mundo
Hay mujeres tan ingratas
Que siempre nos pagan mal.

Mejor me voy de esta tierra
Al fin que ya te perdi
Cuando ya este muy lejos de tu lado
Y recuerdas de mis amores
Mucho sufriras por mi...

Quedate con tu querer
Con el que quieras mas
El carino que te he dado lo perdistes
Y lo que has hecho conmigo
Muy pronto lo pagaras.

Se que al fin no vales nada
Desengañado quede
Yo que tanto con el alma te adoraba
Te lo juro que contigo
Nunca jamas volvere.

THE BALLAD OF JHONNY THE PACHUCO

spoken intro: This is the story of a badass pachuco from Robstown, Texas- he thought he was pretty slick but he ended up getting burned-here's how it happened:

I'm going to sing you a great corrido
About what happened on Main Street in Robstown;
This is the story of one badass pachuco, who was A drug trafficer and a real wild guy.

His name was Juan but everyone called him “Jhonny,”
He drank a lot and loved to chase women
He hung out with the seediest pachuca girls
And in McAllen he didn't leave any flowers alone.

One sunday when he was pretty drunk
They came to the bar and told him
“Look out Jhonny, they're watching you-
Don't let those cholos come and get you”.

He didn't have time to get into his car,
They all came rushing at him-
“I'm pretty drunk” he shouted-
“And I'll stay and fight”
When a bullet pierced his heart.

Now all the bars on Main Street are closed
And the cholos are all off praying-
And the chola girls are all passing by
To see the remains of Jhonny whom they are taking to embalm.

And in a house a boy is crying
The pachucas don't even remember him,
His mother comes in to quiet him
Because little Jhonny doesn't even have a brother.

And this is the end of my story-
The story of this badass pachuco-
Who hung around with the seediest pachuca girls
And because of it they've sent him to his grave.

STAR OF THE NORTH

Star of the north, to the east
I've seen another light-
It's your eyes that light my thoughts
It's your eyes that make me cry.

I've told you a thousand times that I love you
With the glow of love in my voice-
I have ceased my eternal wandering
And have found my glory in you.

I don't want any jewelry
I don't want any silver or gold
I'll love you as the only treasure
In the world for me.

Don't cry, your tears are killing me
Please stop crying my love-
Because I feel such agony for you
Why do you cry when I love you so?

Now I'm going, destiny is carrying me away
Like the leaves that blow in the wind
Ay, Deli, you don't know, ungrateful girl!
How much I love and suffer for you...
....Bastante Deli...

I'LL NEVER RETURN

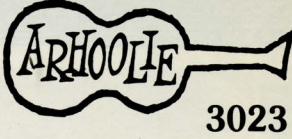
I came to see you
And to enjoy your loving
But I feel you've been unfaithful
I can see it on your lips
And in your eyes.

Life is so beautiful
When it can be enjoyed
Without having to think about
All the two-timing women
There are in the world.

So, I'm leaving here,
Since I've lost you
When I'm far away
And you remember my love
You'll suffer for me.

Stay here with your lover
The one you prefer to me
You've lost the love I gave you
And the wrong you've done me
You'll soon have to pay.

I know after all you're
Worthless, and I've been fooled
I really did love you
But I swear to you that
I'll never return.



STEVE JORDAN

Side A:

- 1. LAS CORONELAS (Polka)
- 2. ESTRELLA DEL NORTE (Ranchera) (Salome Gutierrez—San Antonio Music Co.)
- 3. MIDNIGHT BLUES (Polka)
- 4. JAMAS VOLVERE (Ranchera)
- 5. EL RANCHO GRANDE (Polka)

Side B:

- 1. EL CORRIDO DE JHONNY EL PACHUCO (Esteban Jordan)
- 2. LA PEPITA (Polka)
- 3. VUELA PALOMA
- 4. TOGETHER AGAIN (Country) (Buck Owens)
- 5. MORE PRETTY GIRLS THAN ONE

Esteban “Steve” Jordan—vocals and accordion with probably (as seen on cover picture): Steve Jordan Jr.—percussion Charlie Hattrick—bass plus Bonnie Jordan, Silver Jordan, and unknown guitarist.

Originally issued as “Las Coronelas” by RyN Records of McAllen, Tx. (RyN LP 1112); rights and masters purchased by Arhoolie in 1987. Songs transcribed and translated by Zac Salem and Juana Rios De Salem.

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