

A man with a mustache, wearing a dark cowboy hat and a dark vest over a light-colored shirt, is shown from the chest up. He is looking slightly to the right with a gentle smile. The background is a warm, orange-hued sunset over a desert landscape, featuring several Joshua trees and large, rounded rocks.

Rich O'Brien

Southwestern  
Souvenirs

# The Songs

**A Badger's Holiday** This happy little tune underwent several changes to its title before I settled on one that stuck.

**Ruelas** En Espanol the word means "wheels". In our part of the country, we always called the song "Wheels" but its origins are said to be from south of the border . I originally learned the song from my brother, Paul, who heard Billy Vaughn's record in the 1960's. Then later I heard Chet's version and started playing the tune with a thumpkick. Tim's raunchy bajo sexto gives it a sure nuff TexMex flavor.

**Rose Of Mexico** I found this tune on a 78 rpm record by Al Dexter and His Troopers. I think the flip side of the record was Al's big hit, *Pistol Packin' Mama* , which was recorded around 1948. I was lucky enough to convince my brother, Paul, that he should be the one to sing it on my record. At first he seemed reluctant to oblige me , but after he heard me try to sing it, he agreed that maybe he would be doing the brotherly thing by singing it himself. The result is just what I'd hoped for: A recording that sounds about fifty years old.

**Blue Skirt Waltz** I always think of the dance halls in Texas when I hear this tune. And though it's usually performed with the twin fiddles of a big western swing band, it seems to lend itself to the classical guitar as well. The snuff-sniffing,

powdered wig business in the second verse is what happens when an after-thought gets out of hand.

**Little Star of Heaven** (Estrellita de Cielo) The late Luke Wills used to sing this tune in his brother Bob's historic band. I thought it might be nice to give it a more Latinish, jazzy feel for this project and Johnny Case's remarkable piano playing provides, as always, the perfect touch.

**Windmills** This song was inspired by the windmills of west Texas and New Mexico.

**Gunsmoke** This has always been one of my favorite tunes but I was unaware that there were lyrics to it until a few years ago. Ken "Festus" Curtis had just passed away and Rusty Richards, Don Edwards , Red Steagall and I were speaking of our sadness at the loss of this great singer and actor. Somehow, the conversation got around to the subject of the TV show's theme music and Rusty said , "By the way, have you ever heard the lyrics to the Gunsmoke theme?" He then proceeded to sing it for me and I was completely hypnotized. I had always wanted to record the song as an instrumental but after hearing the lyrics, I knew that they would need to be included . So, I asked Don if he would consider doing me the honor of singing it on my record and to my elation he consented. And sing it he did! I can't imagine a better rendering of this song than the treatment it gets from my anachronistic pal with the white

hair. Thanks, Don, Rusty, and Red. And "Thank You" Matt, Chester, Doc, Kitty, Newley, and Festus.

***Padre of Old San Antone*** I first heard this song on an album of gospel songs by Jim Reeves. I later heard Roy Rogers sing it in a movie and I consider it to be one of those timeless western treasures that somehow gets overlooked more than it should. I hope I have done justice to Tim Spencer's beautiful song.

***Under Fiesta Stars*** One of my all-time favorite records is a vinyl 33 by Gene Autry titled "South of the Border". On the album are such tunes as *You Belong To My Heart*, *Serenade Of The Bells*, and *Under Fiesta Stars*. I just love this music. It paints such a romantic picture of Old California and the Southwest with its grand ranchos, haciendas, missions, and beautiful señoritas.

***Old Town Taos, New Mexico*** In keeping with the theme of the Spanish southwest, this incredible song of Cindy Walker's just about has it all. Bill Hearne and Cindy were visiting on the telephone when Bill mentioned that he and his wife, Carolyn, had just returned from a trip out to Taos. He told Cindy that he had enjoyed people-watching from a park bench while Carolyn shopped for souvenirs. The next day Cindy had this song in the mail for us to demo. As we were preparing to do the demo, Bill and I called Cindy to ask her a question about the tune's arrangement and she shocked us by insisting that she

wanted me to sing it. I don't consider myself much of a singer, but if Cindy asked me to fly, I'd start looking for feathers and glue. Anyway, I am extremely honored to record this beautiful song written by my dear friend, Cindy Walker.

### ***Jesusa En Chihuahua (The Jesse Polka)***

The first time I ever remember hearing this song, it was played on a fiddle by Dutch Wells from Victoria, Texas. I had taped a little jam session that we had had one Sunday afternoon and don't remember anything that we played except this song. I remember that Dutch really played it good and when my Ma heard the tape she really fell in love with "Jesse" and she and I would play it together after that. This tune has many variations. I included a couple of parts that I learned from Valerie and they made the little tune more interesting and challenging to play.

***Ay Ay Ay*** I don't know the origin of this song. I've heard that it's an old vaquero love song from Mexico. I've also had someone tell me it's from Chile. I had forgotten about the tune until I heard Glenn Ohrlin sing it at Elko a couple years back. I didn't understand any of the words but I was reminded of how a melody can sometimes say more than mere words. Thanks Glenn!

**This recording is dedicated to the memories of Chet Atkins and Gracie Armstrong O'Brien – two guitar players who influenced my music from its very beginning.**

# Rich O'Brien - Southwestern Souvenirs

## Pickers and Warblers

FIDDLES	Bob Boatright, Randy "Snuffy" Elmore, Rich O'Brien, Reggie Rueffer, Lydia Ryals, Valerie Ryals O'Brien, Steve Storey
GUITARS	Tom Morrell, Rich O'Brien, Buck Reams
PIANO AND MARIMBA	Johnny Case
STEEL GUITARS	Tom Morrell and Gary Carpenter
DOBRO	Tom Morrell
TRUMPET	Dave Alexander
BASS FIDDLE	Mark Abbott and Mac MacRae
BAJO SEXTO	Tim Alexander
DRUMS & PERCUSSION	Greg Hardy
VOCALS	Don Edwards on <i>GunsSmoke</i> ; Paul O'Brien on <i>Rose of Mexico</i> ; Rich O'Brien on <i>Old Town Taos</i>
BACKGROUND VOCALS AND HOLLERING	Rich O'Brien and Buck Reams
STUDIO DOG	Molly J. O'Brien "The Orange Diva"
Produced By:	Rich O'Brien
Engineered By:	David B. Morgan Mark Petty (Padre of Old San Antone)
Studios:	Main Street Recording Studio <i>Garland, TX</i> ASC Sumet Recording Studio <i>Dallas, TX</i>
Photography By:	Margaret Jackson <i>Alvarado, Texas</i>
Design By:	Adwerks

## WESTERN JUBILEE RECORDING COMPANY<sup>LLC</sup>

POST OFFICE BOX 9187  
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80932  
PH. 719.635.9975 FAX 719.635.9789  
E-MAIL CUSTSVCS@WESTERNJUBILEE.COM  
WWW.WESTERNJUBILEE.COM

## FOR BOOKING AND INFORMATION:

## SCOTT O'MALLEY & ASSOCIATES, LLC

POST OFFICE BOX 9188  
COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO 80932  
719-635-7776  
FACSIMILE 719-635-9789  
E-MAIL: somagency@aol.com  
WEBSITE: www.somagency.com



Dualtone Music Group Inc., 1614 17th Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37212. All rights reserved. Unauthorized duplication is a violation of applicable laws. Made in the U.S.A. Info@Dualtone.com www.dualtone.com

# Rich O'Brien

# Southwestern Souvenirs

## Full Blooded Guitar Man

Mr. Richard E. O'Brien...The name, like John Hartford's great song, lies Gentle On My Mind.

When my mother, who played the piano so beautifully, passed away, I had no one to "demo" my songs for me as she had always done. My cousin, Bill Hearne of Fort Worth, Texas, called and told me that friends of his had volunteered to do so. The friends being Rich O'Brien on guitar and Leon Rausch on vocal. Wow!

If I had looked the world over, I could have found no others to take my Mother's place in my mind and heart to "demo" my songs (for four years now) as they have done. Well, everyone knows how great Leon Rausch is, but speaking of Rich O'Brien, he is a true genius, famous in Western Swing for his guitar playing and becoming more famous all over the world where ever he plays...But not too famous, in his shy, modest way, to still make the "demos" for a very grateful lady whose new songs are twice better than they ought to be because of Rich O'Brien's guitar!

I wrote a little song about it. *(He's A) Full Blooded Guitar Man*

*He's a full blooded guitar man and can't nobody play the way he can...Western Swing, Pop or Blues...*

*And he can make ya dance clear out of your shoes! Yeah, he's a full blooded guitar man...*

*At home or on the Show band stand...Lord, he's great!... Lord, he's fine!*

*And I'm talkin' about Big Richard E. O'Brien... Sure Fire! Lone Star! Friend of mine. Full Blooded Guitar Man!*

Sincerely,

**Cindy Walker**

- |   |   |    |   |
|---|---|----|---|
| 1 | A Badger's Holiday<br>(Rich O'Brien, Texas Starway Publishing / BMI)            | 7  | Gunsmoke<br>(Rex Koury, Glenn Spencer, Herman Music / BMI)                                      |
| 2 | Wheels<br>(Traditional, arranged by Rich O'Brien)                               | 8  | Padre of Old San Antone<br>(Tim Spencer, Tim Spencer Music,<br>a division of Manna Music / BMI) |
| 3 | Rose of Mexico<br>(Al Dexter, Cindy Walker,<br>Warner Chappell Music Inc / BMI) | 9  | Under Fiesta Stars<br>(Gene Autry, Fred Rose, Gene Autry's<br>Western Publishing Co. / ASCAP)   |
| 4 | Blue Skirt Waltz<br>(Publishing unknown)  | 10 | Old Town Taos<br>(Cindy Walker, Texas Stairway Publishing / BMI)                                |
| 5 | Little Star of Heaven<br>(Warner, Mitchell, Peer International Corp / BMI)      | 11 | Jesse Polka<br>(Traditional - Arranged by Rich O'Brien)   |
| 6 | Windmills<br>(Rich O'Brien, Texas Starway Publishing / BMI)                     | 12 | Ay Ay Ay<br>(Traditional - Arranged by Rich O'Brien)  |



**Muchos Gracias** to all the generous and talented folks who had a hand in putting this together... Wolf, Boat, Snuffy, Zil, Bat, Lid, Steve, Johnny, Reggie, Sea Dog, Dave, Tim, Buck, Mastodon, and Carp — as always, *your* music makes *my* music sound better.

Thanks to David Morgan, an engineer with a ton of experience who continues to enjoy what he does for a living—you put an awful lot of heart, ears, and coffee into this project and I sincerely appreciate it.

My dear friend Don Edwards ... *Muchas Gracias, Amigo!*

A very special "Thank You" to my brother Paul who drove eight hundred miles to help me with this recording. My debts to my brothers and sisters are far too numerous to ever repay but that hasn't stopped me from continuing to ask for their help.

My lovely bride, Valerie; on more than a few occasions she sacrificed her precious time to make the long trip to the studio and record a much-needed fiddle part." Bat", you're the apple of my eye and the love of my life. Thank You, Sweetheart.

Bill and Carolyn Hearne, Red and Gail Steagall, Ar Dubya

and Lisa Hampton, Ranger Doug, Too Slim, Woody Paul, Joey Miskulin, Waddie Mitchell and Lisa, Don and Kathy Edwards, Buck and Heather Reams, ... Thanks for the kindness, encouragement, laughter, and friendship over the years.

Ditto the folks at Western Jubilee Recording Co. Scott, Dane and Kathleen, your vision and your courage and initiative to move toward that vision continues to be a positive thing for all of us.

Finally, the world of western music, especially *western swing*, would be little more than one big desert without the music of Cindy Walker. Just imagine, if you can, what it would be like to live in a world without *Cherokee Maiden*, *Blue Bonnet Lane*, *Down Skies*, *Blue Canadian Rockies*, *Miss Molly*, *Bubbles in My Beer*, *In the Misty Moonlight*, *I Was Just Walking Out The Door*, *Salt River Valley*, *Goin' Away Party*, *I Don't Care*, *Sugar Moon* and *You Don't Know Me*. I'm fortunate to have been able to include a couple of Cindy's great songs on this album. I once asked Cindy if there were any secrets or rules of thumb which she observed in the art of writing great songs and I will never forget her answer.

"Hon', a song has to have a face. If you walk down the street in a big city you only see crowds of people, you really don't see individuals. It's the same with songs; each song has to have its own face."

Given the faceless crowds of top-forty radio these days, it's easy to see that the shining characteristic which has made Cindy a legend among songwriters is her gift for adorning each of her songs with its own different, beautiful face.

Cindy, my dear, talented friend, I love you.



80302-01177-2

SOUTHWESTERN SOUVENIRS

Rich O'Brien

## Rich O'Brien

## Southwestern Souvenirs

- |    |                         |      |
|----|-------------------------|------|
| 1  | A Badger's Holiday      | 4:00 |
| 2  | Wheels                  | 2:58 |
| 3  | Rose of Mexico          | 4:25 |
| 4  | Blue Skirt Waltz        | 2:40 |
| 5  | Little Star of Heaven   | 4:06 |
| 6  | Windmills               | 6:02 |
| 7  | Gunsmoke                | 3:40 |
| 8  | Padre of Old San Antone | 2:46 |
| 9  | Under Fiesta Stars      | 4:17 |
| 10 | Old Town Taos           | 4:22 |
| 11 | Jesse Polka             | 2:38 |
| 12 | Ay Ay Ay                | 3:58 |

"There is no one I'd rather hear play guitar than Richard O'Brien. His taste and musical sensibility are exquisite. He has great technique, of course, but there is a vast difference between a facile technician and the brilliance and perfect feel that is Rich O'Brien's. He's a national treasure!"

Ranger Doug *Riders in the Sky*

And by the way, I loved the record!! -RD



© P 2001 RICH O'BRIEN

Manufactured and distributed by Dualtone Music Group, Inc. Under license from Western Jubilee Recording Company, LLC, Post Office Box 9187, Colorado Springs, CO 80932. Email: [custsvc@westernjubilee.com](mailto:custsvc@westernjubilee.com). All rights reserved. Unauthorized duplication is a violation of applicable laws. Made in the U.S.A. 80302-01177-2 Info@Dualtone.com [www.dualtone.com](http://www.dualtone.com)



Rich O'Brien

SOUTHWESTERN SOUVENIRS

80302-01177-2





# Rich O'Brien

## Southwestern Souvenirs



**DUALTONE**

© © 2001 RICH O'BRIEN

Manufactured and distributed by Dualtone Music Group, Inc. Under license from Western Jubilee Recording Company, LLC, Post Office Box 9187, Colorado Springs, CO 80932. Email: [custsvc@westernjubilee.com](mailto:custsvc@westernjubilee.com). All rights reserved. Unauthorized duplication is a violation of applicable laws. Made in the U.S.A. 80302-01177-2 Info@Dualtone.com [www.dualtone.com](http://www.dualtone.com)