

Jack Loeffler

In 1975, our company (The Four Brothers Adventure Co.) received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to produce a documentary film addressing Hispano folk dancing in New Mexico. We filmed the group, "Los Alegres" performing seven dances that were included in the film of the same name. I became intrigued by Hispano folk music and was awarded several further grants from the NEA to record throughout New Mexico and southern Colorado that has ultimately resulted in a collection of around three thousand folksongs. Concurrently, I produced 149 thirty-minute radio programs entitled "La Música de los Viejitos" that were broadcast on both Community Public Radio and commercial stations throughout the region. In 1981, cinematographer Jack Parsons and I were awarded yet another NEA grant to produce a documentary film entitled "La Música de los Viejos". We drove throughout New Mexico and southern Colorado filming and recording ten different songs representing different musical forms performed by different individuals or pairs of musicians. We decided not to include a narration for the film so as not to detract from the ambience of the film. The film was released in 1983.

In 1984, I was awarded a contract from the University of New Mexico Press to write the book, "La Música de los Viejitos" that was published in 1999. The book features 93 folksongs by different performers or groups of performers. It addresses about 50 different musical or dance forms with transcriptions of each of the melodies, narrative that describes each form, depictions of the dance steps appropriate for each dance, photographs of all the musicians, and a set of three accompanying CDs that present the 93 songs in the order they appear in the book. The book and CDs are available through UNM Press in Albuquerque. I have recently donated my entire aural history archive and papers to the Chavez Library at the New Mexico History Museum at the Palace of the Governors in Santa Fe.

Below is a list of the songs as they appear in the film along with the names of the performers.

La Música de los Viejos:

- 1- Valse de don Gorgonio-- José Damian Archuleta, violin, Pablo Trujillo, guitar- Taos
- 2- Los Cañuteros-- Abade Martinez- San Luis, CO-- page 23
- 3- La Rana-- Solomón Chavez, Alamosa, CO-- relación aglutinante--pg. 19
- 4- Tecolote de Guadaña-- Julia Jaramillo, vocal, Ernesto Montoya, guitar--canción pg.88
- 5- El Taleán- Abade Martinez, violin, Benny Bustos, guitar- Santa Fe- pg. 165
- 6- Indita de Cochití--José Domingo Romero, violin & vocal, y Remijio Romero, guitar-- pg. 33
- 7- El Vaquero- Santiago Martinez, accordion, Las Vegas- pg. 157
- 8- Mi Carrito Ford- Vicente Montoya, violin & vocal, Margarito Olivas, guitar- Las Vegas, relación composed in late 1920s by Severo Mondragon, father of Roberto-pg. 21
- 9- Don Gato- Edwin Berry, Tomé- romance, burlesque ballad- pg. 5

10- La Camila- Pete Maese, violin, & Felix Vega, guitar, Las Cruces-pg. 156

11-El Quelite- Carmen Araiza, vocal & guitar, La Mesa- pg. 100 popular canción from Mexican Revolution

12-Adelita- Johnny Florez y Raul Garcia, vocal y guitar- Mex. Revolution