

Los Padrinos

Los Padrinos began as an idea born from a love for Tex-Mex music. Martín Martínez and Juan Santillán met through a previous band that was very active in the "Tejano" music scene around San Antonio, Tx. They both shared a love for traditional conjunto of South Texas and Northern Mexico. After Juan left that band, he decided to take up the Bajo Sexto (the traditional rhythm guitar used in that style of music) and write songs. During a hiatus from playing, Martín and Juan would meet and just play the old songs (aka *las viejitas*)- and from there developed the interest in recording a CD of traditional and original music - "Fe, Familia, y Tradición" their debut album, was born.

With the addition of conjunto veterano Ray Amparan on the drums, and former band mate Peter "El Profe" Barrera on bass, the group has formed quite a unit since their debut in January of 2005. Their past experience in playing in front of large crowds has helped them to bring a sense of "familia" to those who listen. Since that time they have entertained (and even educated) people with their traditional sound.

Los Padrinos released their second album in December of 2005 entitled "Puro Gallo" which has been well received by conjunto-lovers nationwide. With the release of this album have come requests to perform their style of music in many different venues. "Puro Gallo" also initiated the relationship between Chicano artist Joe L. López ("El Gallista") and Los Padrinos.

The strongest part of the group is their innate sense that faith and culture cannot be separated and that by knowing our roots we know who we are. A Los Padrinos performance is not about nostalgia, but about remembering where we come from. God bless you ¡y que viva conjunto!



Visit www.conjuntolospadrinos.com for more information.
For information about Joe L. Lopez's Gallista Gallery visit www.gallista.com.