

S.A. LIFE & CULTURAS

SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS

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ENTERTAINMENT

Keyword: Some might argue that having been with Los Horoscopos de Durango, one of the hottest Duranguense bands, for so many years was a major momentum-builder for Hernández's new group, but he disagrees.

"It is always tough. The hardest thing is starting all over again with a new name, to begin new promotions, to look for opportunity on the radio," he said. "It is really hard to find space on the radio. So we're knocking on doors, looking for help anywhere."

One thing you can say about the seven-member Duranguense band — they're versatile in their musical tastes.

The 12-track CD opened with an alluring Duranguense version of Juan Luis Guerra's early '90s smash "Bachata Rosa." The original romantic ballad was transformed into a horn-fueled dance tune.

The group also tackles Joan Sebastian's "El Maracaos" and Pablo Milanés' "Si Tú te Vas," again reworking them with the

TOP LATIN ALBUMS

1. 'Wisin vs. Yandel: Los Extraterrestres,' Wisin & Yandel
2. 'La Vida... Es Un Ratico,' Juanes
3. 'Todo Cambio,' Camila
4. 'Para Siempre,' Vicente Fernandez
5. 'Con Los Ojos Cerrados,' Allados de la Sierra

The folksy and boisterous pasito Duranguense, an offshoot of horn-driven banda music, first exploded in 2004. The first new Duranguense superstars included K-Paz De La Sierra, Montez de Durango, and Horoscopos de Durango, who shot to the top of Billboard's regional Mexican charts.

While Los Angeles and Southern California remains the hotbed for banda, norteño and even urban Latino styles, Chicago emerged as the epicenter of modern Duranguense, a music that originated decades ago in the Mexican state by the same name.

Like other new music waves, the early Duranguense movement

6. 'Now Latino 3,' various artists
7. 'La Mejor... Coleccion,' Marco Antonio Solís
8. 'Bachata #1s,' various artists
9. 'Los Gabriel... Simplemente Amigos,' Juan Gabriel & Ana Gabriel
10. 'Lo Mejor de Andrea Bocelli: Vivere,' Andrea Bocelli

Source: Billboard

tain an, underground movement. And while newcomers may complain that Duranguense, like reggaeton, all sounds the same, there are enough stylistic differences and nuances to keep things interesting.

Dezafados follow the Montez and K-Paz templates — brisk-paced tunes, fueled by swirling keyboards and piping horns, all topped by the vocal harmonies of Hernández and Braulio Muro. That approach works well on the CD tunes like the amusing cumbia "El Chiclé se me Pego," and "Para Siempre."

MUSICAL DESERZADOS SOUND:

"The CD also includes "Homenaje a mi Padre," a bolero done banda style.

"I wrote that song thinking of my father" said Hernández. "It is a song of gratitude for what he did for me, for the family for my sisters. In our Mexican culture, you do not normally tell your father 'I love you, thank you for what you have done for me.'

"It is a homage, a way of expressing the things that, for whatever reasons, I do not say."

Mariachi time

If it's late November, then it usually means it's time for the annual Ford Motor Co. Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza.

The 2007 edition will again feature Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán, the world's oldest and best, on Saturday at Municipal Auditorium. Also performing are Azucena, Mariachi Los Galleros and the winners in the high school and university competition. Tickets are now on sale through Ticketmaster.

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#1 Top Rated Movie