

# Fernández is back in the saddle

Ranchera singer releases a divergent 'Escuchame.'

After a four-year absence from the recording studio, ranchera singer Pedro Fernández said he was anxious to get back.

"We are always worried about our next album. With each album you record, you start worrying about the next," Fernández said in Spanish from his Mexico City office. "It's tough enough to sustain a career with each album.



**RAMIRO BURR**  
LATIN NOTES

"And especially now, with so much time that has passed, we had this pressure to do the very best we could

to grab our fans again."

Fernández's latest CD is titled, appropriately enough, "Escuchame" ("Listen to Me.").

The singer refused to go into details about the delay; suffice it to say there was a legal dispute with a record label.

Homero Patrón, who has worked with Alejandro Fernández, Juan Gabriel and Pepe Aguilar, produced the 10-track CD. Highlights include the title track, a smooth ranchera ballad about the need for straight talk, and "No Pasa Nada," a smoldering ranchera bolero written by noted composer Armando Manzanero. Fernández wrote the tune "Hoy en Esta Noche," another where-are-



FERNÁNDEZ

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## Keyword: Blogs

For more on Pedro Fernández, read Ramiro Burr's blog, Latin Notes Now.

happy about that."

Fernández says he has plans for a U.S. tour in early 2007 and hopes to make up for lost time.

Married and the father of three daughters, Fernández said the toughest part is finding the balance between work and family.

"It is super-difficult. You really have to coordinate things," he said "You try to give everything you have to this career, which demands 100 percent of our time. At the same time, you cannot neglect your family, which at the end of the day is the engine that drives me, my main motivation and the inspiration to keep going."

Fernández, who was born Jose Martin Cuevas Cabos on Sept. 28, 1969, in Guadalajara, Mexico, began his career at 7. He appeared in four Mexican soap operas and 24 feature films. He took the name Pedro Fernández as a tribute to his two idols: Pedro Infante and Vicente Fernandez.

you-now lament.

Other songwriters with tracks on the album are Gilberto González, Salomón Robles and Ismael Gallegos.

"We wanted to have a good repertoire of tunes by a variety of composers," Fernández said. "There is a song for many situations, and I'm

## The Golden Falsetto

Mexico lost another of the last singing charros from its Golden Age of Cinema when Miguel Aceves Mejia died on Monday at the age of 90.

Mejia, known as the "Golden Falsetto," became memorable for his vocal control, especially on his signature hits "La Malagueña," "El Pastor" and "La Noche y Tú."

Soprano Cristina Ortega, a Mexico City native who has lived in San Antonio for more than a decade, said Mejia was a superb talent.

"His voice was very special," she said. "He had power and great control, and he could sing those high notes that few could sing. He was simply marvelous."

For singer John Ortiz of Mariachi Campanas, Mejia "was one of the few chosen stars that impacted the film, recording and the way of life of Mexico."

"He embodied what every man wanted to be — brave, courageous, romantic and a true gentleman — and he was what every woman wanted in a man," Ortiz said. "Only he could sing a ranchera in such a manner that his style was and is still being emulated by every major ranchera vocalist."

Notimex reported that on Wednesday a caravan carrying Mejia's remains wound its way through downtown Mexico City to the Palacio de Bellas Artes. His body lay in rest in the venerable concert hall for a few hours as thousands of fans paid their respects.

Afterward, Mejia was buried at the famed Panteon Jardín cemetery, the final resting place for other film and music notables, including Pedro In-

## HOT LATIN SONGS

1. 'Quien Me Iba a Decir,' David Bisbal
2. 'Tengo Un Amor,' Toby Love feat. Rakim & Ken-Y
3. 'Ni Una Sola Palabra,' Paulina Rubio
4. 'Los Infieles,' Aventura
5. 'Pam Pam,' Wisin & Yandel
6. 'Ser O Parecer,' RBD
7. 'A La Primera Persona,' Alejandro Sanz
8. 'Antes de Que Te Vayas,' Marco Antonio Solís
9. 'Mas Alla del Sol,' Joan Sebastian
10. 'Te Recuerdo,' Ricky Martin

SOURCE: BILLBOARD

fante, Jorge Negrete and Javier Solís.

## More mariachi

The 2006 edition of Ford Motor Co.'s Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza is set for Dec. 2 at Municipal Auditorium. Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlan, considered the world's best troupe, headlines the event, which also will feature the winner of the various school and college vocal and group competitions that will precede the main event.

Mariachi Vargas has a new CD out, "Para Nuestros Amigos," which includes covers of Ramon Ayala's "Un Rinconsito en el Cielo," Roberto Cantoral's "Al Final" and Manuel Alejandro's "Si Te Perdiera."

For more details on the fest and the CD, visit [www.mariachimusic.com](http://www.mariachimusic.com).

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