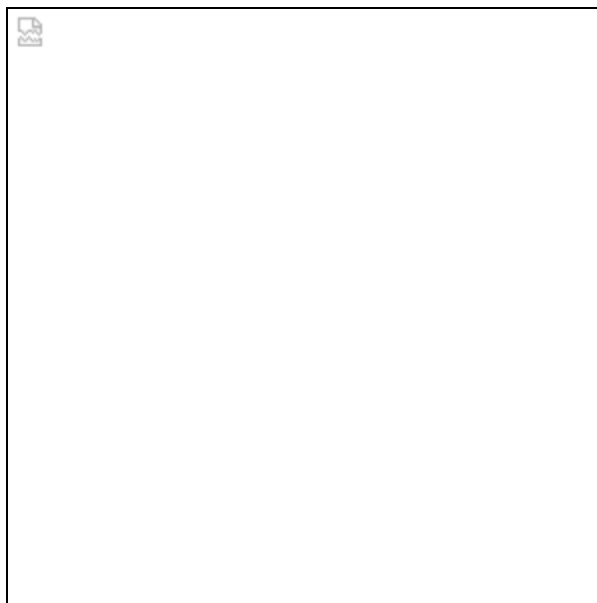


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Latin Notes: Saucedada wraps up tribute album

By Hector Saldaña- Express-News

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There's history behind every track of Grammy winner Sunny Saucedada's gritty new album, "Homenaje a Mi Padre."

That's because it's a tribute to his father, 72-year-old musician and composer Mariano Alberto Saucedada Jr.

"It's a special record," said Saucedada, 32.

The album features eight original songs, plus renditions of "Mi Querido Viejo" (done with a bolero Los Lonely Boys and Los Lobos groove), "Ando Ausente" and "Ojitos Negros" (the first song he ever sang with his dad).

Saucedada — one of the stars at the 2009 Tejano Music National Convention in Dallas this weekend — made the album over the course of a weekend this month.

"I had never done that before," he said. "But the reason for it was that we wanted to have an album ready for the Tejano Music National Convention."

The record includes commentary about his father and an interview. Mariano Saucedada, who played with Ray Vasquez & the Dreamers, suffered a stroke in 2000. He wrote '70s hits such as "Mujeres Mujeres," "Estúpido Corazon" and "Tomas Tomas."

His father played bass and bajo sexto in his own conjunto groups in the '60s and '70s. Saucedada recalls singing

with him when he was 5.

"My dad was a real cool dad. He was a great example always," Saucedo said. "My dad's not in the greatest health. But he's a very strong person. It just felt good to pay homage to him. It was very important for me to do this."

At the Tejano Music National Convention at the Hyatt Regency at Reunion (emceed by comic Willie Barcena), Saucedo will perform Friday night with Los TexManiacs and legendary conjunto pioneer Mingo "The Dancing Cowboy" Saldivar.

The combo is called Tres Generaciones de Acordeon. It's a first.

"This is one of the premier events," said Saucedo. "The one thing I know for sure is that Tejanos love to dance and they love to go out and meet the audience."

Saucedo said that the Dallas event allows for fun Tejano combinations, a genre with numerous subgenres.

"At the convention, things happen that normally don't at other shows. The convention brings bands together. And you really can't catch that anywhere else," he said.

What does Saucedo say to critics who find Tejano has grown stale, too comfortable with predictable songwriting structures, arrangements, instrumentation and same old artists?


"I think there is new music out there and there are different song structures and different sounds, but I think they're falling to the wayside because they're not being allowed to filter through," said Saucedo.

"And the artists that are in the system are staying a little safe. We all need to make a push to change and diversify the music. That will only make us grow. Unfortunately, I don't hear any new trends in Tejano."

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