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January 29, 2010

Sunny Sauceda talks Grammys, state of Tejano



Courtesy photo

Sunny Sauceda might earn another Grammy this weekend.

Sunny Sauceda is no stranger to the Grammy Awards. The San Antonio accordionist and singer took home the best Tejano album trophy in 2005 for *Polkas, Gritos y Accordeones* (and also nabbed the Latin Grammy in the same category). Sauceda has earned a stack of Tejano industry honors, including several as the former frontman of Grupo Vida.

Part of what's kept him relevant is his willingness to try new things. Sauceda landed an opening spot on the Dixie Chicks' Fly Tour, and his new disc is a stirring tribute to family. A few days before heading to Los Angeles for the big ceremony, Sauceda talked tradition and breaking with the past:

Talk a bit about what it felt like winning in 2005 for *Polkas, Gritos, y Accordeones* (best Tejano album).

The feeling was surreal. I could not believe I was a Grammy winner. It's really humbling, and you cant help but remember all the hard work it took to get to that stage. You remember all the bars, the flea markets. The gigs that lasted five hours and only paid \$40. It's a feeling of satisfaction, and at the same time adds fuel to your inner artist.

What should people know about your current nominated disc, Radiación Musical?

They should know it was a lot of hard work. After getting nominated on the previous album, *Vagar Libremente*, we had some internal changes, and we got delayed during the process. That makes it difficult to stay inspired because we record when we're in a good vibe, and distractions only cause delay.

Your new disc, *Homenaje a Mi Padre*, is a tribute to your father. What's the most important musical lesson he taught you?

The most important lesson was that the journey of a musician can be rough. Not many musicians get rich off of this. It's art and the love for it. That all the cold winters, long summers, hard drives are made worthwhile when you get on that stage and the people scream because they like what your doing. It's all about the journey.

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