Alonzo Martinez's interview

March 11, 2014

Do you remember the first time you heard a corrido?

I can’t say that I remember the first time but I do remember at a young age I guess the first, you know the first memory of hearing a corrido I must have been, I wanna say about four years old at the earliest age.

Do you remember the title?

Yes! It was called El gato de Chihuahua [The cat from Chihuahua].

Where were you? Was it at a party, a house or was it at --

It was definitely, definitely at the house.

What were you doing? Were you just listening to music or were you hanging out with your dad? What was going on?

I think it was the radio was on we were at the house and the radio was on and a song by el group is called Los Huracanes del norte [The Hurricanes of the north]. I think I think it was their hit at that time. It was their, their main song.

Ok, were you interested in this type of music at four years old? I mean that is kinda something odd to ask at four years old, but what were thinking when you listened to this song?

Well, I did not understand it the thing that I like about the song is that it had a lot of sound effects, like helicopters it had machine guns, it had police sirens. It was interesting due to the, you know they kinda like painted a picture while you were listening to it and I think that at four years old that’s what caught my attention more than anything.

Now would you say that this is a corrido, like a traditional corrido or a narcocorrido?
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Alonzo Martinez said in his interview that he was about four years old when he first heard a corrido. At that time he was with his dad and the radio was on. He did not understand the lyrics, but the sound effects caught his attention. In his opinion, *El corrido de los Pérez* [The Corrido of the Perez’s] is what he considers a traditional corrido because it contains certain elements such as: entertainment, oral history, true events, and more. He blames some drug lords for funding the genre of *narcocorridos* and for influencing on the lyrical content that is based on manipulation of the media, violence, drugs, power and money. He believes the drug lords are the ones behind this music because the songs give very detailed information that only someone involved in the drug business would know. He thinks their only purpose is to counterattack other cartels and the Mexican government while they portray themselves as the modern Robin Hoods.

When asked to give his opinion about the current *narcocorridos*, he thinks that they are just a tool used by musicians to make money and get famous. He thinks the music industry is also using this music to impact the youth’s mentality by sending messages that it is okay to have money and power to kill people and get away with it. He also mentioned the image or fashion that has been created by this genre. In some of the songs, the lyrics talk about the best brands of clothing, shoes, watches, sunglasses, cars, and more. According to him, this is how the music and the audience stay up to date so it does not get boring or old.