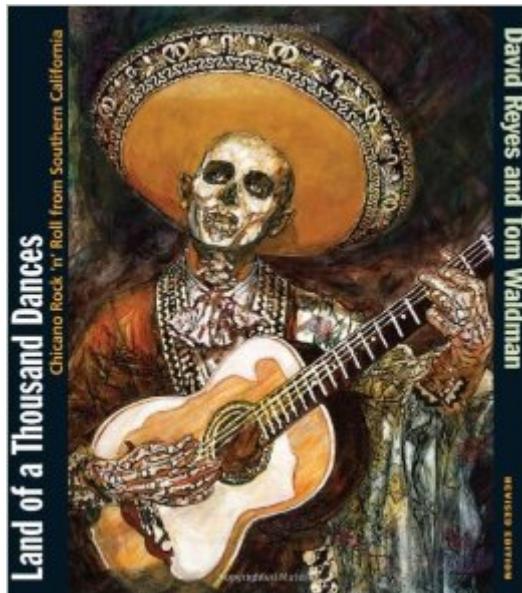


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# Land Of A Thousand Dances: Chicano Rock 'n' Roll From Southern California



## Synopsis

"It's fascinating to read this alternative history of pop music, as *Land of a Thousand Dances* offers a wealth of anecdotes, interviews, and facts that have never been so meticulously documented. The book helps fill one of the biggest gaps in the rock timeline, ensuring that rock 'n' roll's Chicano roots will not be forgotten."--A. V. Club"Authors [David] Reyes and [Tom] Waldman give a flavorful overview of the ever-changing East L.A. scene. . . . They note that barrio culture, which so richly intertwines American and Mexican traditions, has given rise to groups who move through many different types of music with ease, as well as the type of fans who can appreciate them all."--Raza Report "[*Land of a Thousand Dances*] is written with insight and intelligence and I highly recommend it."--Mark Guerro, member of Mark & the Escorts, Tango, and Radio Aztlan"The first edition of this definitive history of California Chicano rock pioneers, published in 1998, highlighted such early groups as Ritchie Valens, Cannibal & the Headhunters, and Thee Midniters as well as punk leaders the Plugz, culminating with the musically eclectic Los Lobos. In this revised and expanded edition, authors Reyes, a Chicano music historian and archivist, and Waldman (Not Much Left: The Fate of Liberalism in America) include material about newer artists such as Quetzal and Lysa Flores. In the ten years since the book was first published, California's Spanish-speaking population has dramatically increased, and there is growing interest in Mexican rock and all the other Mexican musical genres. This book should appeal to any fan of Latino rock who wants to know about its roots and development."--Library JournalFor this edition, the authors have written a new introduction.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Many of the groups mentioned had their beginnings in the Salesian High School Rock n' Roll shows of the late 60's. Thee midnighter, Thee Enchantments, The Pharoahs, The Nightdreamers, Art and the Fabulons,Lil Art, the Counts, The Blue Satins, the impalas, The 4 x 4's, the Celestials, and many more. They grew into the Battle of the Bands of East L.A. The Showmen and The Majestics,who I roadied for, in the LATE 60' to the early 70's. Hank Castro of the Majestics still sings today at the Hop. An album, if you can get it, is the "East Side Revue" it was in yellow vinyl and black vinyl. It's a classic album.

I found this to be a very joyful experience back into a musical era (1960') when I was teenager. I grew up with people like the Salas's Bros. (my cousins) El Chicano, the Premiers ( I went to grade school and High school with them), Thee Enchantments, played football with Willie Garcia of the Midnighthers. Knew members of Yaqui, and Art Brambila, my uncle. I saw most of these groups that you mentioned in your book live throughout my teenage years. Alot of these people were my friends. One dear friend that was never mentioned in your book was Eddie Serrano, former singer of Yaqui, Thee Enchantments and most currently, Cannibal and the Headhunters. Eddie passed away early this year from a bicycle accident. We grew as neighbors,more like brothers in Lincoln Heights. He contributed a lot to East La Music and entertainment in general. I was hoping he would be mentioned so his family and close friends could see his accomplishments written for legacy.Thank you very much for your trip back in time where music,life and friends meant so much during those turbulent years. Sincerely, Joe Brambila

The authors have done significant research on their subject, and their focus and dedication really show, as they move through the history of this most important period in contemporary music. Anyone who is interested inthe music, the artists and their environment, would enjoy this book. The photographs, which are numerous, underscore the text very nicely. It is no coincidence that P.B.S. has recently aired a great special, based largely on this book.

"Land of a Thousand Dances: Chicano Rock 'N' Roll from Southern California" traces the roots and influences on the Chicano/Latino music scene today. The book is well researched including dozens of interviews with early performers from East L.A. and all around the Southland.Mr. Reyes' and

Waldman's rich photo archives accompany a history that may well have been lost had they not carefully documented it for us. The musical influences of artists like Richie Valens, Thee Midnighters, Cannibal and the Headhunters, Mark Guerrero, "Grammy Award" winning musician Carlos Santana, El Chicano, Tierra, and Malo are particularly interesting. Future generations of Hispanics and non-Hispanics will be blessed with the memories and experiences that the pioneers of Chicano Rock-n-Roll had with this enchanted cruise with sounds of the barrio, a magical blend of cultures that brought forth these "Oldies but Goodies"!

This is a really great book, I really enjoyed the great interviews with some of Rock-n-Rolls pioneers. I come from the L.A. area so many of the bands were known to me. If you get a chance you should grab this book, all the best, jimmy B.

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