



Celebrating 31 years of Arts, History & Culture  
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Teatro De Artes De Juan Seguin was founded on July 9, 1982 as a non-profit, tax-exempt, 501 c 3 organization. The mission of Teatro is to promote a better understanding of the Mexican American culture and its people by the teaching, study, practice and performance of the arts. To celebrate Teatro's 30<sup>th</sup> year anniversary and to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, exhibits were prepared by current and past Teatro Board members and by Cristobal Sanchez, VISTA volunteer. These exhibits recognize, honor and celebrate the Mexican-American people's contributions that have kept the culture, art and history alive in Seguin, Guadalupe County and surrounding areas. Teatro's Conjunto exhibit includes photos, newspaper clippings, posters and/or programs that highlight local people's contributions in the areas of Conjunto Juan Seguin and the VIVA Seguin Conjunto Festival.

#### ¡VIVA! Conjunto Music!

One of the exhibits displayed at the Heritage Museum highlights Teatro's Conjunto Juan Seguin program and its yearly VIVA Seguin Conjunto Festival. The Conjunto program is in part funded by Texas Commission on the Arts, United Way, City of Seguin, Seguin ISD and local donors, businesses and contributors. The Conjunto classes are held every Tuesday at Teatro (921 W. New Braunfels) starting at 5 PM. Teatro has been offering Conjunto classes since 1997. Our current instructors/artists in residency are Mike Carrillo and Rodolfo Lopez.

The 9<sup>th</sup> VIVA Seguin Conjunto Festival will be held on Saturday, October 27, 2012 at Teatro. The Festival includes a free workshop (2-4 PM) where folks are invited to bring their own accordions and bajo sexto to jam with other conjunto musicians. From 5 to 6 PM, there will be open microphone time and this will be followed (6-10 PM) with a dance highlighting Conjunto groups such as ANIMO, CONJUNTO CATS and CONJUNTO CALIDAD. Entrance to the dance is \$5 per person and children under 12 are free.

What is Conjunto music? Conjunto Music is the melting of many cultures that has resulted in the musical genre/rhythm. The word Conjunto means group. The lead instrument is the accordion and the traditional Conjunto uses the Bajo Sexto as the instrument that provides the tempo and the harmony. The evolution is quite impressive in that Conjunto Music is not written—it is played strictly by memory and from the "CORAZÓN." The German accordion and the Mexican Bajo Sexto produced a sound that was readily adopted by South Texas in the early 1900s. Initially, it was instrumental dancing music and consisted of Polkas, Redovas, Waltzes, Shotises, Mazurkas, etc. Conjunto pioneers such as Narciso Martinez, Santiago Jimenez, Valerio Longoria and Tony De La Rosa took their own compositions and their music from various other cultures such as German, Polish, Czechoslovakian and Italian and adapted it to our rhythm and flavor. Thus was born South Texas Conjunto Music. Lyrics were later introduced as were the electric bass, drums, and amplifications.

Conjunto music has continued to evolve and has created its own Tejano Music style that has become very popular during the recent past years. However, the traditional Conjunto Music played with Accordion and Bajo Sexto continues to be enjoyed and played by Conjunto enthusiasts worldwide. In Rodolfo Lopez's words: "Conjunto music is truly a home grown genre. It is as American as apple pie, Chevrolet, jass, and tortillas de harina."