

Alejandro Fernandez - Dos Mundos Evolución + Tradition (2009)

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Evolution 1. *Me Hace Tanto Bien* 2. *Cuando Digo Tu Nombre* 3. *Se Me Va La Voz* 4. *Como Me Duele (Cielo de Acuarela)* 5. *Tu Amor Perdí* 6. *Dibujando Un Corazón (Mas Alla)* 7. *De Nada Sirve Hablar* 8. *No Lo Beses* 9. *Una Lagrima En El Corazón* 10. *Imagina* 11. *Manana Es Para Siempre*
Tradition 01. *Pecadora* 02. *Me Dueles* 03. *Estuve* 04. *Unas Nalgadas* 05. *Bandida* 06. *Nada de ti* 07. *La Seven – Dúo con Joan Sebastian* 08. *La Historia Que No* 09. *Ya Se Acabó* 10. *Mi Rechazo* 11. *Maldita Costumbre*

Alejandro Fernandez's superstardom lies in his ability to convincingly deliver in both pop and mariachi, with alternating releases in each genre. With new two-disc set "Dos Mundos," Fernandez tackles both simultaneously-and the results are well-crafted, sophisticated takes on each style. The pop songs range from anthemic ballads to tunes with prominent acoustic string, piano and even accordion touches ("Dibujando Un Corazon"). But legendary regional Mexican artist Joan Sebastian's masterful production on the mariachi set stretches the genre's boundaries, lending it a confident breeziness. Highlights are a spirited bolero ("Pecadora") and an almost American country-style "La Historia Que No" that one can imagine as a vintage "MTV Unplugged" production. Those who buy the pop and mariachi albums separately won't be disappointed, but the versatility of Fernandez and his producers can best be appreciated in combination. ---Ayala Ben-Yehuda, billboard.com

In 2009, Alejandro Fernández displayed two different sides of his artistry with his albums *Dos Mundos: Evolución* and *Dos Mundos: Tradición*. While *Evolución* emphasizes his Latin pop side, *Tradición* has a stronger ranchera/mariachi factor -- which is not to say that *Tradición* will be mistaken for a collection of Antonio Aguilar recordings from the '50s and '60s. Fernández

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doesn't divorce himself from his Latin pop background on Tradición; in fact, most of the songs were written by Latin pop superstar Joan Sebastian -- but the ranchera/mariachi element is noticeably stronger on Tradición than it is on Evolución. And clearly, Tradición and Evolución each have their own personalities. Evolución is essentially Latin pop with regional Mexican overtones, whereas Tradición favors more of an integration of ranchera and Latin pop elements. So which of the two albums is the most enjoyable? Actually, they are both enjoyable. And even though some people may opt to acquire Tradición and Evolución separately, Fernández has plenty of die-hard fans who will no doubt want to obtain Dos Mundos: Evolución y Tradición, which combines the albums as a two-CD set. It should be noted that Fernández isn't the only Mexican vocalist who has compartmentalized his Latin pop and ranchera sides; in 2008, Rocío Banquells' simultaneously came out with a pop-oriented live album (Nací Para Ti: Baladas) and a ranchera/mariachi-oriented live album (Nací Para Ti: Rancheras). She really dug into the Great Mexican Songbook on the latter, performing time-honored standards such as "La Puerta Negra" and "Cucurrucucu Paloma" (if Tin Pan Alley can be called the Great American Songbook, is there any reason why classic ranchera gems shouldn't be called the Great Mexican Songbook?). In contrast to Banquells' performances on Nací Para Ti: Rancheras, this release isn't as hardcore in its ranchera-isms. But then, Fernández never claimed to be a ranchera purist -- nor did Banquells, for that matter -- and Tradición is a likable effort whether one is enjoying it as a stand-alone CD or as half of the double-disc Dos Mundos: Evolución y Tradición. --- Alex Henderson, Rovi

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