

¡Corrido!

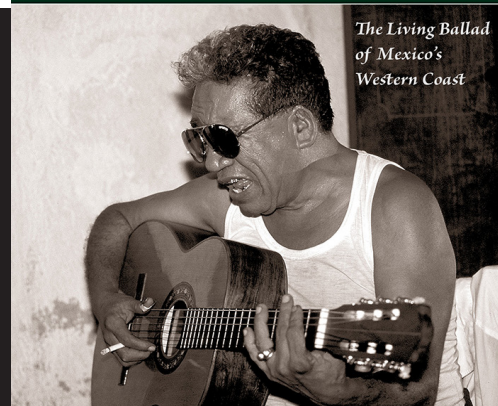
THE LIVING BALLAD OF MEXICO'S WESTERN COAST

by John Holmes McDowell
Photographs by Patricia Glushko
Musical Transcriptions by Carlos Fernández

ETHNOMUSICOLOGY • LATIN AMERICA

¡Corrido!

The Living Ballad
of Mexico's
Western Coast



John Holmes McDowell

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This compilation of ballads from the Mexican states of Guerrero and Oaxaca documents one of the world's great traditions of heroic song, a tradition that has thrived continuously for the last hundred years. The 107 corridos presented here, gathered during ethnographic research over a period of twenty-five years in settlements on Mexico's Costa Chica and Costa Grande, offer a window into the ethos of heroism among the cultures of coastal West Mexico, a region that has been plagued by recurrent cycles of violence.

John Holmes McDowell presents a richly annotated field collection of corridos, accompanied by musical scores and transcriptions and translations of lyrics. In addition to his interpretation of the corridos' depiction of violence and masculinity, McDowell situates the songs in historical and performance contexts, illuminating the Afro-mestizo influence in this distinctive population.

John Holmes McDowell is a professor of folklore and ethnomusicology at Indiana University. Among his earlier books is *Poetry and Violence: The Ballad Tradition of Mexico's Costa Chica*.



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