

DAVID MAREZ

The illustrious career of tejano vocalist **David Marez**, known to his fans as La Voz de Oro, stretches from the early '70s, when he was the lead vocalist of pioneering tejano band **the Royal Jesters**, well into the 21st century, where he continues to enjoy success. His best-known songs include "Yo Soy Chicano" a **Royal Jesters** classic, "Entre Mas Lejos Me Vaya" recognized as Song of the Year at the Tejano Music Awards, and "Fijate" Song of the Year at the Tejano Music Awards. His most popular albums include **The Voice Is Back** (1986), **Sold Out** (1988), and **El Musicano** (1990), all of which registered on Billboard's Regional Mexican Albums chart, while his most praised albums include **Odyssey: The Journey** (2005) and **Corazón de Oro** (2007), both of which nominated for Grammys.

Born in Mathis, TX, the San Antonio-based **Marez** cites as influences **Joe Bravo**, **Little Joe Hernandez**, **Sonny Ozuna**, and **Freddie Martínez**, along with **Al Jarreau**, **Ray Charles**, **Luther Vandross**, **Tony Bennett**, and **Mel Tormé**. He began performing in the 1970s, most notably as the lead singer of **the Royal Jesters**, a pioneering tejano band. After recording a few albums, including **Yo Soy Chicano**, **The Second Album**, and **The Band** (the exact release dates for which are uncertain), he left **the Royal Jesters** to found a group of his own, **People**, with which he debuted in 1977 on an album of the same name. Besides **Marez**, **People** were comprised of fellow **Royal Jester Joe Posada** (saxophone), **Richard Solis** (drums), **Steve Velasquez** (lead guitar), **Pete Garza** (bass guitar), and **Julian Carrillo** (keyboards). Though **People** only released one album as such, the group

would re-form as **Marez**'s backing band now and then over the subsequent years.

Marez released solo albums regularly during the 1980s, beginning with a self-titled album titled *Marez, Vol. 2* (1981), *Fue Nuestra Suerte* (1983), ***The Voice Is Back*** (1986), *Revival* (1987), ***Sold Out*** (1988), and ***On the Move*** (1989).

In 1987 he won a Tejano Music Award in the category of Song of the Year for "Entre Mas Lejos Me Vaya" from his album ***The Voice Is Back***; in 1989 he won several Tejano Music Awards for his work on ***Sold Out***, namely Male Vocalist of the Year, Album of the Year, and Song of the Year (for "Fijate"); and in 1990 the accolades continued as he won Male Vocalist of the Year at the Annual Texas Talent Musicians Association (TTMA) Awards. His peak in terms of commercial success came with ***El Musicano*** (1990), his first album to break into the Top Ten of Billboard's Regional Mexican Albums chart.

Marez has remained active throughout the 1990's and well into the century, releasing a long string of albums and a growing number of greatest-hits compilations. Shortly after the turn of the century, he reunited with **Henry Hernandez** and **Oscar Lawson** as **the Royal Jesters** for a couple of reunion albums, *We Go Together* (2004) and ***Odyssey: The Journey*** (2005), the latter of which was nominated for a Grammy in the category of Best Tejano Album in 2006. Additionally, **Marez**'s 2004 solo album, *Bringin' It Back*, was nominated for a Tejano Music Award in the category of Album of the Year in 2005 while his 2007 solo album, ***Corazón de Oro***, produced by fellow **Royal Jesters Joe Posada** and **Gilbert Velasquez**, was nominated for a Latin Grammy in

the category of Best Tejano Album in 2007. The next two projects done on Brown Soul Records were both produced by long-time friend **Joe Trevino**. **Voz De Oro** (2012) with hits such as “Senór Cantinero” and “Imposibilidad”. and **Groovin'** (2015) with “Que Seria De Mi”, “No Soy El Mismo” and “Le Meneas”.



In 2019 David continues to travel through the US. He recently performed in New York City at the Lincoln Center as one of the featured vocalists on Adrian Quesada’s highly acclaimed 2018 release **Look at My Soul: The Latin Shade of Texas Soul**.

Most recently he performed at the University of Texas in Austin Texas **Laboratorio** which is the ever evolving concert series conceived and led by Carrie Rodriguez, a multitalented bilingual singer/songwriter/fiddle player from Austin, Texas at the legendary Cactus Cafe on the UT campus.

Thirty years and over 30 albums later, David Marez and People continue to tour all over the United States and Mexico. He looks forward to new challenges, breaking down cultural and musical barriers. David strives to bring people together through his music, always reminding people to keep tejano music alive. At the end of the evening as he leaves the crowd with his last performance of the night, he always manages to take it back to his tejano roots. Making sure to let them know to never forget...“Tejano is our music and where we are from.”