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THE ULTIMATE TEX-MEX SUPER GROUP IS BACK

The Texas Tornados reunite with Shawn Sahm to release 'Esta Bueno' on Bismeaux Records March 2, 2010

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(dateline – Austin, January 2010; source: Juice Consulting LLC) – The ultimate Tex-Mex super group is back - **Augie Meyers** and **Flaco Jiménez** reunite with the son of **Doug Sahm, Shawn Sahm** in a new recording that includes five previously unreleased vocal performances from the legendary **Freddy Fender**. The collection, entitled “Esta Bueno,” includes new songs written by Fender such as the swamp pop ballad “If I Could Only,” an instant new Tornados-style classic written by Doug and Shawn Sahm “Who’s to Blame, Señorita?” and several Augie Meyers songs recorded for the first time by the Tornados, such as “Velma from Selma” and “My Sugar Blue.” The album was produced by Shawn Sahm and will be released nationally by Ray Benson's **Bismeaux Records** on **March 2, 2010**.

Playing together again for the first time since the ‘90s and feeling what Shawn calls “the Tornado vibe,” the group enlisted Shawn to take over and “drive the bus” for their first album in over a decade. His goal for the record was “to keep it a straight up Tex-Mex rock and roll record.” When they first began recording, Shawn was very pleased but not surprised to hear them “sounding like they are playing at the top of their game.” He states, “When you hear this record, you hear why they are the legends they are.”

Shawn Sahm has been around the music since he was 13 and was the perfect person to entrust with preserving the Tornado’s legacy. He fine-tuned each track according to the group’s feedback giving each detail serious attention. Throughout the process, he insisted to all of them, “It is not done until you are happy.” For the release of the album, Ray Benson’s label, Bismeaux Records in Austin, was an obvious choice. Shawn comments, “Everyone knew they had a great record and they felt it would be important to go with someone who understood the legacy of the Texas Tornados. I knew Ray was the right guy. They have been friends for a long time. If anyone understood the legacy of the band, it was Ray.”

“Having known the original Texas Tornadoes, I was delighted when Shawn brought me the tracks of the NEW Texas Tornadoes CD,” said Ray Benson. “Besides the wonderful Freddy Fender songs recorded shortly before his passing, Augie, Flaco and Shawn have recorded an album true to the Tornados sound and vision. I am honored to present their CD on Bismieux Records for old fans and I am sure a host of new ones, too.”

In addition to the featured members, the recordings include Tornado original musicians Louie Ortega, Speedy Sparks and Ernie Durawa. Flaco Jiménez states, “The groove is back.”

Tracks include:

1. Who's To Blame, Señorita?
2. If I Could Only
3. My Sugar Blue
4. They Don't Make 'Em Like I Like
5. Velma From Selma
6. Tennessee Blues
7. Esta Bueno
8. Ahora Yo Voy
9. Chicano
10. Another Shot of Ambition
11. In Heaven There is No Beer
12. Llevame
13. Girl Going Nowhere

For more information about The Texas Tornados, see www.thetexastornados.com

About Bismieux Records:

Bismieux Records is the Austin, Texas home of artists such as Asleep at the Wheel, Willie Nelson, Carolyn Wonderland, Jason Roberts, The Texas Tornados, Leon Rausch and Johnny Gimble. Most releases are produced and recorded by Benson at his state-of-the-art recording studio in south Austin. Bismieux enjoys national distribution in the U.S. through Sony/RED/MRI. Releases include: GRAMMY®-nominated “Willie and the Wheel” (2009), Carolyn Wonderland “Miss Understood” (2008), “Asleep at the Wheel with the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra” (2008), Asleep at the Wheel “Reinventing the Wheel” (2007), Asleep at the Wheel “Santa Loves to Boogie” (2007), Asleep at the Wheel “Hang Up My Spurs” (2006), “The Very Best of Asleep at the Wheel since 1970” (2005), Jason Roberts “Texas Fiddle Man” (2004). For more information on Bismieux Records, see www.bismieuxrecords.com

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For information about the release or general media inquiries, please contact **Heather Wagner** at **713 208 3891** or heather@juiceconsulting.net.



Texas Tornados Biography

The ultimate Tex-Mex super group is back! Augie Meyers and Flaco Jiménez reunite with the son of Doug Sahm, Shawn Sahm, in a new album that includes some of the final recordings of the legendary Freddy Fender. “Esta Bueno” (Translation: It’s Good) is due out March 2, 2010 on Bismeaux Records. Through triumph and tragedy, the exciting fusion of country, rock & roll, Mexican folk, R&B, polka, and various forms of roots music that the Tornados are known for returns to the stage with much anticipation.

A classic example of the whole being greater than the sum of its parts, the GRAMMY[®] winning Texas Tornados came together in the early ‘90s with Doug Sahm, Freddy Fender, Flaco Jiménez and Augie Meyers. Over a decade after Sahm’s death and with the more recent passing of Fender, Sahm’s son Shawn stepped up to the plate to preserve and re-ignite the group’s legacy as producer of this brand new release. He personally witnessed the Tornados at each point in their career and asserts: “They made their historical impact by playing a little of everything and not being afraid to cross the barriers in musical culture.”

Shawn initiated the revival of the project after doing a studio session with the original members of the band and feeling that charismatic “Tornado vibe that made it all happen in the first place.” His goal was to produce a straight up Tex-Mex rock and roll record. After playing with them for the first time in so many years, he found that each member of the group sounded like he was “still at the top of his game.” The new band consists of Augie Meyers, Flaco Jiménez and Shawn himself with all of their original backing musicians – Louie Ortega on second guitar, Speedy Sparks on bass, Ernie Durawa on drums, and joining them for this record are new additions Michael Guerra on Bajo Sexto and Nuni Rubio for the additional vocals.

“Every time we get on stage, it’s like a new day for us, like our first time. I don’t know how to explain it,” said Augie. “And Shawn taking Doug’s place, when he sings and plays guitar, it sounds like Doug. So much sometimes the hair on the back of my neck stands up!”

As producer of the album, Shawn always reassured each member that, “it’s not done until you’re happy.” “The guys just let me take the lead and run with it,” he said. “They were trusting the guy whose objective was to make a great record and to make sure they were happy with it. The reconvening had a lot of positive vibes to it. We

were all really happy to be there. The recordings were very festive and everyone was very up. And we knew we had a good record. Everyone loved making this project happen.”

Right down to choosing songs for the album, whether new or from the past, he selected the tracks based on the group’s feedback, which he considers “a very organic way of making a record.” They began recording at Wire Recording and continued at Bismieux Records out of Austin, Texas, which will also be the label to release the album in March of 2010.

When it came to choosing a label, Shawn explains, “Everyone knew they had a great record, and they felt it would be important to go with someone who understood the legacy of the Texas Tornados.” Shawn thought Bismieux Studio owner and producer, Ray Benson (40 year front man of Asleep at the Wheel) was the right guy. He adds “They have been friends for a long time. If anyone understood the legacy of the band, it was Ray.”

This will be the first studio recording since 1996 and will include new songs written by Fender such as the swamp pop ballad “If I Could Only,” an instant Tornados-style classic written by Doug and Shawn Sahm entitled “Who’s to Blame, Señorita?” and several Augie Meyers songs recorded for the first time by the Tornados, such as “Velma from Selma” and “My Sugar Blue.”

A previously unreleased demo track that the Tornados recorded in the ‘90s will be included as a bonus track with the iTunes digital album release. “Girl Going Nowhere,” written and sung by Doug Sahm, “is one of those songs that I always thought was one of the last great Dad originals and people really deserve to hear it,” says Shawn Sahm. “The coolest thing about it is that it’s the Tornado cats playing on the track, so it makes sense to include it on this record.”

As Flaco Jiménez states, “The groove is there. Shawn sounds just like his dad - even looks like him. When we’re performing it seems like Doug is there with us, or even Freddy because we do his tunes as well. It hasn’t changed even though they’re not here with us. We didn’t lose the groove.”

The complete track listing is as follows:

1. Who’s To Blame, Señorita? – written by Doug and Shawn Sahm together while “cruisin’ in the Caddy,” Shawn added the finishing touches to this track and decided to include it on the album
2. If I Could Only – one of the last songs ever written by Freddy Fender which for Shawn has the “quintessential Freddy Fender vibe”

3. My Sugar Blue – an Augie Meyers song from the '70s
4. They Don't Make 'Em Like I Like – a “tongue-in-cheek” Freddy Fender song
5. Velma From Selma - a catchy “classic Augie” song which up until now The Tornados have only performed live.
6. Tennessee Blues – a new “Tex-Mex waltz” version of Bobby Charles’ classic originally recorded during the Sahm and Band Atlantic sessions with Jerry Wexler
7. Esta Bueno – a new classic from the comedic mind of Augie Meyers
8. Ahora Yo Voy – Freddy Fender’s “Spanish Sir Douglas Quintet” track
9. Chicano - a tribute to its author Doug Sahm, Flaco Jiménez steps in on vocals in his memory
10. Another Shot of Ambition – a “Tex-Mex’d and Tornado-ized” Freddy Fender original
11. In Heaven There Is No Beer – the German polka song Flaco made one of his signature tunes
12. Llevame – a festive salsa track written by Louie Ortega
13. Girl Going Nowhere – A lost track from the Texas Tornados recording session in the 1990s, written and sung by Doug Sahm

The Texas Tornados origin can be traced back to the '60s when Doug and Augie formed a lifelong friendship over a baseball card collection. They performed together with the Sir Douglas Quintet whose albums went gold and platinum throughout their career both in the States and abroad. Their first hit, “She’s About a Mover,” came out in the late '60s and opened many doors for them, eventually earning *Texas Monthly’s* recognition decades later as number one on their 2004 list “[The 100 Best Texas Songs](#).” The band worked with artists like Jerry Garcia, Janis Joplin, Chuck Berry and Frank Zappa on various projects, and also worked with the Grateful Dead’s Dan Healy on tracks that showed them world-wide success with hits like their third album’s title track “Mendocino” which also topped the charts. Young Shawn Sahm started playing music with his dad at age 13, and in the early '80s, he went on to tour and record for the Sir Douglas Quintet for their 1981 “Border Wave” album release. In the '90s, the band worked with Q Prime founder Cliff Burnstein (Metallica) to release a CD for Elektra Records, and they continued to tour domestically and internationally.

Individually, Doug and Augie sought out numerous musical collaborations and projects – one of which led Doug to work independently on the “Doug Sahm and Band” record that Jerry Wexler produced in the early '70s. It included collaborations with industry greats such as Bob Dylan, Dr. John and Augie himself, and ultimately led Doug to bring button accordion master Flaco Jiménez to New York for the very first time. In the mid-1970s, Doug was responsible for Freddy Fender’s comeback bringing him out of retirement and back into the studio.

In 1989, the paths of the Tornados converged. Originally billed as the Tex-Mex Revue, Doug reunited with Augie and brought in Flaco Jiménez and Freddy Fender to play for a full house at Slim’s (a San Francisco rock and

blues club owned by Boz Scaggs). Each member has reflected upon this show as the beginning of the Texas Tornados since the energy they felt on stage was “undeniable.” Flaco and Freddy were mutually accomplished individually as Doug and Augie. Flaco, known for his five-time GRAMMY® winning talent on the Conjunto accordion, is an international icon for the Conjunto genre taking lead from his father, Santiago Jiménez Sr., who has been called the “father” of Conjunto music. He has worked with numerous artists including the Rolling Stones, Dwight Yoakam, Linda Ronstadt, Emmylou Harris, Willie Nelson, Asleep at the Wheel, Bob Dylan and Dr. John.

Equally as established in the industry, Tex-Mex sensation Freddy Fender is known for his solo hits “Before the Next Teardrop Falls” and “Wasted Days and Wasted Nights” which contributed to his becoming recognized as one of the only Hispanic stars in country music. In the ‘90s, Augie shared the stage with fellow legends the Allman Brothers, Tom Waits, John Hammond and Bob Dylan with whom he also recorded the tracks “Time Out of Mind” and “Love and Theft.” Finally, among many other accolades, Doug Sahm went on to grace the cover of Rolling Stone magazine *twice* in his long career.

Together as the Texas Tornados, they won a GRAMMY® award for best Mexican American performance for “Soy De San Luis” from their self-titled debut album, which they recorded in English and Spanish versions. It spawned other well-known classics as “Who Were You Thinkin’ Of,” “(Hey Baby) Que Paso” and “She Never Spoke to Me in Spanish.” Their popularity earned them invitations to perform at President Clinton’s inaugural ball, the David Letterman Show, the Montreaux Jazz Festival, and they performed multiple times at Farm Aid and the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

The Tornados disbanded in 1999 after Doug Sahm’s passing, but as Shawn puts it, “the Sahm family makes music – that is what we do.” To honor his best friend and father and continue “crossing the barriers in musical culture,” Shawn prompted the reunion of the Texas Tornados which ultimately resulted in the forthcoming release of “Esta Bueno.” Shawn was able to convince Fender to write one of what turned out to be one of the last songs he ever wrote before lung cancer claimed his life in 2006. These vocal performances will be featured on five previously unreleased tracks to be included on “Esta Bueno.”

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