

Transnational dialogues: Intercambios Jarocho/os y Chicana/os

Russell Rodríguez
University of California, Santa Cruz

Within the past twenty years, a fruitful dialogue has developed between musicians of the Jarocho communities in Veracruz and musicians of Chicano communities in California, specifically around the form of the son jarocho. This relationship has also flourished from a mutual respect for each other's identities and talents, and from the recognition of similar social and political conditions: specifically being musical communities marginalized from the recording industries as well as being marginalized communities within their respective nations. Utilizing a method of “practicing and creating” music style, form, and sonic textures, a wonderful display of production, diffusion, and sharing between these two communities has occurred. This is a shift of a more common method of “preservation and promotion,” of “traditional” music, which has restrained a Chicano presence within the practice Mexican cultural expressions. In utilizing the former method Jarocho/os and Chicana/os collectively contribute to new emerging voices in traditional and contemporary musical forms.