



How Mexico Learned To Polka

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Morning Edition

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Legendary norteño group Los Alegres de Terán, in a promotional still from the 1976 documentary *Chulas Fronteras*.

Courtesy of The Arhoolie Foundation Frontera Archive/UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center Press



TINY DESK
CONCERTS

Flaco Jimenez:

A casual listener would be forgiven for not knowing one kind of accordion music from another. But



Tiny Desk Concert

where two cultures in particular are concerned, the similarity comes with a century-old backstory involving immigration and imitation.

On the 76th birthday of Flaco Jimenez — one of the instrument's most celebrated living players — *Morning Edition* asks how the accordion-heavy folk music of northern Mexico came to sound so much like the polkas and waltzes of Eastern Europe. Hear the conversation, featuring Felix Contreras of NPR's *Alt.Latino* and Chris Strachwitz of Arhoolie Records, at the audio link.

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