



Los Super 7 “**Heard It On The X**” Telarc Records

The album title is a reference to the high-powered Mexican radio stations that blasted music across America's border and into its heartland [and even farther a field] from the 1930's through the 1960's. As for Los Super 7, artist manager Dan Goodman's concept amounts to a floating assembly of musicians and on their third outing, the line-up consists of *regulars* [*] Freddy Fender, Ruben Ramos, Rick Trevino, Raul Malo and Joe Ely, plus *new boys* Delbert McClinton, Lyle Lovett, John Hiatt, Rodney Crowell and Clarence “Gatemoth” Brown. Seven of the foregoing decade of musicians were born, bred and musically learned their trade in Texas, plus, I guess, Louisiana born Brown qualifies by adoption and residency. In a support role there's a rather prominent contribution from Tuscon, Arizona roots band Calexico, a slew of well-known Texas pickers pitch in with a ton of licks, plus there's the sound of San Antonio's West Side Horns – but, unlike the previous pair of releases - there's no musical or production input from Los Lobos. The liner notes penned by Billy Gibbons of Texas power rock trio ZZ Top, pay tribute to the generations whose musical identity was moulded by those border radio stations. The penultimate track and album title track, penned by ZZ Top, is performed by Austin's legendary Tex-Mex vocalist Ruben Ramos. ZZ Top introduced this rowdy tribute tune to the world on their 1975 live/studio album “**Fandango!**”

Back in the days of the “X” instead of being hog-tied by rigid formatting, countless genres of music comfortably rubbed shoulders on the airwaves with grace and ease. In pursuit of recalling/replicating the latter approach “**Heard It On The X**” boils down, quite simply, to a toe tapping, fun-filled delight. Lyrically this collection is a shallow pool, but as background music it's one hell of a goodtime romp through the rhythms of Tex-Mex, country, blues, R&B and good old rock ‘n’ roll music.

The Mavericks' Raul Malo opens the proceedings with the amusing, high energy Tex-Mex concoction “The El Burro Song,” penned by Calexico's Joey Burns. Malo sets a high benchmark for the others, and there are no subsequent failures on this celebration of a broadcasting era now sadly consigned to the pages of history. History, you say? Are you ready for some music [pretty much] bred in Texas? Yes? The hell you say! Well how about.....penned by the late black character actor Joe Seneca, Delbert McClinton delivers a soulfully blue reading of “Talk To Me,” a cut made famous by late fifties San Antonio band Sunny [Ozuna] & The Sunliners. Malo's second bite of the cherry finds him working out on the late Doug Sahm's “The Song Of Everything,” and also drawn from Sahm's song catalogue we have Indiana John Hiatt's rockin' effort, “I'm Not That Kat [Anymore].” Joe Ely races his way through a brassy rendition of Bobby Fuller's “Let Her Dance,” Crowell croons on Buddy Holly's familiar “Learning The Game,” while Lovett indulges in some western swing on the old Bob Wills favourite “My Window Faces South.” The album also features Willie Dixon's “I Live The Life I Love” performed by Delbert McClinton, and the Spanish songs amount to “Cupido” and “Ojitos Traidores.” Messrs Fender and Trevino duet on the former high-energy love song, while Trevino alone delivers the mariachi flavoured latter cut. Supported by Charlie Sexton on acoustic guitar, Clarence “Gatemoth” Brown closes the disc with Texan Blind Lemon Jefferson's “See That My Grave Is Left Clean.”

The disc was recorded over a seven-day period in late September last year, and “**Heard It On The X**” was produced by the one time guitar prodigy and 100% Texan Charlie Sexton, along with Los Super 7 initiator Dan Goodman plus his sidekick Rick Clark. Is there any doubt that this is another Grammy nomination *shoe in*?

Note.

[*] – Based on their appearance on at least one previous Lost Super 7 disc.

Folkwax Rating 9 out of 10

Arthur Wood

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