

## Los Super 7 – Bio

A floating aggregation of musicians, the first version of Los Super 7 performed together on the back porch of the Las Manitas Restaurant on Congress Avenue, Texas during the 1997 South By South West Music Conference. This, literally, impromptu performance featured Texas Tornados Doug Sahm and Augie Meyers, Joe Ely, Rick Trevino and Rosie Flores. What began as a one off show conceived by artist manager Dan Goodman, in pursuit of his interest in Tex-Mex border music, quickly developed into a recording project. The original recorded line-up of Los Super 7 featured David Hidalgo and Cesar Rosas of Los Lobos, solo performer Joe Ely, Freddy Fender and Flaco Jimenez of Texas Tornados, plus Austin's Ricky Trevino and Ruben Ramos. Guests on the disc included the late Doug Sahm, bajo sexto player Max Baca, accordionist Joel Guzman and the mariachi group Campanos de America. Mostly featuring traditional and contemporary songs sung in Spanish, it also included Ely's version of Guthrie's "Plane Wreck At Los Gatos [Deportee]." The self-titled debut album by Los Super 7, recorded at Cedar Creek studio in Austin during April 1998 and produced by Los Lobos alumni Steve Berlin, went on to win the Grammy for Best Mexican-American Music Performance. It was also nominated for a Best Recording Package Grammy.

The second 7 album "**Canto**" [2001], also produced by Berlin, once more featured his Los Lobos buddies, Hidalgo and Rosas, augmented as before by Rick Trevino and Ruben Ramos, plus Peru's Susana Baca, Brazil's Caetano Veloso, as well as Alberto Salas, Wil Dog Abers, Ruben Rodriguez, Cougar Estrada, Billy West and Raul Malo [The Mavericks]. "**Canto**" was nominated for a 2002 Best Traditional Tropical Album Grammy, and on this occasion the main thrust of the music was a marriage of Caribbean and South America rhythms. Where the first album was released by the RCA label, "**Canto**" was a Sony recording.

"**Heard It On The X**," the third outing by this *flexible supergroup*, was released by the TelArc label during late March 2005. The melodic theme on this occasion was the varied mix of music broadcast by the Mexican based border radio stations that thrived commercially during the mid twentieth century. On this occasion the line-up of vocalists amounted to time served contributors Joe Ely, Freddy Fender, Raul Malo, Ruben Ramos and Rick Trevino, while the new faces were Delbert McClinton, Rodney Crowell, John Hiatt, Lyle Lovett and Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown. Taking over the Los Lobos role of house band was the Tucson, Arizona based outfit Calxico, augmented by some of Austin's finest pickers, plus San Antonio's West Side Horns. The third Los Super 7 collection was produced by guitarist Charlie Sexton [Joe Ely, Michael Fracasso, Bob Dylan], aided by *instigator of the 7* Dan Goodman, and music historian Rick Clark.

Discography : "**Los Super 7**" [1998] ; "**Canto**" [2001] ; "**Heard It On The X**" [2005] :

**Arthur Wood**

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