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Weekly Contribution: History of Corridos

A Journey Through Time: The Evolution and Influence of Corridos in Mexican Music

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Corridos are a traditional form of Mexican folk music that originated in the early 19th century. Initially, corridos were narrative ballads sung to tell stories of historical events, political struggles, and tales of heroism and rebellion. They were often passed down orally, preserving the collective memory of significant events. During the Mexican Revolution (1910-1920), corridos became a powerful tool for spreading news and propaganda among the masses. They recounted the exploits of revolutionary figures and conveyed the sentiments of the people during this tumultuous period.

In the mid-20th century, corridos evolved to encompass a broader range of themes, including love, betrayal, and social issues. This era saw the emergence of legendary corrido singers such as Chalino Sánchez and Los Tigres del Norte, who popularized the genre both in Mexico and among Mexican-American communities in the United States. In recent decades, corridos have undergone a resurgence in popularity, particularly within the genre known as narcocorridos, which glorify the lives of drug traffickers and outlaws. While controversial, narcocorridos continue to be widely consumed, reflecting the complexities of contemporary Mexican society.

Despite the changes and controversies surrounding corridos, they remain an integral part of Mexican cultural heritage, serving as a means of storytelling, social commentary, and cultural expression. Their enduring popularity illustrates their significance in Mexican music and the enduring power of narrative storytelling.