

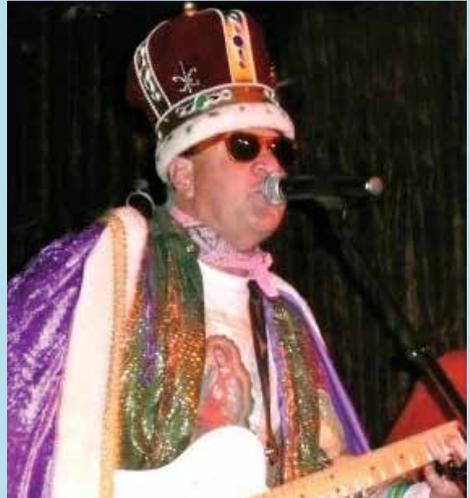
ITS A PARTY PARTY WEEKEND!

Joe King Carrasco in Concert Roddy Tree Ranch - Ingram, TX Review by Brandon Curtis

There's a reason Joe King Carrasco is hailed as one of the most influential figures in Texas music culture. Known as the "King" of the Tex-Mex genre, Carrasco is known to deliver a truly captivating experience through his Latin rhythms and his exquisite blending of multi-cultural tonal flavors. His unique style provides a fresh approach to the typical mariachi and polka ballad, and although Spanish guitars and steel drums are lacking, even Tex-Mex purists can find artistic beauty in Carrasco's performances.

While many may only see Carrasco as an exclusive Texan musician, his passport and personality speak volumes of the locations that influence his musical identity. In the early stages of his career Carrasco frequented between Austin and Los Angeles, not only to benefit from their eclectic live-music venues, but also for the opportunities to develop his own musical persona. Touring in the South American countries of Colombia and Bolivia exposed Carrasco to the rich melodies and nuances of the distinct Spanish-American cultures that pervade throughout his artistic work. Even his own style is a reflection of his personal influences. As a teenager he was profoundly inspired by musicians like Doug Sahm and the Tornados, Julieta Venegas, and vocalists from the Blues era. Within the upbeat pulses of his Tex-Mex tracks are inter-genre overtones, often taking the form of a wild guitar solo or vibrant variations in the percussion section.

Included in Carrasco's musical entourage during his performance at the Roddy Tree Ranch in Ingram were Albert Besteiro, Vince Mejia, and Chuggy Hernandez. To say Carrasco gave an exhilarating performance would be an understatement: at one point



during the show he cavorted down from stage, navigated through the floor of dancers and jumped onto a table to display his prowess of playing his guitar behind his head. The crowd was also treated to an impromptu accordion solo from Fritz Morquecho who joined Carrasco improvising with the band during the set. Carrasco himself is an improviser who considers the art as essential to musicianship as being able to read sheet music.

Music is an outlet for expression Carrasco said.

(There is a) fine balance between reading and improvisation.

Considering his induction into the Texas Music Hall of Fame and his growing fan base, Joe King Carrasco is undoubtedly one of Tex-Mex music's most profound individuals. When not touring throughout the Americas, Carrasco can be found entertaining at his famous Nacho Daddy restaurant and bar in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, where he currently resides. Due to his dynamic concert experiences and explosive antics, it's no surprise that many know Carrasco not only as a patriarch of Tex-Mex but also as the original "Party King."