

RECORD COLLECTOR MAY ISSUE 2010



Those degenerate corronchos, Lucho Brieve (left) and Phil Manzanera (right).

Corroncho

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★★★

Expression EXPCD 27

You've done The Strand, now do the pasadoble

Where villains redefine "nasty" and heroes are anti-hero desperadoes, South America is a fertile breeding ground for all manner of unsavoury types to come rolling in and out of its fictional cultural tapestry. Pick up any Roberto Bolaño novel and you're likely to struggle through an alternately-fascinated-and-horrified tug-of-war with the emotions.

Corroncho is far from as depraved but, sort of recounting the tale of two "corronchos" rolling into town looking to steal your women, it's infused with that same edge-of-the-world sensibility. Amazingly, it's also spearheaded by Roxy Music's Phil Manzanera, here hooking up with Colombian artist and

sculptor Lucho Brieve to take you through a brief history of Latin American music in 12 tracks. From Tex Mex hoedowns to salsa, cumbio and bolero, it's a neat little journey that, though all sung in Latin, manages to get it all across through *duende*-filled laments and Manzanera's coruscating guitar lines on the tracks dealing most directly with its protagonists.

With some reggaeton here and modern beats sitting behind salsa's onion'n'garlic sizzle, you're likely to be too busy voting with your feet than you are caring about the story. Just know that, one false move, and you'll be celebrating The Night Of The Whores before you can say *aurele*. Jason Draper