

QUINTANILLA PÉREZ, SELENA (1971–1995)

The incomparable Tejana singer, Selena Quintanilla Pérez “Selena”, was born in Lake Jackson, Texas. When he discovered his daughter’s talents, Selena’s father organized a band engaging her older siblings in the venture. They sang at the family’s Tex-Mex restaurant but soon began to tour. Selena’s first television appearance was on The Johnny Canales Show and while the group originally sang Country and Western, they soon incorporated pop, African American, R&B, funk and disco into their repertoire. But it was in the Texas Mexican music scene that she would leave her mark. The group’s rendition of “La carcacha,” “Bibi bidi bom bom,” and “Techno cumbia,” Tejano cumbias brought a new distinctive sound to the music world that went well beyond the Tejano border. Their albums included *Alpha* (1986), *Dulce amor* (1988), *Preciosa* (1988), *Selena y los Dinos* (1990), *Ven conmigo* (1991), *Entre a mi mundo* (1992), *Selena Live* (1993), *Amor prohibido* (1994), and *Dreaming of You* (released posthumously in 1995). While on the cusp of national stardom, Selena’s tragic death on March 31, 1995 stunned the nation. Her story is told in the Hollywood production *Selena*, the Broadway musical *Siempre Selena*, and on a video documentary *Corpus: A Home Movie for Selena*.