

Band's diversity scores

As it performs scorching R&B, mellow country-ish ballads, traditional Mexican music and frantic accordion-tainted dance tracks, Los Lobos is carving itself a permanent place in musical history.

The Los Angeles-based band's new album release, "How Will the Wolf Survive?," is diverse, delightful and, somehow, almost indescribably good.

Rolling Stone Magazine's choice for best new artist of 1984, Los Lobos sort of sneaked up on the music world. "Will the Wolf Survive?" is a clean, powerful and memorable effort that courageously takes on a relevant issue: the plight of genuinely good people struggling for survival in a cruel and harsh modern world.

Listen to beat-ridden songs like "I Got Loaded," with Steve Berlin's wonderful saxophone solo... then contrast it with folk-like ballads such as "Our Last Night." You are treated to a brief but exciting tour through some

American musical history.

David Hidalgo and Cesar Rosas trade off lead vocals, both putting on great performances, whether it's harmonizing in Spanish with an accordion in the background or howling and crooning. Production by acclaimed guitarist T-Bone Burnett and Steve Berlin is top-notch;

The diversity encountered on "How Will the Wolf Survive?" is reflective of the band's history. The band's members have been playing (and experimenting) for more than 10 years in various bands that played mainly Top 40 music. Then the Los Lobos quintet came together and spent several years rediscovering the traditional Chicano music of their heritage, first with acoustic instruments and later with electric ones.

With the change to electric guitar, Los Lobos began to break into the Los Angeles music scene. Friends like the Blasters' Alvin brothers introduced Los



Los Lobos

Courtesy Photo

Lobos to acquaintances who helped to nail down appearances at numerous nightclubs in the city. Before long, the band attracted the interest of Slash Records and soon afterward recorded an EP called "... And a Time to Dance."

As is the case with many great musicians, Los Lobos may not gain mass popularity right away. But when it does, Americans will be discovering not only a great band, but also a part of

cultural history: Mexican-American music.

Los Lobos will appear tomorrow night at 8 p.m. in the EMU Ballroom. Tickets are available at the EMU Main Desk and Earth River Records for \$7 for University students. The band is welcomed by KZAM-FM, and the show is produced by the EMU Cultural Forum.

Chris Hazen

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