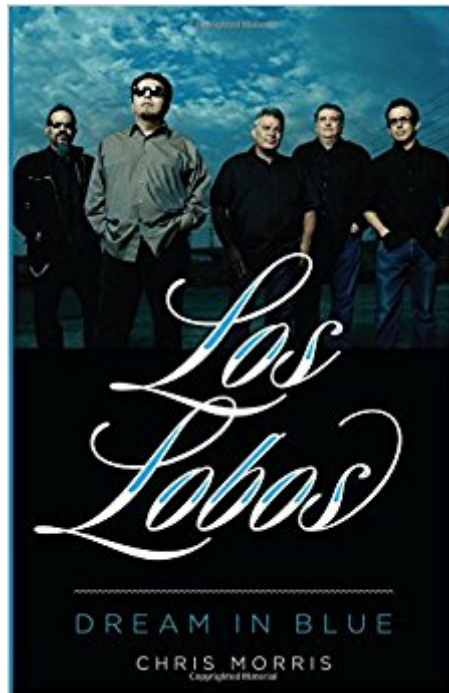




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# Los Lobos: Dream In Blue (American Music)



## Synopsis

Los Lobos leaped into the national spotlight in 1987, when their cover of "La Bamba" became a No. 1 hit. But what looked like an overnight achievement to the band's new fans was actually a way station in a long musical journey that began in East Los Angeles in 1973 and is still going strong. Across four decades, Los Lobos (Cesar Rosas, Conrad Lozano, David Hidalgo, Louie Páez, and Steve Berlin) have ranged through virtually the entire breadth of American vernacular music, from rockabilly to primal punk rock, R&B to country and folk, Mexican son jarocho to Tex-Mex conjunto and Latin American cumbia. Their sui generis sound has sold millions of albums and won acclaim from fans and critics alike, including three Grammy Awards. *Los Lobos*, the first book on this unique band, traces the entire arc of the band's career. Music journalist Chris Morris draws on new interviews with Los Lobos members and their principal collaborators, as well as his own reporting since the early 1980s, to recount the evolution of Los Lobos's music. He describes the creation of every album, lingering over highlights such as *How Will the Wolf Survive?*, *La Pistola y El Corazon*, and *Kiko*, while following the band's trajectory from playing Mexican folk music at weddings and dances in East L.A. to international stardom and major-label success, as well as their independent work in the new millennium. Giving one of the longest-lived and most-honored American rock bands its due, *Los Lobos* celebrates the expansive reach and creative experimentalism that few other bands can match.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A useful cultural history that is sure to please fans and musicologists." (Kirkus Reviews)"Morris's critical history will find a hungry audience." (Booklist)"Morris is the ideal teller of this tale, drawing on decades of his own fandom and reportage and a wealth of experience in both consumer and trade journalism (including long, distinguished runs at the Reader, the Hollywood Reporter and Billboard). . . . Morris writes with care and insight about each Los Lobos record, providing rich geographical, cultural, and historical context along the way." (The Huffington Post 2015-08-25)"How Los Lobos navigated the move to performing electric in front of the Mohawk-hair generation, enjoyed success with the soundtrack from La Bamba, dealt with music business missteps and never stopped experimenting and collaborating is a fascinating tale. The book was a fast read for me; I was unable to put it down. Morris excels at keeping the storyline moving with equal measures of factlets and anecdotes. . . . Dream in Blue brings into sharper focus a truer narrative of what growing up and being successful in America looks like. " (No Depression 2015-09-17)"Writer Chris Morris's new biography, Los Lobos: Dream in Blue, offers overwhelming evidence that the band deserves to glide its way into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. " (Los Angeles Times 2015-10-08)"Both informative and engrossing . . . Chris Morris is to be commended for putting the story of this most American of bands to paper, and Dream In Blue will satisfy the most ardent of fans. Highly recommended. " (The Big Takeover)"The best books about music and musicians are a direct reflection of their subjects and Chris Morris' chronicle on Los Lobos, Dream in Blue, is just such a book." (All About Jazz 2015-10-15)"Few musical acts have been as well served by their chronicler as Lobos are with Dream In Blue by Morris, a veteran Los Angeles music journalist who has seen the Wolves perform and followed their music since their first gig . . . Dream In Blue may be a short and quick read, but in its tight, fact-based richness, Morris gives Los Lobos the smart and insightful book this distinctive and distinguished musical act merits." (Best Classic Bands 2015-10-13)"Morris writes in such a way that you can almost smell and taste the smells and tastes of East L.A. in the boom of the psychedelic era and its aftermath." (PopMatters 2015-10-08)"[An] insightful and affectionate history." (Austin Chronicle 2015-12-10)"A dream of a read for fans of the Lobos." (AllMusicBooks.com 2016-02-01)"Chris Morris's Los Lobos: Dream in Blue gives both fans and critics a satisfying chronicle of Los Lobos's journey through critical and popular successes, failures, and artistic responses to the challenges faced by the ever-evolving, genre-defying group." (Southwestern American Literature 2017-01-01)"Los Lobos is a slice of pure East L.A. that I never even knew existed. Chris Morris is a wildass ethnomusicologist, social critic, raconteur, and L.A. music bon vivant for the new

millennium. Viva Chris&#x2014;El Gato de East Los." (James Ellroy, author of *Perfidia* and *The L.A. Quartet*) "With the exception of U2, no other band has stayed on top of its game as long as Los Lobos. . . . This is what happens when five guys create a magical sound, then stick together for thirty [now forty] years to see how far it can take them." (Previous review, *Rolling Stone*) . . . pioneering border fusionists, multiple Grammy winners, and one of the two indisputably most influential Chicano musical acts in history, along with Ritchie Valens." (Previous review, *Los Angeles Times*) "These peerless musicians created nothing less than the soundtrack of the Mexican American experience." (Charles Ramirez Berg, author of *Latino Images in Film*)

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Excellent chronicle of the musical evolution of one of the most innovative, entertaining and accomplished bands in American music today. From their beginning in the 70's to now, Los Lobos has always been about the music, letting their lyrics, musical prowess, versatility and musical curiosity do most of the talking. Morris takes a similar approach in this book, focusing on the band's music more than their personalities. If you're looking for an anecdote rich tell all of celebrity ups and downs and tales told out of school, this book may not be for you, although there is one somewhat disheartening story about the band's involvement in the making of Paul Simon's landmark album "Graceland". If you are interested in learning about their creative process and experience writing, producing and recording everything from "Si Si Puede" and "Just Another Band From East LA" in the mid 70's to "Tin Can Rust", this is an insightful, well researched, entertaining read with uncensored input from all the members of the band as well as a litany of music icons including Tom Waits, T Bone Burnett, Phil and Dave Alvin and many others. Morris paints a vivid picture of East Los Angeles with the resurgence of traditional Chicano music and the LA music scene in the 70's

and early 80's when punk and American music ruled the local clubs and often shared the same stage and the same audience. Los Lobos: Dream in Blue is a must have for Los Lobos fans but undoubtedly a treat for anyone interested in the culture and evolution of American music and rock and roll. Highly recommended.

The author (Chris Morris) is a long time LA music beat writer and was an integral part of the LA "Punk" scene in the early 80's that spawned Los Lobos and a host of other great acts (X, The Blasters, Dwight Yoakam...etc.). As a result, "Dream in Blue" reads very much like an LA Times Sunday spread on steroids...It's written in a chronological order with more or less equal time spent on all phases of their career concluding with "Tin Pan Trust". Overall, he gives a very even handed view on the band's output...with equal parts praise and critic. This approach, combined with his insider status and journalistic background result in an unusual music bio...this isn't a "tell all" tale or one of gushing fandom proclaiming genius on every other page...instead, its simply a fantastic behind the scenes account of the bands music and overall career arc of this great band. Fans of the band or the 80's LA roots/punk scene will love this and it paints a vivid of their early success and touches a number of the key LA roots/punk bands operating during that time frame. Because of that this is one of the best trips down memory lane I have gone on in quite a while...now all we need is a book on the Blasters!

Chris Morris has written a most perfect, concise and thorough review of East LA's treasured heroes. The book is also fascinating in that it's also a great history of rock and roll's influence on East LA. The book is a great quick read. To the point and fascinating with no filler at all. My only hope is that Chris may one day do the same treatment for The Blasters and the city of Downey. Buy this book. You will be thrilled.

Greetings fellow Los Lobos fans,My name is Michael Cano and I am writing this review from the page of my lovely wife Patricia Faragher.Too bad I can only click Five Stars, as this remarkable book deserves many more than that. I have been a Lobos fan for many, many years now, ever since I heard them back in 1982, via their stirring and stunning EP; "...and A Time To Dance." of which I still listen to with stunning regularity to this day. I have followed the band in earnest ever since and eagerly await each new release.That said, I cannot recommend more highly, this book on the band, written by Mr. Chris Morris, longtime music journalist and great and loyal friend of the Los Angeles music scene, in all its configurations over the decades. (Yes, the same Chris Morris who

wrote those passionately literate liner notes for the Blasters box set, and the same Chris Morris who appears in the legendary Minutemen documentary, "We Jam Econo.")Mr. Morris gives readers a beautiful birds-eye view on both the formation of the band and the music they have and continue to create, and we are all the richer for it.I consumed this tome over the course of one full day, completely enraptured by the stories and text that Mr. Morris provides, and I do believe that you will be, also.More than recommended, this book should be required.I thank you for your time and attention.

Chris Morris REALLY captures the "dang, what a gift to have seen/heard Los Lobos live back-then" mojo. He puts the reader in the band's corner, sheds light on their rich roots & motivations, and by the end has everyone locking arms and swaying to "Volver Volver" & trading in their Paul Simon 8-tracks for Lalo Guerrero tattoos.Los Lobos are a gift to Los Angeles and beyond. They are your brothers-if you were lucky enough to have brothers who inspired you.I was there and this book accurately tells me what the heck I was seeing and has me going all over .com for Los Lobos related influences. It's Book Award Time!

I LOVE LOS LOBOS. WHAT A GREAT BIO.LEARNED SOME NEW STUFF. LIKE SOME OF THEM LIVE NOT TO FAR FROM WERE I GREW UP. SO THAT IS REAL KOOL.

So much of Los Angeles' cultural musical revolution of the late 70s/early 80s has yet to be properly documented, so what a joy to find Morris' excellent historical bio on LA's favorite - if often forgotten - sons. Whether you know their career intimately, or only have a passing knowledge of this tremendous band, it is an entertaining and fascinating read. Five stars.

Bought as a gift and about to buy myself one. If you a los lobos fan it a must have. I only read the first chapter and already a great book!

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