

= A Puro Dolor =

" A Puro Dolor " is a song recorded by Puerto Rican band Son by Four . It was written by Omar Alfanno and released as the first single of the second studio album of the band in 2000 . Two versions of the track were produced for the album ; one as a salsa and the other as a ballad . The ballad version was arranged by Alejandro Jaén .

The song reached number @-@ one on Billboard Top Latin Songs chart , and became the longest running chart topper of its history , spending 20 weeks at the top ; this record was broken five years later by Colombian singer @-@ songwriter Shakira with " La Tortura " which spent 25 weeks at number @-@ one . " A Puro Dolor " also reached the Billboard 100 ; this led to the recording of an English @-@ language version of the track " Purest of Pain " , which was also charted in the United States .

The composition also met with critical acclaim receiving the Lo Nuestro Award , the Billboard Music Award and a Latin Grammy Award nomination . In 2009 , " A Puro Dolor " was named the best @-@ performing Latin single of the 2000s decade in the United States . Two music videos were made for the ballad and the English versions . The record was covered by Mexican group Dinora y la Juventud and Brazilian boy band KLB both of which received radio airplay .

= = Background and composition = =

In 1998 , Son by Four released their first album , *Prepárense* . The success of the singles " Nada " and " No Hay Razón " , distributed in Puerto Rico by the independent label RJO , captured the attention of the Sony Music CEO Oscar Llord , who made an agreement with RJO to re @-@ release the album and start the recording sessions of the next album . The first single taken from the following album was " A Puro Dolor " , written and arranged by Panamanian record producer Omar Alfanno , with a ballad version arranged by Alejandro Jaén . Alfanno , well known for his work with salsa recording singers Marc Anthony , Víctor Manuelle , Jerry Rivera and Gilberto Santa Rosa was in charge of the album production . Alfanno declared that he wrote the song in ten minutes , and that after the success of the track , he analyzed the composition , since he did not understand how " A Puro Dolor " became that popular . He named it " the Cinderella of all his songs . "

= = Critical reception = =

The song was released in the United States and Puerto Rico in February 2000 . It became very successful with the ballad and tropical / salsa versions setting an airplay record for a Latin single with 23 @.@ 4 million impressions in those countries . The reaction to the song was intense , and Son by Four was asked to record an English @-@ language version of the track . This version , titled " Purest of Pain " , was serviced to English @-@ speaking radio stations in May 2000 . The success of the song took by surprise the leader of the band , Ángel López , who told *Billboard* magazine : " When they told us we were going to be signed by Columbia for the single , we flipped . " A ranchera version was also recorded for the Regional Mexican audience . About the song , López also declared that " has something everybody can relate to . We 're adults , we 've been all through that [ rejection ] . The way the song reaches out to people is outstanding . " In his album review for *AllMusic* , Evan C. Gutierrez declared that " A Puro Dolor " set " an impossibly high standard for the rest of the playlist . "

Son by Four received seven Billboard Latin Music Award nominations in 2001 for " Hot Latin Track of the Year " , " Pop Track of the Year " and " Tropical / Salsa Track of the Year " ( " A Puro Dolor " ) ; " Tropical / Salsa Album of the Year , New Artist " and " Tropical / Salsa Album of the Year , Group " ( Son by Four ) ; and " Billboard Latin 50 Artist of the Year " and " Hot Latin Track Artist of the Year " . With further nominations for Alfanno as " Songwriter of the Year " and Jaén for " Producer of the Year " . Son by Four won all the awards , and Alfanno won the award for the writing of the song .

At the Lo Nuestro Awards of 2001 , the group earned six awards ; among them " Pop Song of the Year " and " Tropical Song of the Year " . Alfanno also received a Latin Grammy Award nomination

for the Best Tropical Song , which it lost to " El Niágara en Bicicleta " by Juan Luis Guerra . " A Puro Dolor " was given three Billboard Music Award in 2000 for Latin Track of the Year , Latin Pop Track of the Year , and Tropical / Salsa Track of the Year . At the 2001 ASCAP Latin Music Awards , Alfanno was awarded " Song of the Year " and " Pop / Balada Song of the Year " for his composition of the song and was named Songwriter of the Year . In 2015 , " A Puro Dolor " ranked # 35 on Billboard 's Best Latin Songs of All Time .

= = Promotion = =

To promote the single , Son by Four opened a Ricky Martin live performance in the Madison Square Garden in New York City . They also did a concert with the R & B trio Destiny 's Child , and were presented in the 1st Latin Grammy Awards along with the boy band N 'Sync , performing the medley " A Puro Dolor " / " Purest of Pain " with " This I Promise You " / " Yo Te Voy a Amar " . The song was featured in the Mexican telenovela Frente al Espejo , broadcast by Televisa . In 2000 , due to the success of the track in the American market , they were asked to perform on The Tonight Show hosted by Jay Leno . The salsa version of the song was included on their greatest hits album Salsa Hits ( 2001 ) and Lo Esencial ( 2008 ) and on the compilation album Salsahits 2001 ( 2000 ) .

Two music videos were made for the song ; the first one for the ballad version , and the other for the English version . The ballad version was directed by Felipe Niño . In the video , the group is shown performing the song along with an orchestra behind them . It is filmed on a stage where shows López singing his verses , while the others members of the group , follow up with the chorus . At the end of the video the people of the orchestra starts to applaud when the group ends to sing . In the English version of the video , the plot is completely different . The video starts in a cloudy afternoon after a storm , where the group is situated in a white room . It shows López singing in a ladder when it later starts to fill with water . At the last part of the video , it shows Son by Four singing out of the house after the storm has ended .

= = Chart performance = =

" A Puro Dolor " reached the top spot of the Billboard Top Latin Songs , Latin Pop Songs and Tropical / Salsa charts with the song spending 20 weeks at number @-@ one on the former chart . This chart run led the song to be named the best @-@ performing Latin single of the 2000s decade . In the aforementioned chart only four songs have had similar week runs at the top : " Me Enamora " by Juanes , " Te Quiero " by Flex , and " Bailando " by Enrique Iglesias featuring Descemer Bueno and Gente De Zona with 20 weeks each , and " La Tortura " by Shakira featuring Alejandro Sanz with 25 non @-@ consecutive weeks at the top . " Purest of Pain " , the English version of the track , peaked at number twenty @-@ six in the Billboard Hot 100 chart and ranked 61 at the Billboard Year @-@ End Hot 100 singles of 2000 . This exposure led to the parent album to receive a Gold certification in Argentina , Mexico , and the United States . " A Puro Dolor " ranked 1st at the Hot Latin Songs 25th Anniversary chart . " Purest of Pain " was also a modest success in Europe where it peaked at number seven and eighteen in the Flanders and Wallonia regions of Belgium and number three in the Netherlands .

= = Formats and track listings = =

= = Charts = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

The credits are adapted from the Son by Four liner notes .  
Oscar Llord - executive producer

Omar Alfanno ? songwriting , production  
Ángel López ? lead vocals  
Son by Four ? chorus  
E. Ender - songwriting ( " Purest of Pain " )  
M. Lord - songwriting ( " Purest of Pain " )

= = Other recordings = =

In 2000 , Mexican group Dinora y la Juventud performed a cover " A Puro Dolor " in cumbia music . Their version peaked at number forty @-@ six on the Hot Latin Songs chart and number fifteen on the Billboard Regional Mexican Songs chart . The success of their cover led to the group receiving a Lo Nuestro Award for New Regional Mexican Artist of the Year . A music video for the song was filmed for the group .

Piska , a Brazilian producer and composer , wrote the lyrics for a cover version of the song , which was recorded by the boy band KLB , and released in their eponymous debut album under the title " A Dor Desse Amor " . It was later released as a single , and became the group 's first single to play in radio stations in the country . The cover became a hit ; it was the tenth most @-@ played song in Brazilian radios in 2000 . A music video , directed by Preta Gil , was filmed for KLB .

In 2009 , Son by Four recorded a new version of the track for their studio album Abba Nuestro which did not have López 's involvement as he left the band in 2003 . López himself recorded a new version of the track on his studio album Historias de Amor ( 2010 ) which features a cover of Alfanno 's other compositions which was produced by Alfanno . He also recorded it as a duet with fellow Puerto Rican singer Ana Isabelle on her studio album Mi Sueño ( 2010 ) .