

= Selena =

Selena Quintanilla @-@ Pérez (Spanish : [se?lena kinta?ni?a ?pe?e?] or [se?lena kinta?ni?a ?pe?es]) (April 16 , 1971 ? March 31 , 1995) was an American singer , songwriter , spokesperson , actress , and fashion designer . Called the Queen of Tejano music , her contributions to music and fashion made her one of the most celebrated Mexican @-@ American entertainers of the late 20th century . Billboard magazine named her the " top Latin artist of the ' 90s " , the " best selling Latin artist of the decade " . She was called the " Tejano Madonna " for her clothing choices , by media outlets . She also ranks among the most influential Latin artists of all @-@ time and is credited for catapulting a music genre into the mainstream market .

The youngest child of the Quintanilla family , she debuted on the music scene in 1980 as a member of the band Selena y Los Dinos , which also included her elder siblings A.B. Quintanilla and Suzette Quintanilla . Selena began recording professionally in 1982 . In the 1980s , she was often criticized and was refused bookings at venues across Texas for performing Tejano music ? a male @-@ dominated music genre . However , her popularity grew after she won the Tejano Music Award for Female Vocalist of the Year in 1986 , which she won nine consecutive times . Selena signed with EMI Latin in 1989 and released her self @-@ titled debut album the same year , while her brother became her principal music producer and songwriter .

Selena released Entre a Mi Mundo (1992) , which peaked at number one on the U.S. Billboard Regional Mexican Albums chart for 19 nonconsecutive weeks . The album 's commercial success led music critics to call the album the " breakthrough " recording of her musical career . One of its singles , " Como La Flor " , became one of her most popular signature songs . Live ! (1993) won Best Mexican / American Album at the 1994 Grammy Awards , becoming the first recording by a Tejano artist to do so . In 1994 , Selena released Amor Prohibido , which became one of the best @-@ selling Latin albums in the United States . It was critically acclaimed as being responsible for Tejano music 's first marketable era as it became one of the most popular Latin music subgenres at the time . Selena began recording English @-@ language songs for her crossover album .

Aside from music , Selena was active in her community and donated her time to civic causes . Coca @-@ Cola appointed her its spokesperson in Texas . Selena became a sex icon ; she was often criticized for wearing suggestive outfits in light of her comments about being a role model for young women . Selena and her guitarist , Chris Pérez , eloped in April 1992 after her father raised concerns over their relationship . On March 31 , 1995 , Selena was shot dead by Yolanda Saldívar , her friend and former employee of her Selena Etc. boutiques . Two weeks after her death , George W. Bush ? governor of Texas at the time ? declared her birthday Selena Day in Texas . Her posthumous crossover album , Dreaming of You (1995) , debuted atop the Billboard 200 , making Selena the first Latin artist to accomplish this feat . In 1997 , Warner Bros. released Selena , a film about her life and career , which starred Jennifer Lopez as Selena . As of 2012 , Selena has sold over 60 million albums worldwide .

= = Life and career = =

= = = 1971 ? 88 : Early life and career beginnings = = =

Selena Quintanilla was born on April 16 , 1971 , in Lake Jackson , Texas . She was the youngest child of Marcella Ofelia Quintanilla (née Samora) who had Cherokee ancestry and Abraham Quintanilla , Jr . , a former Mexican American musician . Selena was raised as a Jehovah 's Witness . Quintanilla , Jr. noticed her musical abilities when she was six years old . He told People magazine , " Her timing , her pitch were perfect , I could see it from day one " . In 1980 in Lake Jackson , Quintanilla , Jr. opened his first Tex @-@ Mex restaurant , where Selena and her siblings Abraham III (on bass guitar) and Suzette Quintanilla (on drums) would often perform . The following year , the restaurant was forced to close after a recession caused by the 1980s oil glut . The family declared bankruptcy and were evicted from their home . They settled in Corpus Christi , Texas ;

Quintanilla , Jr. became manager of the newly formed band Selena y Los Dinos and began promoting it . They needed money and played on street corners , at weddings , at quinceañeras , and at fairs .

As her popularity as a singer grew , the demands of Selena 's performance and travel schedule began to interfere with her education . Her father took her out of school when she was in the eighth grade . Her teacher Marilyn Greer disapproved of Selena 's musical career . She threatened to report Quintanilla , Jr. to the Texas Board of Education , believing the conditions to which Selena was exposed were inappropriate for a girl her age . Quintanilla , Jr. told Greer to " mind her business " . Other teachers expressed their concerns when they noticed how tired Selena appeared when she arrived at school . At seventeen , Selena earned a high school diploma from the American School of Correspondence in Chicago , and was also accepted at Louisiana State University . She enrolled at Pacific Western University , taking up business administration as her major subject .

Quintanilla , Jr. refurbished an old bus ; he named it " Big Bertha " and the family used it as their tour bus . In the first years of touring , the family sang for food and barely had enough money to pay for gasoline . In 1984 , Selena recorded her first LP record , Selena y Los Dinos , for Freddie Records . Despite wanting to record English @-@ language songs , Selena recorded Tejano music compositions ; a male @-@ dominated , Spanish @-@ language genre with German influences of polka , jazz , and country music , popularized by Mexicans living in the United States . Quintanilla , Jr. believed Selena should record musical compositions related to her heritage . During the recording sessions for the album , Selena had to learn Spanish phonetically with guidance from her father . In 1985 , to promote the album , Selena appeared on the Johnny Canales Show , a popular Spanish @-@ language radio program , on which she continued to appear for several years . Selena was discovered by Rick Trevi , founder of the Tejano Music Awards , where she won the Female Vocalist of the Year award in 1987 and for nine consecutive years after . The band was often turned down by Texas music venues because of the members ' ages and because Selena was their lead singer . By 1988 , Selena had released five more LP records ; Alpha (1986) , Munequito de Trapo (1987) , And the Winner is ... (1987) , Preciosa (1988) , and Dulce Amor (1988) .

= = = 1989 ? 90 : Self @-@ titled album and relationship with Pérez = = =

José Behar of newly formed label EMI Latin Records , together with the new head of Sony Music Latin , watched Selena perform at the 1989 Tejano Music Awards . Behar was searching for new Latin acts and wanted to sign Selena to EMI 's label Capitol Records , while Sony Music Latin offered Quintanilla , Jr. twice Capitol 's signing fee . Behar thought he had discovered the " next Gloria Estefan " but his superior called Behar illogical because he had been in South Texas less than a week . Quintanilla , Jr. chose EMI Latin 's offer because of the potential for a crossover album , and becoming the first artist to sign to the label . Before Selena began recording for her debut album , Behar and Stephen Finfer requested a crossover album for her . She recorded three English @-@ language compositions for the heads of EMI 's pop division . Behar and Finfer 's request for a crossover album was denied and Selena was told she needed a bigger fan base to sell such an album . Behar thought EMI Records and the public did not believe that a Mexican American woman could have " crossover potential " .

Selena released her self @-@ titled debut album on October 17 , 1989 . Selena recorded most of the songs at AMEN Studios in San Antonio , Texas ; " Sukiyaki " and " My Love " were recorded at Sunrise Studios in Houston . Selena wrote " My Love " and wanted the song to be included on her first recording . Her brother Quintanilla III became Selena 's principal record producer and songwriter for most of her musical career . Quintanilla III did not write the tracks " Sukiyaki " , " Contigo Quiero Estar " , and " No Te Vayas " . " Sukiyaki " was originally recorded in Japanese in the 1960s by Kyu Sakamoto ; Selena used a translation into Spanish of an English version of the song by Janice Marie Johnson . The lead single , " Contigo Quiero Estar " , peaked at number eight on the U.S. Billboard Top Latin Songs chart , while the album peaked at number seven on the U.S. Billboard Regional Mexican Albums chart , becoming Selena 's first single and album to debut on a national music chart . Selena performed better than albums from other contemporaneous female

Tejano singers .

In the same year , Coca @-@ Cola wanted Selena to become one of their spokespeople in Texas . The jingle used in her first two commercials for the company were composed by Quintanilla III and Chris Pérez ? the latter of whom had joined Selena y Los Dinos several months earlier as the band 's new guitarist . Pérez began having romantic feelings for Selena , despite having a girlfriend in San Antonio . After a trip to Mexico with the band , Pérez thought it would be best for them both to distance himself from her , but found it difficult and decided to try building a relationship with her . They expressed their feelings for each other at a Pizza Hut restaurant , and shortly afterwards became a couple . Pérez and Selena hid their relationship , fearing Quintanilla , Jr. would try to break it up .

= = = 1990 ? 91 : Ven Conmigo and the Selena fan club = = =

Selena released her second studio album , Ven Conmigo , in 1990 . Three tracks from Ven Conmigo were released as singles ; " Ya Ves " , " La Tracalera " , and " Baila Esta Cumbia " . The latter , a Mexican cumbia song , became one of Selena 's biggest singles . Its popularity grew in Mexico , where a compilation album bearing the single 's name was released there . The album was certified platinum by the Asociación Mexicana de Productores de Fonogramas y Videogramas (AMPROFON) , denoting sales of 150 @,@ 000 units .

A registered nurse and fan named Yolanda Saldívar asked Quintanilla , Jr. to start a fan club in San Antonio . Saldívar had the idea after she had attended one of Selena 's concerts . Quintanilla , Jr. approved Saldívar 's request ; he believed the fan club would bring more exposure for the band . Saldívar soon became a close friend to Selena and the family ; she was trusted and became the acting president of the fan club in 1991 . That same year , Salvadoran singer Álvaro Torres composed a duet he wanted to record with Selena . The song , " Buenos Amigos " , was produced by Enrique Elizondo and was released on Torres ' tenth studio album Nada Se Compara Contigo (1991) . " Buenos Amigos " peaked at number one on the U.S. Billboard Top Latin Songs chart , giving Selena her first number one single . The song 's music video earned Selena and Torres two nominations at the 1992 Billboard Music Awards . The track was also nominated for Duo of the Year at the 1992 Tejano Music Awards . Deborah Parédez wrote that the track enabled Selena to tour the west and east coasts of the United States . According to John Lannert of Billboard magazine , " Buenos Amigos " was helped by increased airplay on regional Mexican and Tejano radio stations , which had previously dismissed Selena 's recordings .

= = = 1992 ? 93 : Elopement , Entre a Mi Mundo , and Selena Live = = =

Selena 's sister Suzette found Selena and Pérez flirting with each other and immediately informed their father . Quintanilla , Jr. took Pérez off the bus and told him his relationship with Selena was over . Selena and Pérez continued their relationship despite Quintanilla , Jr 's disapproval ; Selena 's mother Marcella approved of their relationship . Quintanilla , Jr. saw Selena and Pérez romantically together on the bus ; he pulled over and an argument between Quintanilla , Jr. and Selena ensued . He called Pérez a " cancer in my family " and threatened to disband the group if they continued their relationship . Selena and Pérez relented ; Quintanilla , Jr. fired Pérez from the band and prevented Selena from leaving with him . After his dismissal , Pérez and Selena secretly continued their relationship . On the morning of April 2 , 1992 , Selena and Pérez decided to elope , believing Quintanilla , Jr. would never approve of their relationship . Selena thought Quintanilla , Jr. would leave them alone if they were married , and they would not have to hide their feelings for each other . Within hours of their marriage , the media announced the couple 's elopement . Selena 's family tried to find her ; Quintanilla , Jr. did not take the news well and alienated himself for some time . Selena and Pérez moved into an apartment in Corpus Christi . Quintanilla , Jr. approached Pérez , apologized , accepted the marriage , and took Pérez back into the band .

A month after her elopement , Selena released her third studio album , Entre a Mi Mundo , in May 1992 . The album was critically acclaimed as her " breakthrough album " . The recording peaked at

number one on the U.S. Billboard Regional Mexican Albums chart for 19 nonconsecutive weeks ; it was certified 6x Platinum by the RIAA for shipments of 600 @,@ 000 copies . In Mexico , the album was certified gold for sales of 300 @,@ 000 units . Entre a Mi Mundo became the first Tejano album by a female artist to sell over 300 @,@ 000 copies . Selena 's album outsold those of male Tejano singers , according to editors of the Miami Herald and the San Jose Mercury News . The album produced four singles ; " Como La Flor " , " ¿ Qué Creías ? " , " La Carcacha " , and " Amame " . The lead single , " Como La Flor " , became Selena 's signature recording ; it was critically acclaim by music critics as a career launcher for Selena . " Como La Flor " helped Selena to dominate the Latin music charts and become immensely popular in Mexico ? where Mexican @-@ Americans were generally not liked among citizens ? which was well received by critics . The track was nominated for Song of the Year at the 1993 Tejano Music Awards . The single peaked at number six on the U.S. Billboard Top Latin Songs chart .

Selena released Live ! in 1993 ; it was recorded during a free concert at the Memorial Coliseum in Corpus Christi , on February 7 , 1993 . The album included previously released tracks that were sung live and three studio recordings ; " No Debes Jugar " , " La Llamada " , and " Tú Robaste Mi Corazón " ? a duet with Tejano musician Emilio Navaira . The tracks " No Debes Jugar " and " La Llamada " peaked within the top five on the U.S. Billboard Top Latin Songs chart . Live ! won the Grammy Award for Best Mexican / American Album at the 36th Grammy Awards . In May 1994 , Live ! was named Album of the Year by the Billboard Latin Music Awards . At the 1994 Tejano Music Awards , Live ! won Album of the Year . At the 1994 Lo Nuestro Awards , the album was nominated for Regional Mexican Album of the Year . Live ! was certified gold by the RIAA for shipments of 500 @,@ 000 copies , while in Mexico it sold 250 @,@ 000 units . Selena briefly appeared opposite Erik Estrada in a Mexican telenovela titled Dos Mujeres , Un Camino . In 1995 she entered negotiations to star in another telenovela produced by Emilio Larrosa . She appeared in two episodes , which garnered a record viewing figures for the series .

= = = 1994 ? 95 : Fashion venture , film debut , and Amor Prohibido = = =

Aside from music , in 1994 Selena began designing and manufacturing a line of clothing ; she opened two boutiques called Selena Etc . , one in Corpus Christi and the other in San Antonio . Both were equipped with in @-@ house beauty salons . She was in negotiations to open more stores in Monterrey , Mexico , and Puerto Rico . Saldívar managed both boutiques after the Quintanilla family were impressed with the way she managed the fan club . Hispanic Business magazine reported that the singer earned over five million dollars from these boutiques . She was ranked among the twentieth @-@ wealthiest Hispanic musicians who grossed the highest income in 1993 and 1994 . Selena released her fourth studio album , Amor Prohibido , in March 1994 . The recording debuted at number three on the U.S. Billboard Top Latin Albums chart and number one on the U.S. Billboard Regional Mexican Albums charts . After peaking at number one on the Top Latin Albums chart , the album remained in the top five for the remainder of the year and into early 1995 . Amor Prohibido became the second Tejano album to reach year @-@ end sales of 500 @,@ 000 copies , which had previously only been accomplished by La Mafia . It became one of the best @-@ selling Latin albums in the United States . Amor Prohibido spawned four number one singles ; the title track , " Bidi Bidi Bom Bom " , " No Me Queda Más " , and " Fotos y Recuerdos " . The album was certified double Platinum by the RIAA for shipments of two million copies in the United States . Amor Prohibido was among the best selling U.S. albums of 1995 . The album was named on Tom Moon 's list of the 1 @,@ 000 Recordings to Hear Before You Die : A Listener 's Life List (2008) .

The album popularized Tejano music among a younger and wider audience than at any other time in the genre 's history . The two singles , " Amor Prohibido " and " No Me Queda Más " , were the most successful U.S. Latin singles of 1994 and 1995 , respectively , according to Billboard magazine . The album 's commercial success led to a Grammy nomination for Best Mexican / American Album at the 37th Grammy Awards in 1995 . It won Record of the Year at the 1995 Tejano Music Awards and Regional / Mexican Album of the Year at the 1995 Lo Nuestro Awards . Selena was named " one of Latin music 's most successful touring acts " during her Amor Prohibido tour . After Amor

Prohibido 's release , Selena was considered " bigger than Tejano itself " , and broke barriers in the Latin music world . She was called the " Queen of Tejano music " by many media outlets . Sales of the album and its titular single represented Tejano music 's first commercial success in Puerto Rico . Selena recorded a duet titled " Donde Quiera Que Estés " with the Barrio Boyzz , which was released on their album of the same name in 1994 . The song reached number one on the Top Latin Songs chart , which enabled Selena to tour in New York City , Argentina , Puerto Rico , the Dominican Republic , and Central America , where she was not well known . In late 1994 , EMI chairman Charles Koppelman decided Selena had achieved her goals in the Spanish @-@ speaking market . He wanted to promote her as an English @-@ language , American , solo pop artist . Selena continued touring while EMI began preparing the crossover album , engaging Grammy Award @-@ winning composers . By the time Selena performed to a record @-@ breaking , sold out concert at the Houston Astrodome in February 1995 , work had already begun on her crossover album . In 1995 , she made a cameo appearance in Don Juan DeMarco , which starred Marlon Brando , Johnny Depp , and Faye Dunaway .

= = Murder = =

The Quintanilla family appointed Saldívar manager of Selena 's boutiques in early 1994 . Eight months later , Selena signed Saldívar as her registered agent in San Antonio , Texas . After the agreement , Saldívar moved from San Antonio to Corpus Christi to be closer to Selena . In December 1994 , the boutiques began to suffer after the number of staff for both stores had decreased . According to staff members , Saldívar often dismissed employees she personally disliked . Staff at the stores regularly complained about Saldívar 's behavior to Selena , who dismissed the claims , believing Saldívar would not negatively impose erratic decisions on Selena 's fashion venture . According to Quintanilla , Jr . , the staff later turned their attention to him and began informing him about Saldívar 's behavior . Quintanilla , Jr. took the claims seriously ; he told Selena to " be careful " and said Saldívar may not be a good influence . Selena dismissed her father 's inquiries because he had often distrusted people in the past . By January 1995 , Selena 's cousin , her fashion designer Martin Gomez , and clients expressed their concerns over Saldívar 's behavior and management skills . During an interview with Saldívar in 1995 , reporters from The Dallas Morning News said her devotion to Selena bordered on obsession .

According to Quintanilla , Jr . , in January 1995 he began receiving telephone calls from fans who said they had paid for membership in the Selena fan club and had received nothing in return for it , and he began an investigation . Quintanilla , Jr. discovered that Saldívar had embezzled more than \$ 60 @,@ 000 in forged checks from both the fan club and the boutiques . Quintanilla , Jr. held a meeting with Selena and Suzette on the night of March 9 at Q @-@ Productions to confront Saldívar . Quintanilla , Jr. presented Saldívar with the inconsistencies concerning the disappearing funds . Quintanilla , Jr. told her that if she did not provide evidence that disproved his accusations , he would involve the local police . Quintanilla , Jr. banned Saldívar from having any contact with Selena . However , Selena did not want to dissolve their friendship ; she thought Saldívar was essential to the success of the clothing line in Mexico . Selena also wanted to keep her close because she had bank records , statements , and financial records necessary for tax preparation .

On the morning of March 31 , 1995 , Selena met with Saldívar at her Days Inn motel room in Corpus Christi . At the motel , Selena demanded the financial papers ; Saldívar delayed the handover by saying she had been raped in Mexico . Selena then drove Saldívar to Doctors Regional Hospital , where doctors found no evidence of rape . At 11 : 48 a.m. (CST) , Saldívar drew a gun from her purse and pointed it at Selena . As Selena attempted to flee , Saldívar shot her once on the right lower shoulder , severing an artery and causing a massive loss of blood . Critically wounded , Selena ran towards the lobby , leaving a 392 @-@ foot (119 m) -long trail of blood . She collapsed on the floor as the clerk called the emergency services , with Saldívar still chasing after her and calling her a " bitch " . Before collapsing , Selena named Saldívar as her assailant and gave the number of the room where she had been shot . Meanwhile , Saldívar got into her pickup truck and tried to leave the motel . However , she was spotted by a responding police cruiser . Saldívar

surrendered after a nearly nine @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half @-@ hour standoff with police and the FBI . By that time , hundreds of fans had gathered at the scene ; many wept as police took Saldívar away . After 50 minutes of surgery , the doctors realized that the damage to Selena 's pierced artery was irreparable . Selena Quintanilla @-@ Pérez was pronounced dead from blood loss and cardiac arrest at 1 : 05 p.m. (CST) .

= = = Impact = = =

Selena 's murder had a widespread impact . Reactions to her death were compared to those following the deaths of musicians John Lennon , Elvis Presley , and U.S. president John F. Kennedy . Major television networks interrupted their regular programming to break the news ; Tom Brokaw referred to Selena as " The Mexican Madonna " . Her death was front page news in The New York Times for two days . Numerous vigils and memorials were held in her honor , and radio stations in Texas played her music non @-@ stop . Her funeral drew 60 @,@ 000 mourners , many of whom traveled from outside the United States . The news struck the Hispanic community extremely hard ; many fans traveled thousands of miles to see Selena 's house and boutiques , and the crime scene . By mid @-@ afternoon , police were asked to form a detour because a line of cars began backing up traffic from the Quintanillas ' houses . Among the celebrities who were reported to have contacted the Quintanilla family to express their condolences were Gloria Estefan , Celia Cruz , Julio Iglesias , and Madonna . Other celebrities ? including Stefanie Ridel , Jaime DeAnda (of Los Chamacos) , and Shelly Lares ? appeared on radio stations to express their thoughts about Selena 's death . An issue of People magazine was released several days after her murder . Its publishers believed interest would soon wane ; they released a commemorative issue within a week when it became apparent it was growing . The issue sold nearly a million copies , selling the entire first and second print runs within two weeks . It became a collector 's item , a first in the history of People . Betty Cortina , editor of People , told Biography they never had an issue that was completely sold out ; " it was unheard of " . In the following months , the company released People en Español aimed at the Hispanic market , due to the success of the Selena issue . This was followed by Newsweek en Espanol and Latina magazine .

A few days later , Howard Stern mocked Selena 's murder and burial , poked fun at her mourners , and criticized her music . Stern said , " This music does absolutely nothing for me . Alvin and the Chipmunks have more soul ... Spanish people have the worst taste in music . They have no depth . " Stern 's comments outraged and infuriated the Hispanic community in Texas . Stern played Selena 's songs with gunshots in the background on his show . After a disorderly conduct arrest warrant was issued in his name , Stern made an on @-@ air statement , in Spanish , saying his comments were not made to cause " more anguish to her family , friends and those who loved her " . Stern was not formally charged ; the League of United Latin American Citizens boycotted Stern 's show , finding his apology unacceptable . Texas retailers removed any products that were related to Stern , while Sears and McDonald 's sent a letter stating their disapproval of Stern 's comments to the media , because some fans believed the companies sponsored Stern 's show . Within a week , on NBC 's The Tonight Show with Jay Leno , Stern and Robin Quivers (his co @-@ host) were asked whether Stern 's remarks about Selena were acceptable . Quivers decided not to talk about the situation to avoid arguing with Stern . When Linda Ronstadt ? a pop singer of Mexican @-@ American heritage ? appeared on the show , she and Quivers argued when Ronstadt defended Selena .

On April 12 , 1995 , two weeks after Selena 's death , George W. Bush , governor of Texas at the time , declared her birthday , April 16 , Selena Day in the state . He said Selena represented " the essence of south Texas culture . " who never forgot where she came from . Some European Americans in Texas wrote to the editor of the Brazosport Facts during April and May , asking what the big deal was ; some were offended that Selena Day fell on Easter Sunday . Others said , " Easter is more important than Selena Day " , and that they believed people should let Selena rest in peace and continue with their lives . Mexican Americans in Texas wrote vociferously to the newspaper . Some said others were too critical of Selena Day , and should not have responded so

rudely . In October 1995 , a Houston jury convicted Saldívar of first @-@ degree murder and sentenced her to life in prison with the possibility of parole in 2025 . In 2002 , under a judge 's order , the gun used to kill Selena was destroyed and the pieces were thrown into Corpus Christi Bay . Fans and historians disapproved of the decision to destroy the gun , saying the event was historical and the gun should have been in a museum .

= = Artistry = =

Selena 's vocal range was soprano . In an April 1995 interview with Billboard magazine , Behar said he saw Selena as a " cross between Janet Jackson and Whitney Houston in style , feel , and vocal range " . Although Selena did not write most of her songs , she incorporated R & B , Latin pop , technopop , country and western , and disco into her Tejano music repertoire . Mario Tarradell of The Dallas Morning News said that during her music career , Selena " merges Tejano 's infectious cumbia rhythm with street @-@ savvy R & B , old @-@ school soul , dancehall reggae , sizzling salsa , and trippy , loopy funk " . Selena 's recordings expressed " love and pain , as well as strength and passion " , according to Charles Tatum . She also recorded independently driven , female @-@ empowerment @-@ themed compositions ; " Si La Quieres " , " ¿ Qué Creías ? " , " Ya Ves " and " Ya No " , which centered around inappropriate relationships and recovery from domestic violence . Peter Watrous of The New York Times said Selena 's voice " sometimes quivered " , and that she " roughed it up a bit " . He continued , " [a] t its best , it had a coolness , a type of unadorned passion " . Ilan Stavans called her music " cursi @-@ melodramatic , cheesy , overemotional , not too far from Juan Gabriel and a relative of Iglesias " . Richard Corliss of Time magazine said her songs " are perky , cheerful rather than soulful " , and that earlier recordings , " with their tinny , Tijuana Brass charts , and keyboards that evoke calliopes , are ideal for the fairground or merry @-@ go @-@ round " . Corliss calls Selena 's singing an " expert mimicry of everything from Édith Piaf 's melodramatic contralto to the coloratura riffs of Mariah Carey . But the sounds are still lightly Hispanic . "

Newsweek magazine called Selena 's English @-@ language recordings " a blend of urban pop and Latin warmth " . According to Texas Monthly , Selena 's brother modernized her music into a more " funk and hip hop " sound . Selena 's use of emotive range during her musical career has been praised by critics as being her trademark . Quintanilla III wrote increasingly Cumbia @-@ influenced songs for Ven Conmigo (1990) ; Ramiro Burr of Billboard said Selena and her band had " evolved a rhythmic style that demonstrated its increasing prowess for catchy cumbias such as ' Baila Esta Cumbia ' and the title track " . Italian essayist Gaetano Prampolini wrote that " Selena 's voice projected a sonorous warmth and joyfulness " during her review of Selena 's Cumbia recordings . In his review of the remix album Enamorada de Ti (2012) , Stephen Thomas Erlewine of AllMusic wrote that Selena 's songs were " rooted in the ' 90s and sound that way ? but [Enamorada de Ti] is a relatively fresher repackaging of her music than many of her posthumous releases " .

= = Public image = =

Quintanilla , Jr. sought to maintain Selena 's image clean and family @-@ oriented . In 1989 , she was offered sponsorship from beer companies but her father turned them down . Selena was often refused gigs at Tejano venues because she was a female singer in a male @-@ dominated music scene . Manuel Peña wrote that after 1989 , Selena 's popularity increased and she became a sex icon following the release of her debut album . Charles Tatum said Selena drew most attention was for her " beauty , sexuality , and youthful impact on the Tejano music scene " . Selena said she never wanted to record suggestive songs because of her upbringing and because her fan base consisted largely of young children , who regarded her as a role model . She further commented on the question of her sexual appeal to men during her crossover attempt , asserting that she will " stay the same " and that her English @-@ language recordings will refrain from foul language and sexual themes . In 1997 , María Celeste Arrarás wrote in her book about Selena 's death that the singer

was a " sweet and charismatic girl " . According to Arrarás , Selena " trusted everyone " ; she often went shopping alone , despite her father 's concerns over her safety .

Betty Cortina of People magazine said Selena 's provocative choice of clothing was an acceptable emulation of Janet Jackson and Madonna , and that she wore " sexy outfits that extenuated a body of a Latina woman " . Cortina also stated that Selena had a " flamboyant style , an unbelievable body , curves and booty " . Arrarás wrote that Selena " began wearing clothes designed to emphasize her curvaceous figure " and that she " never came across as cheap @-@ simply sexy " . She also said Selena 's makeup regimen was not being " painted up or vulgar " . Arrarás also noted Selena 's " fun @-@ loving stage manner " and said she was " playful onstage and off " . Matt S. Meier wrote in his book The Mexican American Experience : An Encyclopedia (2010) that Selena exhibited " contagious energy " during her concerts and said she displayed " warmth , passion , and sexuality " while exuding a " down @-@ to @-@ earth persona of the wholesome young girl next door " . Selena wore outfits that accented her physical attributes and was not afraid to wear outfits she liked , despite criticism from parents who thought Selena 's choice of outfits were inappropriate for young girls , who began emulating Selena . Her views on public image in the fashion industry were bothersome ; she said she was opposed to the image that all woman should be " rail @-@ thin " and the notion that they must wear certain outfits and be " super @-@ young to be beautiful " .

In the early 1990s , Selena began wearing decorative bustiers , spandex or tight pants , and attractive , unbuttoned jackets during her concerts . She was inspired by Paula Abdul , Janet Jackson , and Madonna . During a 1992 interview , Selena said her choice of clothing does not reflect her personality . NBC News called Selena 's outfit " provocative " . Because of her choices of outfits and dance moves , she was named by her fans as the " Mexican Madonna " . According to Suzette , Selena often designed and sewed her own outfits backstage with her designers , moments before she was due on stage . Quintanilla , Jr. disapproved of Selena 's outfits , but he later accepted it when Selena discussed about it being a fashion trend . Selena became an inactive member of the Jehovah 's Witnesses due to her exotic clothing . During the photo shoot for Entre a Mi Mundo (1992) , a photographer remarked on the ways Selena 's choice of clothing affected Quintanilla , Jr. tremendously ; he often left sessions when Selena appeared in revealing outfits . Selena was credited as the first woman to change public perceptions of feminine beauty ; a feminist , she blazed a trail for other female artists during her career .

Following Selena 's death , some celebrities questioned her status as a role model among Hispanic women . In her 1999 documentary about the singer , filmmaker Lourdes Portillo expressed concerns whether Selena was a great role model to young women . Portillo believed Selena was sending the wrong message to young girls by dancing in clothing that suggested hypersexualization . American author Sandra Cisneros agreed with Portillo 's assessment that Selena was " not a good role model to Latina women " . Media outlets also shared Portillo 's views ; they said the " fairy tale story " of Selena was one that her family would want to preserve , questioning Quintanilla , Jr . ' s role for pushing an image that Selena had " never made mistakes " into the media , calling it " lies " and " not the real story " .

= = Philanthropy = =

During her childhood , Selena helped organizations such as Toys for Tots . She was active in the U.S. Latino community , visiting local schools to talk to students about the importance of education . At Fulmore Junior High School in Austin , she educated two hundred high school students about positive attitudes and setting life @-@ goals in their adult lives . Selena urged children to stay in school , and that alcohol and drugs will lead them nowhere in life . She spent her free time helping her community . Selena performed in Washington D.C. to celebrate the forming of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus . Following the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew , Selena helped victims in Florida by performing at a Houston benefit concert .

In August 1994 , Selena hosted a charity baseball game to raise money for unspecified charities . She also donated her time to civic organizations such as D.A.R.E. and planned a fund raising concert to help AIDS patients . Selena participated with the Texas Prevention Partnership which was

sponsored by the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (Dep Corporation) , which released an educational video that was sent to students for free . Her pro @-@ education videos included " My Music " and " Selena Agrees " . She was in the works for a Dallas @-@ Fort Worth , Texas Boys & Girls Clubs of America benefit concert .

In January 1995 , Selena headlined the Teach the Children festival in San Antonio . The concert funded a non @-@ profit program to provide school supplies to needy children . Selena was a spokesperson for women in abusive relationships . She also helped out at homeless shelters . According to the A & E television series Biography , Selena 's fans were often minorities ; she encouraged them to make the most of their lives .

= = Legacy and influence = =

Selena has been credited for helping redefine Latin music and its subgenres of Tejano , Cumbia , and Latin pop . Selena broke barriers in the Latin music world . She is considered " one of the most significant Mexican American singers of the end of the twentieth century " . Selena also became one of the " most celebrated cultural products " of the United States @-@ Mexico borderlands . Selena was called the " Queen of Tejano music " , and was described as " the most important and popular Tejano star of all time " . Her death was " the most devastating loss " in Tejano music history , according to Zach Quaintance of the The Monitor . At the time of her death , Selena became one of the most widely known Mexican @-@ American vocal artists and the most popular Latin artist in the United States . She had a " cult @-@ like " following among Hispanics .

Selena has been named one of the most influential Latin artists of all @-@ time and has been credited for elevating a music genre into the mainstream market . Latin Post called the singer " one of the most iconic artists in Latin American music history " , while The New York Times called her " arguably the most important Latina musician in the country , on her way to becoming one of the most important , period . " Selena became a household name in the United States and in Mexico following her death and became part of the American pop culture . She became more popular in death than when she was alive . After her death , her popularity among the Hispanic population was compared to those of Marilyn Monroe and Madonna in Anglo @-@ American culture . According to author Carlota Caulfield , Selena was " one of the most popular Latina singers of the 1990s " . Selena 's popularity was drawn in by the LGBT community and minority groups in the United States . The popularity of Tejano music waned after her death , and as of 2015 , has not recovered . John Lannert of Billboard said in an interview with Biography in 2007 that when Selena died the " Tejano market died with her " .

Dreaming of You , the crossover album Selena had been working on at the time of her death , was released in July 1995 . It sold 175 @,@ 000 copies on the day of its release in the U.S. ? a then @-@ record for a female vocalist ? and sold 331 @,@ 000 copies its first week . Selena became the third female artist to sell over 300 @,@ 000 units in one week , after Janet Jackson and Mariah Carey . It debuted at number one on the U.S. Billboard 200 chart , becoming the first album by a Hispanic artist to do so . Dreaming of You helped Selena to become the first solo artist to debut a posthumous album at number one . The recording was among the top @-@ ten best @-@ selling debuts for a musician , and was the best @-@ selling debut by a female act . Dreaming of You joined five of Selena 's studio albums on the Billboard 200 chart simultaneously , making Selena the first female artist in Billboard history to do so . The album was certified 35x platinum by the RIAA , for shipping more than 3 @.@ 5 million copies in the U.S. alone . As of 2015 , the recording has sold five million copies worldwide , becoming the best @-@ selling Latin album of all @-@ time in the United States . In 2008 , Joey Guerra of the Houston Chronicle said its lead single , " I Could Fall in Love " , had " made the Tejano goddess a posthumous crossover star " . Her death was believed to have sparked an interest in Latin music by people who were unaware of its existence . It was also believed her death " open [ed] the doors " to other Latin musicians such as Jennifer Lopez , Ricky Martin , and Shakira .

In the same year , the United States Social Security Administration ranked the name Selena one of the 100 most popular names for newborn girls . In December 1999 , Selena was named the " top

Latin artist of the ' 90s " and " Best selling Latin artist of the decade " by Billboard for her fourteen top @-@ ten singles in the Top Latin Songs chart , including seven number @-@ one hits . She was the best @-@ selling Latin female singer of the 1990s in the U.S. and Mexico . Selena was named " Best Female Vocalist of the ' 80s " and " Best Female Vocalist of the ' 90s " at the 2010 Tejano Music Awards .

= = = Posthumous film and honors = = =

In the months following her death , a number of honors and tributes were erected . Several proposals were made , such as renaming streets , public parks , food products , and auditoriums . Two months later , a tribute was held at the 1995 Lo Nuestro Awards . The Spirit of Hope Award was created in Selena 's honor in 1996 ; it was awarded to Latin artists who participated in humanitarian and civic causes . On March 16 , 2011 , the United States Postal Service released a " Latin Legends " memorial stamp to honor Selena , Carlos Gardel , Tito Puente , Celia Cruz , and Carmen Miranda . In February 2014 , the Albany , NY Times Union named her one of " 100 Coolest Americans in History " . In 1997 Selena was commemorated with a museum and a life @-@ size bronze statue in Corpus Christi , which are visited by hundreds of fans each week .

In 1995 , Selena was inducted into the Billboard Latin Music Hall of Fame , the Hard Rock Cafe 's Hall of Fame , and the South Texas Music Hall of Fame . In 2001 she was inducted into the Tejano Music Hall of Fame . The singer received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 2017 . She was named one of the 20 most influential Texans of all time by author Laurie Jasinski . She was ranked fifth of the " 100 most influential Latin musicians of the 20th century " according to the Orange County Register . The singer has been given many epithets by media outlets , including the " Queen of Latin music " , the " Queen of Cumbia " , the " Chicana Elvis " , the " Queen of hybrid pop culture " , the " Hispanic Marilyn Monroe " , the " Tupac Shakur of Latin music " , the " Corpus Christi queen " , and the " people 's princess " . Media have compared Selena 's fashion sense to that of Madonna more times than any other celebrity .

In 1995 , Mexican actress Salma Hayek was chosen to play the role of Selena in a biopic film produced by the Quintanilla family and Warner Bros. Hayek turned the role down ; she said she felt it was " too early " to base a movie on Selena and that it would be emotional because Selena 's death was still being covered on U.S. television . Puerto Rican @-@ American actress Jennifer Lopez replaced Hayek , which drew criticism because of Lopez ' Puerto @-@ Rican ancestry . Over 21 @,@ 000 people auditioned for the title role , becoming the second largest audition since the search for Scarlett O 'Hara in Gone With the Wind (1939) . Gregory Nava directed for the film , which was released on March 21 , 1997 . After seeing Lopez ' performance in it , fans changed their views on her . Selena opened in 1 @,@ 850 theaters worldwide and grossed \$ 11 @,@ 615 @,@ 722 , making it the second @-@ highest @-@ grossing film debut that week . With a production budget of \$ 20 million , the film grossed \$ 35 million in the U.S. The film was a commercial and critical success and is often cited by critics as Lopez ' breakthrough role . Lopez rose into pop culture , for which the film 's success was credited .

In 1999 , a Broadway @-@ bound musical titled Selena was scheduled to premiere in San Antonio in March 2000 to commemorate the fifth anniversary of her murder . Broadway producers Tom Quinn , Jerry Frankel , Peter Fitzgerald , and Michael Vega staged the musical , and Edward Gallardo wrote the show 's book and lyrics . Fernando Rivas composed the show 's songs . In 2000 , Selena Forever was first produced ; the show embarked on a 30 @-@ city U.S. tour with a budget of over US \$ 2 million . After a national casting call , producers chose Veronica Vasquez to portray Selena ; Vasquez alternated in the role with Rebecca Valdez . The musical previewed on March 21 , and opened on March 23 at the San Antonio Municipal Auditorium .

Selena 's family and her former band , Los Dinos , held a tribute concert on April 7 , 2005 , a week after the 10th anniversary of her murder . The concert , titled Selena ¡ VIVE ! , was broadcast live on Univision and achieved a 35 @.@ 9 household rating . It was the highest @-@ rated and most @-@ viewed Spanish @-@ language television special in the history of American television . The special was also the number @-@ one program in any language among adults ages 18 to 34 in Los

Angeles , Chicago , and San Francisco ; it tied for first in New York , beating that night 's episode of Fox 's reality show American Idol . Among Hispanic viewers , Selena ¡ VIVE ! outperformed Super Bowl XLV and the telenovela Soy tu dueña during the " most @-@ watched NFL season ever among Hispanics " .

In January 2015 , it was announced that a two @-@ day annual event called Fiesta de la Flor would be held in Corpus Christi for Selena by the Corpus Christi Visitors Bureau . Musical acts for the first annual event included Kumbia All @-@ Starz , Chris Pérez , Los Lobos , Jay Perez , Little Joe y la Familia , Los Palominos , Stefani Montiel of Las 3 Divas , Girl in a Coma 's Nina Diaz , Las Fenix , and previous The Voice competitor Clarissa Serna . The event raised \$ 13 million with an attendance of 52 @,@ 000 people with 72 % of whom lived outside of Corpus Christi . The event sparked interest from people in 35 states and five different countries including Mexico , Brazil , and Ecuador .

= = Discography = =

Solo studio albums

Selena (1989)

Ven Conmigo (1990)

Entre a Mi Mundo (1992)

Amor Prohibido (1994)

Dreaming of You (1995)

= = Filmography = =

= = = Biographical programming = = =

True crime documentaries