

# Dwayne Verheyden

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## **DWAYNE VERHEYDEN BECOMES THE FIRST EUROPEAN TO WIN NEW ARTIST (GROUP) AT THE TEJANO MUSIC AWARDS**

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS – SEPTEMBER 24, 2014 – From the Netherlands to Texas, Dwayne Verheyden & the TexMeXplosion has shown that music is a universal language as he wins the Best New Artist (Group) category at the Tejano music awards. Verheyden was also nominated for Best New Male Artist and has quickly become an international sensation in the Spanish language music scene. The awards were held in San Antonio on September 20, 2014.

Ever since being introduced to the musical genre by his father, Dwayne fell in love with Tex-Mex and Conjunto music. What makes this father and son music sharing experience unique is that they are from the Netherlands. His father took a liking to the sound of the accordion, especially the sounds made by Tex-Mex great, Flaco Jimenez.

"I'm humbled to have been given this honor," said Verheyden. "Yes, I am from the Netherlands, pero mi corazon es Tejano."

Dwayne, now 23, was a natural born performer taking a liking to the piano and accordion at the early age of 8. This passion led to him to eventually capturing the attention of Tejano music legend, Flaco Jimenez, and under his mentorship, Verheyden's music has earned him a special place in the hearts of his fans.

"Thanks to my family and Flaco Jimenez, I've been able to share Tejano music in numerous countries. It's Spanish language music but it's universal in appeal." said an excited Dwayne.

Aside from being nominated, Dwayne also performed at the Awards along with other Tejano legends like Elida Reyna y Avente, Emilio Navaira, Shelly Lares, Grupo Solido, Los DesperadoZ, Stephanie Lynn, Jaime y Los Chamocos, Ricardo Castillon y La Diferenzia, Stefani Montiel, Sunny Saucedo, Lucky Joe, Eddie Gonzalez y Grupo Natural, Tortilla Factory featuring Robert "El Charro Negro" Butler, DJ Kane & Ricky Rick y Stereo Kumbia, David Marez, among many others.

In December 2009, Flaco Jimenez paid Dwayne Verheyden the ultimate compliment. During an interview to "San Antonio Street Talk" ([sastreettalk.com](http://sastreettalk.com)), the music legend announced he was retiring. Asked about whom he felt would be able to fill his shoes, Flaco said, "There are many imitators and sound-a-likes, but none can compare to Dwayne Verheyden, and he's from the Netherlands."

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Website: <http://dwayne-verheyden.nl>

### **About Dwayne Verheyden:**

Born, September 4, 1991 in Montfort, a small village in the south of The Netherlands, Dwayne Verheyden demonstrated from a very young age his love of music. His father would listen Tex-Mex music because he liked the accordion sound. Soon Dwayne also fell in love with this instrument and the Texas Mexican-American music genre. At 7, he conquered the accordion and started performing at his local church and at other public venues. At 8, Dwayne was invited to play for a local TV station and ever since then has been accompanying his father to many of

Flaco Jimenez's concerts. In 2003, at age 12, Dwayne switched over to the chromatic button accordion because the sound is more similar to Jimenez's musical instrument. Dwayne is an award-winning accordion player, one of the best in Europe. In 2008, Dwayne realized his dream to perform with Flaco Jimenez at the Country Eid Festival in Nederweert-Eind. Five months later, Dwayne recorded with both Flaco and Max Baca in the Netherlands. On Flaco's advice, Dwayne formed his own band, "Dwayne & The TexMeXplosion," and started working on his own CD. In 2009, Dwayne and his parents flew to San Antonio, Texas where he got the opportunity to perform with local artist who had performed with Flaco throughout the years. Dwayne's musical repertoire is quite varied. He plays tangos, waltzes, polkas, paso dobles, and country, but Tex-Mex remains his one true love and favorite. In 2011, Dwayne performed at the Conjunto Hall of Fame with Flaco Jimenez's brother, Hall of Fame inductee Santiago Jimenez, Jr. He also joined Max Baca and the Los TexManiacs at the 30th annual Tejano Conjunto Festival in San Antonio. In 2014, Dwayne received two Tejano Music Awards nominations. Dwayne & the TexMeXplosion continue to perform in Sweden, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Latin America, Mexico and the U.S.A.

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