

La Pistola y el Corazón

Words and music by David Hidalgo and Louie Perez,
from the album *Acoustic en Vivo*



The 1988 Los Lobos album on which this song was the title track was a bold assertion of the band's roots and versatility—delivered just as the pop culture spotlight shone on them most brightly. They had just scored a No. 1 hit with their remake of Richie Valens's version of "La Bamba," but the expectations of audiences and the industry left the band ill at ease with their high profile and unsure of a direction. Seeking a spark, they began to jam together at Cesar Rosas's house and very instinctively began reacquainting themselves with the *folklorico* flavors that had fueled their earliest efforts. As David Hidalgo recalls, "We made that record to center ourselves again."

Thoroughly rooted in traditional forms, "La Pistola y el Corazón" nonetheless reveals something of Los Lobos' restless experimentalism. The intro is a fiery slice of 3/4-time *huapango* featuring a Hidalgo lead line (played on a nylon-string) that pirouettes over Rosas's driving *huapangera* and Louie Perez's syncopated slaps on the *jarana*. (Hidalgo harmonized a second line on the intro to the 1988 studio recording, but here we've transcribed the single-line intro he played live on the 2005 *Acoustic en Vivo* album.) For the first verse, the tempo of the *huapango* beat decelerates by nearly half, the guitar, *jarana*, and *huapangera* accompaniment becoming more austere to support Hidalgo's soulful vocal. On the chorus, the band shifts into *ranchera* mode, lending a mood reminiscent of a Tex-Mex serenade.

As with many *folklorico* forms, the most challenging aspect of performance is not chord acrobatics but mastering the tricky, syncopated salvos of strums, slaps, and mutes that make up the rhythmic signature and essence of these forms. Curl your picking hand and slap the strings on beat 1 and the second half of beat 2 in each measure. Notice how this gives the rhythm part a 6/8 feel against the predominantly 3/4 feel of the bass. The trickiest part of the rhythm is mastering the *rasgueado* strum on beat 2 of each measure. Start with your hand curled, then strike the strings with each finger individually, starting with your little finger and following with your ring, middle, and index fingers. Slow it down to a crawl until you can play it consistently and gradually speed it up to Los Lobos' rapid strumming.

—CHARLES SAUFLEY

Intro

♩ = ca. 158

Guitar 1

Chord diagrams: E7 (020100), Am (x02310)

Guitar 2 (composite arrangement)

Chord diagrams: G (320004), C (x32010), E7 (020100), Am (x02310), G (320004), F (134211), E7 (020100)

"LA PISTOLA Y EL CORAZÓN" © 1988 DAVINCE MUSIC (MIAMI) K.O. MUSIC (MI)

To Coda \oplus 1. 2. D.S. al Coda

C x32010 **G** 320004 **C** x32010 **E7** 020100

53 - da con la pist-o - la y el cor - a - zón _____

\oplus Coda

C7 x32410 **F** 134211 **G** 320004 **C** x32010 **G** 320004 **C** x32010 **G** 320004 **C** x32010

60 Con la pist-o - la y el cor-a - zón _____

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>Am E7 Am E7</p> <p>1. No sé como decirte, no sé como explicarte</p> <p>Dm Am E7 Am</p> <p>Que aquí no hay remedio, de lo que siento yo</p> <p> E Am</p> <p>De lo que siento yo</p> | <p>Am E7 Am E7</p> <p>2. La luna me dice una cosa, las estrellas me dicen otra</p> <p>Dm Am E7 Am</p> <p>Y la luz del día me canta esta triste canción</p> <p> E7 Am</p> <p>Esta triste canción</p> |
|--|--|

The Music Starts Here...

Guitar Gallery

Beneteau Concert

www.guitargal.com
615.672.7733
OR BY APPOINTMENT

New, Used & Vintage
Buy, Sell & Trade

Charley's guitar shop

[Only the good stuff]
since 1976

www.CharleysGuitar.com
972.243.4187

Dusty Strings

Fine Acoustic Instruments, Seattle
www.dustystings.com 206-634-1662

COLLINGS · MARTIN · TAYLOR · DEERING · WEBER · SEAGULL · OME · NATIONAL

GOODALL · DELL'ARTE · CHUCK LEE

Chorus

G C
 Los besos que me diste mi amor son los que me están matando
 F G C G C7
 Ya las lágrimas están secando con mi pistola y mi corazón
 F G C G C
 Y aquí siempre paso la vida con la pistola y el corazón

Am E7 Am E7
 3. No sé como amarte, no sé como abrasarte

Dm Am E7 Am
 Porque no se me deja este dolor que tengo yo
 E7 Am
 El dolor que tengo yo

Am E7 Am E7
 4. Esta noche tan oscura con sus sombras tan tranquilos

Dm Am E7 Am
 Y el viento me sigue cantando esta humilde canción
 E7 Am
 Esta humilde canción

Repeat Chorus

English Translation:

1. I don't know how to tell you, I don't know how to explain to you
 That here there is no remedy for what I feel inside
 For what I feel inside
2. The moon is telling me one thing while the stars are
 telling me another
 But the morning light is singing to me this sad, sad song
 This sad, sad song

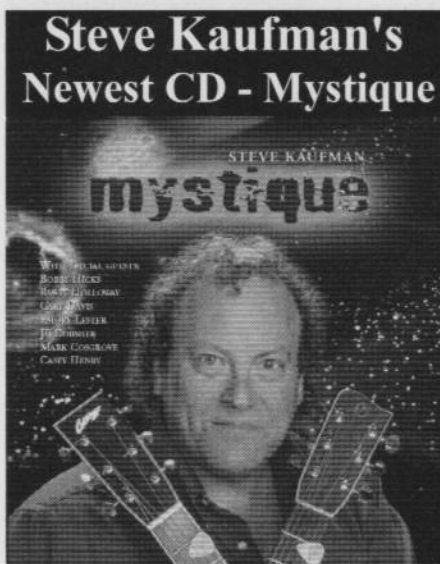
Chorus

The kisses that you gave me my love are the ones that
 are killing me
 But my tears are now drying with my pistol and my heart
 And here as always I spend my life with the pistol and the heart

3. I don't know how to love you, I don't even know how to
 embrace you
 Because what never leaves me is this pain that hurts me so
 The pain that hurts me so
4. This night so dark with its tranquil shadows
 And a wind that again sings to me this humble song
 This humble song

Repeat Chorus

**Steve Kaufman's
 Newest CD - Mystique**



STEVE KAUFMAN
mystique

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS
 BOBBY HICKS
 RUSTY HOLLOWAY
 CASEY DAVIS
 EMORY LESTER
 J.P. CORMIER
 MARK COSGROVE
 CARY HENRY

**With: Bobby Hicks, JP Cormier, Mark
 Cosgrove, Emory Lester, Gary Davis,
 Casey Henry and Rusty Holloway**
62 minutes with 18 Sizzling Selections
*For the low, low price of \$15 plus shipping
 but wait there's more....*
Free Catalog - Tons of Stuff!
CALL 1-800-FLATPIK 865-982-3808
Steve Kaufman
PO Box 1020, Alcoa, TN 37701
www.flatpik.com
 Over 85 Steve Kaufman Products Listed

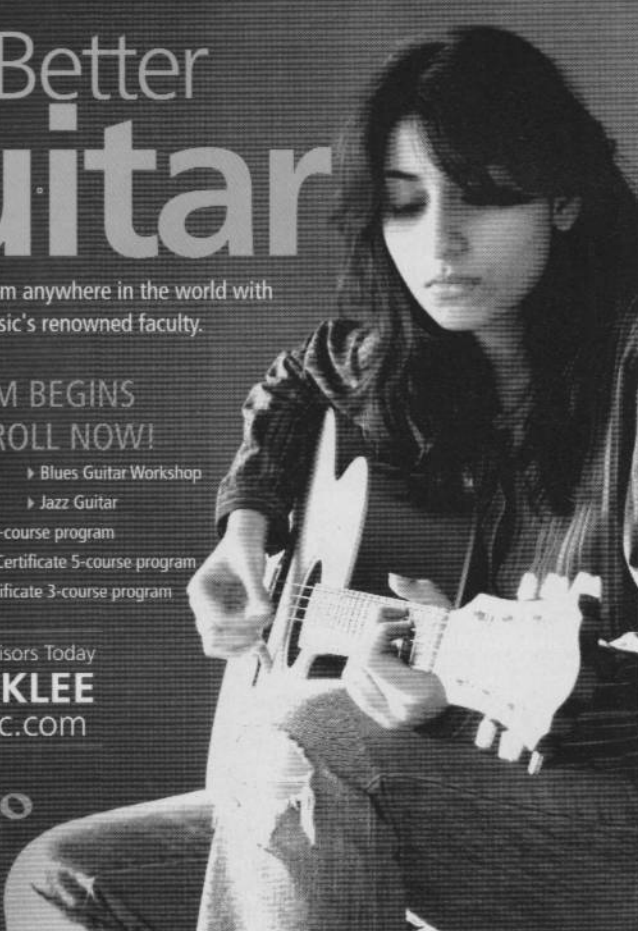
**Play Better
 Guitar**

Study guitar online from anywhere in the world with
 Berklee College of Music's renowned faculty.

**SUMMER TERM BEGINS
 JULY 2ND. ENROLL NOW!**

- ▶ Guitar Chords 101
- ▶ Blues Guitar Workshop
- ▶ Guitar Scales 101
- ▶ Jazz Guitar
- ▶ Guitar Master Certificate 8-course program
- ▶ Guitar Styles Professional Certificate 5-course program
- ▶ Guitar Skills Specialist Certificate 3-course program

Call Our Student Advisors Today
1.866.BERKLEE
 berkleemusic.com



Berklee
 music
 learn music online