

O

THE OPRAH  
MAGAZINE

MAY 2006



The boys from Baja: Members of the rockin' sextet Calexico.

## Halfway to Margaritaville

Must Hear

CALEXICO'S MUSIC EVOKES the American Southwest, with influences ranging from spaghetti Western soundtracks to border-town rock-country-mariachi bands. The six-man outfit's fifth album, *Garden Ruin* (Quarterstick), is a Baja landscape crossed by

long shadows—moody music sweetened by guitarist Joey Burns's soft vocals. The second song, "Yours and Mine," is little more than a simple guitar strum and the low moan of a cello, as Burns half-whispers, *It's getting late for decision / and what's that waiting about.* But his plaintive, folkie voice is especially effective when the whole band—including a steel guitar, an accordion, and two trumpets—backs him; as with a human figure in the foreground of a wind-carved landscape, perspective makes the beauty less abstract.

—SCOTT FRAMPTON