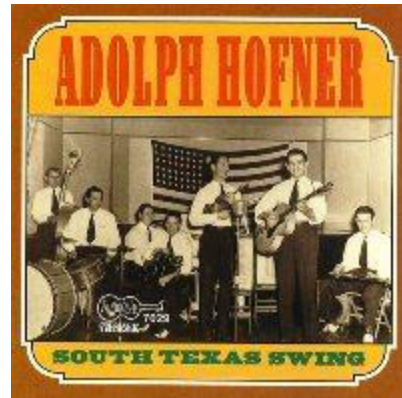


Pearl Wranglers

Pearl Wranglers: This popular western swing band was founded in San Antonio in 1949 by Texas Czech-German musician Adolph Hofner. Hofner was involved in several bands with a variety of names during his career, but this particular group was christened the Pearl Wranglers, because it had Pearl Beer as its sponsor.

Although the Pearl Wranglers certainly were inspired by Bob Wills, Milton Brown, and other western swing pioneers, the San Antonio-based band also developed its own unique style, thanks largely to the eclectic musical background of Adolph Hofner. Hofner, who grew up hearing German and Czech folk music, along with country, blues, jazz, and other styles, brought to the Pearl Wranglers a broad-ranging repertoire that included western swing, polka, honky tonk, and Hawaiian music. Hofner also sometimes sang in Czech, and he often incorporated the accordion into the group's instrumental lineup. The Pearl Wranglers continued playing well into the 1990s, prior to Hofner's death in 2000.



Carol Neel