The Echocentrics is a new project from Austin-based two-time Grammy nominated producer Adrian Quesada, a member of Grupo Fantasma, and one of the minds behind bands like Ocote Soul Sounds, and Brownout. Teaming up with Argentinean singer Natalia Clavier and Brazil-based Tita Lima, he has carved out a cinematic, southern-fried, laid back, and psychedelic album to be released in late spring 2011.

This introductory, limited edition, 7” single features “Esclavo Y Amo,” which is a cover of a Peruvian bolero (ballad) performed by Los Pasteles Verdes that Quesada first heard about 8 years ago. The original version was the tune that inspired the forthcoming Echocentrics album. It’s a catchy psychedelic soul obscurity that takes the form of an American soul ballad and spits it back-out dripping in lo-fi South American charm, and sounds like pure sample fodder for someone like Ghost Face Killah. “When I first got obsessed with their sound, and in particular that song, I was up late one night surfing the web and emailed them,” says Quesada. “I was surprised when the original bandleader actually wrote me right back. They still play in Peru.”

On the flip is the string-laden “Electric Travels.” A subtle Texan vibe rides through this instrumental that blends lo-fi farfisa organ, fuzz guitars, and melodica with a hip hop producers sensibility. It sounds like the lost Morricone soundtrack to a Tarantino movie scene that’s dosed in peyote.

The digital version of the single includes the instrumental version of “Mundo Pequeno,” an uptempo, dancefloor-friendly, blast of hybrid Brazilian and Afrobeat rhythms. The album will include an additional disc of instrumental version of the 7 songs on the album – we liked ‘em that much.

The Echocentrics Sunshadows album drops later this spring, and mixes songs sung in English, Portuguese and Spanish with instrumental pieces that move from ballad tempo to uptempo/DJ friendly tracks. Recalling classic American funk and low-rider soul, Quesada plays an interesting cross-cultural game of musical ping pong mixing multiple languages and influences from the likes of Tim Maia and Rita Lee, Serge Gainsbourg, and David Axelrod.

While perhaps best known as one of the minds behind Grupo Fantasma, Brownout and Ocote Soul Sounds, Quesada was also one of only twenty musicians (worldwide) nominated for the 2010 Rolex Mentor and Protege Arts Initiative to be mentored by the legendary Brian Eno. Guest singer Natalia Clavier is wife of Frederic Aubele (ESL) and has appeared on his music, and on records by ESL-owners the Thievery Corporation. Lima has appeared on the Ubiquity-released Ohmega Watts “Watts Happening” album and is the daughter of bass player for Os Mutantes.