

## Opa Opa Bio

**Salsa, merengue, cumbia, cha-cha, bolero** – Opa Opa embraces and perfects all the most popular forms of Latin music.

For the players in Opa Opa, there are no barriers, cultural or musical. The band was formed in 1987 by band leader Oswaldo Bernard and his good friend and fellow musician Anthony Apollo. This unique group of musicians comes from all corners of the Caribbean and across the Americas; they are artists who have refined their craft since childhood.

The band rose to prominence in the Los Angeles salsa scene during the late 1980s and early '90s, eventually releasing their first album **Mojaditicos** on Warner Bros. Records. In their latest album, **Los Paisajes**, Opa Opa's rich percussion and passionate melodies transport you to distant landscapes: to forested isles and white sand beaches that kiss the navy blue waters of the Caribbean; into fertile, tropical regions just beyond the horizon where the people share with one another their love of music and community.

Over the years, Opa Opa has had the privilege to perform with Latin America's musical giants. Celia Cruz, Willie Colón, Tito Puente, and El Gran Combo de Puerto Rico are just a few of the great names in Latin music who have shared the stage or studio with Opa Opa. The band has been recognized with television appearances on Univisión. Long-running Los Angeles radio programs such as "Alma del Barrio" and "Canto Tropical" have featured Opa Opa's music and they have also been featured in reputable publications including the Los Angeles Times, the Orange County Register and Latin Beat Magazine.

Opa Opa has entertained large audiences at outdoor music events such as the Long Beach Salsa & Samba Festival, LACMA's Latin Sounds, Salsa Sundays at Pershing Square, as well as various Cuban, Puerto Rican and Columbian Day Festivals. They have likewise performed at premier venues across Southern California, including the Hollywood Palladium, Conga Room, The Mayan, Sportsman's Lodge, Mama Juana's, The Granada and Club V20.

The beats of Opa Opa's joyful tunes will get your whole body moving, while the heartfelt romance of their ballads is sure to evoke moments shared with that special someone. Whether they are performing at a concert, party, or special event, when Opa Opa takes the stage, everyone feels welcome to join in the celebration.

Opa Opa's music is an expression of life . . . *¡pura música, pura vida, puro sabor!*