

= Cultura Profética =

Cultura Profética (in English , Prophetic Culture) is a Puerto Rican reggae band formed in 1996 . The band has undergone several lineup changes , but founding members Willy Rodríguez (bass guitar , vocals) , Boris Bilbraut (drums , vocals) , Eliut González (guitar) , and Omar Silva (guitar , bass guitar) have remained in the group throughout its history . Despite primarily performing reggae music , Cultura Profética has experimented with genres such as bossa nova , tango , jazz , and salsa . Lyrically , the group discusses socio @-@ political and ecological issues including Latin American identity and environmental concerns , as well as interpersonal relationships and love .

After gaining popularity in Puerto Rico as a cover band , Cultura Profética began performing original music and released its debut album , Canción de Alerta , in 1998 . The group followed up with Ideas Nuevas in 2000 , which featured further musical experimentation with a wider variety of musical styles , and then Diario in 2004 . After relocating to Mexico , the band released M.O.T.A. in 2005 , which peaked at number 12 on the Billboard Hot Latin Albums chart . In 2010 , La Dulzura was released , which took a more romantic lyrical focus and produced the radio hit " La Complicidad " . Cultura Profética released its most recent single , " Saca , Prende y Sorprende " in 2014 , and is reported to be working on a new album .

= = History = =

= = = 1996 ? 99 : Formation and Canción de Alerta = = =

Cultura Profética originally began as a cover band , performing popular reggae songs in small bars and clubs before beginning to perform original music in Spanish . Shortly after transitioning to perform original music , the group adopted the name Cultura Profética , which was inspired by the view that " music is a voice of culture and is prophetic because the reggae music that we love , and that influenced us , is from the ? 70s with themes of what 's happening now that can affect our future " , according to guitarist / bassist Omar Silva .

Many of the original members of the group attended the Escuela Elemental and the Escuela Secundaria of the University of Puerto Rico , an institution noted for its progressive and experimental teaching approaches . Vocalist / bassist Willy Rodriguez commented , " It is a school in which you are allowed to decide a few things on your own , you have free time between classes [when] you can do your own things , and there is a lot of musical culture in the school . It tends to allow you to explore your artistic interests ... There was always an air of liberation , of thinking on your own . I think that influenced a lot in what we do today musically and ideologically . " Group members Boris Bilbraut , Willy Rodríguez , Eliut González , Juan Costa , and Ivan Gutiérrez began jamming together in 1996 , bonding over a shared interest in reggae music , particularly Bob Marley . These rehearsal sessions took place in El Hoyo , a neighborhood in the San Juan metropolitan area .

After transitioning away from being a cover band , the group quickly gained popularity in the Puerto Rican reggae scene . Cultura Profética began performing in major reggae festivals and opening for Jamaican reggae musician Don Carlos . The band 's first album , Canción de Alerta (1998) , was recorded in the Tuff Gong studios at Jamaica with Errol Brown , frontman of Hot Chocolate and Bob Marley 's sound engineer . The group was the first Spanish @-@ language act to record in Marley 's studios . The record discusses a number of social issues in Puerto Rico , including the importance of acknowledging the island 's African influence .

= = = 1998 ? 2009 : Ideas Nuevas , Diario , and M.O.T.A. = = =

The group returned to Tuff Gong studios in 1999 to record its second album , Ideas Nuevas , which was released in May 2000 . On this record , the band began experimenting with a variety of rhythms such as bossa nova , salsa , ska , and jazz . The album was dedicated to a music instructor at the

University of Puerto Rico . The band performed in Tito Puente 's amphitheater on May 12 , 2000 , later releasing a recording of the performance in the form of the live album *Cultura en Vivo* . In 2002 , the band released its third studio album , *Diario* . On this album , the band aimed to produce a record that represents Puerto Rican daily life , occasionally introducing songs with interludes of casual conversations and background noise , exemplified by songs such as " De Antes " and " Pa 'l Tanama " .

In 2004 , *Cultura Profética* began to focus on the international stage , eventually moving temporarily to Mexico . Their fourth studio album , *M.O.T.A.* , was released in October 2005 after a tour through Mexico . *M.O.T.A* peaked at number 12 on the Billboard Hot Latin Albums chart , remaining at the position for two weeks . Also in 2005 , the group collaborated with Puerto Rican rapper Vico C on his song " Te Me Puedo Escapar " from his album *Desahogo* . In January 2006 , the song " Ritmo Que Pesa " from *M.O.T.A* peaked at number 35 on the Billboard Latin Pop Songs chart . In 2007 , the group released *Tribute to the Legend : Bob Marley* , a live recording of the group performing Bob Marley songs . After the release of the tribute album , *Cultura Profética* toured extensively through Latin America and expanded its fan base , particularly in Argentina . A DVD covering their performance at Jose Miguel Agrelot Coliseum was released in late summer of 2008 .

= = = 2010 ? present : *La Dulzura* and upcoming album = = =

In 2010 , *Cultura Profética* released *La Dulzura* , the group 's first album on its own record label , *La Mafafa* . While discussing the decision to create an independent record label , Rodríguez explained " I can 't deny we spoke with different labels , but we didn 't find anything favorable . Labels are going through tough times and we decided to brave it on our own . " Many of the songs on the album were written and performed during the band 's extensive touring beginning in 2007 , and the songs went through numerous transformations during this time . Before the album 's official release , the band posted songs on the internet , including " *La Complicidad* " , which became a radio hit in Puerto Rico . *La Dulzura* debuted at number five on Billboard 's Top Latin Albums Chart .

La Dulzura represented a stylistic departure for the group , both musically and lyrically . The song " *Del Tope al Fondo* " is influenced by Argentine music , especially the genre of tango . Lyrically , the band discusses more romantic themes as opposed to the political emphasis of the group 's previous records . Guitarist Eliut Gonzalez remarked that the band aimed to shift discussion to " the good things in the world " , explaining that " We know that people need help , and that behind every revolution or movement , there is love . We wanted to document that in our music , but without doing it in a cheesy or typical way . " The singles " *Baja la Tensión* " , " *La Complicidad* " , " *Para Estar* " and " *Illegal* " all charted on the Billboard Latin Pop Songs chart . In 2011 , the group collaborated with Dominican musician Vicente García on his single " *Mi Balcón* " .

The group 's most recent single , " *Saca , Prende y Sorprende* " , released in 2014 , pays homage to Jamaican deejay and rapper Super Cat and advocates for the legalization of marijuana . Gonzalez describes the band 's upcoming record as " very different " from *La Dulzura* , noting that the group began working on new material while on tour approximately a year after the album 's release .

= = Style and lyrical themes = =

Cultura Profética has been described as roots reggae . The group has often made use of the moog synthesizer , an instrument commonly used in traditional reggae but is generally rare in contemporary reggae . Despite primarily performing reggae music , the group incorporates various other rhythms into its compositions , including those of Caribbean genres such as salsa . The song " *Reggae Rústico* " from *Ideas Nuevas* includes an extended soneo , an improvised call @-@ and @-@ response section common in the salsa genre , at its closing , calling for unity in reggae music . Additionally , the band 's music features a strong emphasis on improvisation and polyrhythmic patterns . Rodríguez notes that " We 've developed what I think is our own genre . We don 't consider ourselves a pop act but we do make popular music in the sense that we are supported by

many people . People have finally understood what we do . " Leila Cobo of Billboard observed elements of jazz in the single " La Complicidad , " additionally describing it as " more mellow rock than reggae . "

Lyrically , the group addresses social issues including corruption , environmentalism , personal liberty , and Latin American identity . Canción de Alerta contains the song " Por qué cantamos , " an adaptation of Uruguayan writer Mario Benedetti 's poem of the same name . Author Eunice Rojas cites this as an example of the group using " the power of music to advance social causes . " The song " Suelta Los Amarres " from Ideas Nuevas discourages listeners from using violence to advance a political cause . However , the lyrics on La Dulzura place more emphasis on interpersonal relationships and love . Silva notes that the group refrains from writing " romantic " lyrics , noting that " romanticism has a connotation of suffering for love . We are talking about the love that elevates and purifies your soul . We are talking in the sense of the love that sets you free . "

= = Discography = =

= = = Studio albums = = =

Canción de Alerta (1998)
Ideas Nuevas (1999)
Diario (2002)
M.O.T.A. (2005)
La Dulzura (2010)

= = Band members = =

= = = Current members = = =

Willy Rodríguez ? Bass Guitar , Vocals
Boris Bilbraut ? Drums , Vocals
Omar Silva ? Guitar , Bass Guitar
Juanqui Sulsona ? Piano , Keyboards
Eliut González ? Guitar
Eggie Santiago ? Organ , Keyboards
Ernesto Rodríguez ? Percussion
Patricia Lewis ? Vocals
Adrianna Betancourt ? Vocals
Victor Vazquez ? Trombone
Kalani Trinidad ? Flute & Saxophone
Jahaziel Garcia ? Trumpet

= = = Former members = = =

Iván Gutiérrez ? piano , brass arrangements
Sergio Orellana ? keyboards , organ
Melvin Villanueva ? piano
Juan Costa ? rhythm guitar
Raúl Gaztambide ? organ
Eduardo Fernández ? trombone
Javier Joglar ? tenor saxophone , flute
Luis Rafael Torres ? tenor saxophone , alto saxophone , flute

Juan José " Cheo " Quiñones ? trumpet
María Soledad Gaztambide ? vocals
Yarimir Cabán , better known professionally as Mima ? vocals
Eduardo " Edo " Sanz ? drums , percussion
Omar Cruz ? percussion
Beto Torrens , Juansi ? percussion
Bayrex Jimenez ? piano , keyboards