## Popular Cuban Duo Buena Fe on Top of the Charts



**Buena Fe** is a <u>Cuban</u> pop music <u>duo</u>, formed in 1999 in the province of <u>Guantánamo</u>, composed of Israel Rojas Fiel and Yoel Martínez Rodríguez. The name, "Buena Fe", translates literally to "Good Faith" in <u>Spanish</u>, but idiomatically it's "Good Will".

Israel Rojas Fiel, a lawyer, and Yoel Martínez Rodríguez, a music student, formed the duo. In November 1999, they made their debut with the song *Intimidad*. As a result, the Association "Hermanos Saíz" in <u>Guantánamo</u> invited the duo to join them.

In 2001 they moved to <u>Havana</u> to record their first album, *Déjame entrar* (*Let me in*). There they joined the agency Musicuba, of the label EGREM.

The music of Buena Fe has a unique sound and excellent compositions. The <u>trova</u> influences are present in all their lyrics, which contain thoughts about the contemporary life, with contemporary sonority, allowing arrangements that make each song fit in many Cuban genres, with influences from <u>pop</u> and <u>rock</u>.

Although the experts include them in the pop genre, according to Israel they make fusion music based in the trova style; and, while having pop tendencies, they use other styles and influences as well, which allows them to present more elaborated ideas. Also according to Israel, although they claim not to be a pop band, they are not concerned with being classified as such, however he thinks that they do more than pop music.

According to Yoel, they make a fusion using pop music and trova, besides playing with other styles to keep the texts flowing. Yoel also let us know that some say that Buena Fe makes trova if playing with the guitar alone; and makes Cuban pop rock if playing with the band; and this might be true, except for the fact that they are always experiment new styles.

They try to avoid categories; attempting to make the poetry and the venturous verse prevail; trying to wrap it with pop rock sonorities, but with a direct link to what used to be the intelligent songs that were composed from the 60s to the 80s in Cuba.

They have released seven studio albums: *Déjame entrar* (2001), *Arsenal* (2003), *Corazonero* (2004), *Presagios* (2006), *Catalejo* (2008), *Pi es 3.14* (2010) and *Dial* (2013). **Soy** (2015)

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