

“La Santa Cecilia exemplifies the modern-day creative hybrid of Latin culture, rock and world music!” – KCET Artbound

Grammy-Winning *LA SANTA CECILIA* Brings Its Vibrant LA sound to VPAC!

Saturday, February 18 at 8:00pm

(Los Angeles, CA) January 27, 2017 – From the heart of Olvera Street, L.A.-based Grammy Award-winning *La Santa Cecilia* leaps to the VPAC stage on Saturday, February 18 for a one-night only rocking performance. Named for the patron saint of music, *La Santa Cecilia* has created its own distinct LA sound that blends Latin culture, rock and world music. Drawing its musical inspiration from a vast and varied pool of music—cumbia, bossa nova, rumba, bolero, tango and klezmer music, *La Santa Cecilia* takes all that to another level, blending its music with a contemporary mix of rock with a solid Latin beat.

“La Santa Cecilia’s vocalist, ‘La Marisoul’ performed at our Culture Clash event last November,” said Thor Steingraber, Executive Director of VPAC. “She came to the edge of the stage, without a microphone. Her voice was so strong and clear it resonated through the entire building. ***La Santa Cecilia*** will be bringing that power and energy back to our venue and we can’t wait.”

The Miami Herald says, “Everything about L.A. group La Santa Cecilia is unique, from their mix of Mexican soul, gutsy blues and antic energy, to the joyful powerhouse persona of lead singer ‘La Marisoul’ Hernandez.”

About La Santa Cecilia

La Santa Cecilia started their career by serenading passers-by on the embellished corners of Downtown Los Angeles’ Olvera Street. They are a musical phenomenon that has won a Grammy, toured from coast to coast, collaborated with Elvis Costello, appeared on Conan, and most recently shared the stage with Led Zeppelin’s John Paul Jones.

Named after the patron saint of music, La Santa Cecilia is composed of accordionist and requinto player Jose ‘Pepe’ Carlos, bassist Alex Bendaña, percussionist Miguel ‘Oso’ Ramirez, and vocalist ‘La Marisoul’.

With captivating voice that sings about love, loss, and disappointment, the band has become the voice of a new bicultural generation in the United States, fully immersed in modern music, but still close to their Latin American influences and Mexican heritage.

La Santa Cecilia was thrown onto the map in 2011 with the release of their debut album “Noches y Citas”.

This album gave them their first nomination at the Latin Grammy Awards for the single “La Negra”. It was also with this release that they first voiced their sympathy and support for various human rights movements, and have since used their music to openly support these causes.

They followed that album with ‘El Valor’ in 2012, which was named one of the best albums of the year by NPR’s Alt Latino.

And then came the big one—‘Treinta Días’. The album was recorded in 2013 and showed the band moving in a more sophisticated direction, while holding true to themselves. They combined cumbia, reggae, soul, tango, and their L.A. spice to create an album that went on to win the Grammy for ‘Best Latin Rock Album, Alternative or Urban’ in 2014.

The album featured a song called ‘ICE (El Hielo)’, which was a militant anthem on humanizing the immigration tactics in the U.S.A. The song was controversial, and its accompanying video rang true to many who saw it. The song received accolades from major media outlets around the country, while the video was nominated for ‘Video Of The Year’ at Premios Lo Nuestro.

In 2014, La Santa Cecilia made their major label debut with ‘Someday New’, released on Universal. The first single, ‘La Cumbia Morada,’ combined infectious pop melodies with touches of cumbia.

On March 27th of that same year, the band did something they never imagined— they performed at the legendary Vive Latino in front of thousands of screaming fans.

Summer 2014 was a busy season for the band. They presented their politically infused video for ‘Strawberry Fields Forever’ at the LULAC (League of United Latin American Citizens) luncheon in New York, accompanied by none other than First Lady Michelle Obama. La Marisoul had the honor of singing the national anthem to the over 1,500 Latino leaders in attendance. Later that summer, the band played the sold out Reventón festival for over 20,000 people.

As if that wasn’t enough, La Santa Cecilia hit the big screen. They recorded the song “Tu Vida Es Un Escenario,” which was included in the award winning film *Cantinflas* and collaborated with Gustavo Santaolalla on “The Apology Song” for the animated hit film *The Book of Life*, directed by Mexican director Guillermo del Toro.

The band is also highly synced, with songs appearing in popular TV shows like *Weeds*, *Entourage*, and *The Bridge*, Marisoul was also featured as a guest performer on Pepe Aguilar’s *MTV Unplugged*, which turned out to be the first Unplugged by a Ranchero artist. Pepe Aguilar later invited La Santa Cecilia on stage at the National Auditorium in Mexico.

In 2015, the band started dropping hints about a new album. During the summer, they released ‘I Won’t Cry For You,’ produced by multi Grammy award winning Sebastian Krys. The song plays with jazzy nuances, while juxtaposing it with traditional sounding accordion riffs and a tasteful pop melody.

“Calaverita” was released that fall. The song is a tribute to the great Latin American tradition of “Day of the Dead,” – in celebration and of those we’ve lost.

The band ended the year with a momentous appearance on Late Night with Conan O’ Brien, where they played the new single ‘I Won’t Cry For You.’

In January of 2016, the band played Jeff Buck’s Todos Santos Festival in Baja California, only to be joined on stage by none other than Led Zeppelin’s own John Paul Jones on electric mandolin for a special rendition of “La Morena”.

‘Buenaventura’ La Santa Cecilia’s newest album, was released on February 26th, 2016. They celebrated the album release by playing the Appel Room at Lincoln Center in New York City, a homecoming show at the Walt Disney Concert Hall alongside Buika and performing two unforgettable performances at the Hispanic

Heritage Awards and Latin American Music Awards.

The band is currently nominated for the 2017 Grammy Awards, are expected to release a new album in the spring and have been confirmed to play at LA's Hollywood Bowl in September.

Calendar Listing for La Santa Cecilia

Venue: Valley Performing Arts Center
18111 Nordhoff Street
Northridge, CA 91330

Date: Saturday, February 18 at 8:00pm

Tickets: **Price:** Starting at \$28
In Person: VPAC Ticket Office, located in the VPAC Courtyard
By Phone: (818) 677-3000
Online: ValleyPerformingArtsCenter.org

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Photos: Click here for photos from the 2016-17 Season:
<http://www.valleyperformingartscenter.org/press/press-photos/>