



### ***Who is Calle 13?***

Calle 13 is an urban music band born in Puerto Rico, headed by René Pérez Joglar (*Residente*), and his brother Eduardo Cabra Martínez (*Visitante*).

René is the lyricist and vocalist, while Eduardo is the composer, musical director and producer, and multi-instrumentalist performer of the band (playing piano, melódica (key-flute), electric guitars and others). Their sister, Ileana Cabra, (*PG-13*), is the female voice of the band.

### ***Why Calle 13?***

Their aliases, *Residente* (Resident) and *Visitante* (Visitor), come from the identification they were required to give to the security guard at the entrance of their home, located on 13<sup>th</sup> Street (in Spanish, Calle 13) of a gated community in Trujillo Alto, a town adjacent to the San Juan metropolitan area. One of their first cousins coined PG-13's name, since she was underage when she began to sing with the band.

### ***What kind of music do they play?***

Calle 13 does not belong to any specific musical genre. Since its beginnings, the music industry, along with the media, have tried to pigeonhole them as reggaetón, hip-hop, rock or urban alternative. Regardless, the band is mostly characterized by being eclectic, frequently using a diversity of musical influences and imaginative fusions, which in turn have defined their unique style. So much so, that when people describe bands that experiment with different musical genres the way they do, they define these as having the “Calle 13 style”.

In their music, you can perceive influences from rock, rap, ska, merengue, bossa nova, Balkan music, Latin American folklore, Colombian cumbia, cumbia villera from Argentina, candombe from Uruguay, salsa and afrobeat. The list of musical genres they experiment with is long and ever growing.

The band is also known for its powerful lyrics in which they entwine satire, humor – sometimes black – and social messages. Through their art, they have been able to transmit a universal social approach that ranges from love, to sex, to religion, to desires and consciousness.

The band has won a total of 19 Latin GRAMMY Awards and 2 GRAMMY Awards, breaking the record for most wins as a group in the history of the Latin GRAMMY Awards.

## BIOGRAPHY

### René Pérez Joglar (*Residente*)



Born on February 23, 1978 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He is the son of Flor Joglar de Gracia, actress and announcer, and Reinaldo Pérez Ramírez, labor law attorney, musician and writer. Since very young he was surrounded by art and music. He taught himself how to play the guitar and took drumming lessons. He also played in the school band alongside his brother Eduardo and Ismael Cancel, Calle 13's drummer.

He always had a passion for baseball and played the sport for many years. Once he completed high school, he decided to cultivate his interest for the arts and enrolled in the Escuela de Artes Plásticas (School of Plastic Arts) in San Juan, Puerto Rico. After finishing his B.A. in Fine Arts, he entered Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD), in Georgia, where he completed his Master's Degree in Fine Arts.

Subsequently, he worked on several 3D animation and short films projects, one of these titled S=emp2 (Sex = Energy Mass Pleasure squared), which was presented in Madrid, Spain, obtaining second place in a short film festival held there. The film was also presented at the Viota Gallery in Puerto Rico, along with other works of art created by Rabindranat Díaz and Jesús Gómez.

Upon returning to Puerto Rico, he worked on some projects as a freelance artist for a group of well-known architects, creating animated scale models in 3D. He also worked as music video editor. However, during his job search on the island, he visited several companies and ad agencies where he was often told that he would not be able to develop his full potential in Puerto Rico.

Finding himself with almost empty pockets, he decided to take a more serious approach to the hobby he had started out when he was younger and began to record a few songs with his brother Eduardo, planning to make them available, for free, on the Internet.

As the number of songs increased, he began to search for a label company, knocking on doors like Sony Puerto Rico, among others; from which he received no answer even though he had been assured that a copy of his demo had been received.

Talking about this with one of his brothers, the name White Lion came about, an independent label which had already signed artists such as Tego Calderón and Julio Voltio. A few hours later, he received a call... and the rest is history.

### **Eduardo Cabra Martínez (*Visitante*)**



Born on September 10, 1978 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. His mother, Rosa Iris Martínez, is a medical technologist and his father, José Cabra González is an advertising professional and musician.

Eduardo began to play the piano at the age of 6. He participated, with René in the school band where he played piano and saxophone.

Besides music, he also had a passion for baseball and played in the Trujillo Alto League. During his teens, he joined the group *Kampo Viejo*, a Ska band, in which he played piano and sax. After a few years with them, he set out to form his own group, *Bayanga*, where he began to explore other musical genres, creating fusions with music from Brazil, reggae, ska and rumba.

By then, he had completed two Bachelor's Degrees from the University of Puerto Rico: one in Computer Informatics and one in Accounting. After some time with *Bayanga*, in which he obtained his first radio airplay hit with the song *Solo los locos* (*Only the crazy ones*), he decided it was time to leave the band to create his own, with a new musical concept.

This coincided with the moment in which René asked him to write some music for a few rap lyrics he had been working on, in order to share them on the Internet. Soon both would meet with Elías de León, president of White Lion and began to record their first album. Some of the musicians chosen for the new band were former members of Bayanga, and to this date still remain with Calle 13, such as Andrés (Kino) Cruz, Mark Rivera, Arturo Vergés and Ismael Cancel.

### **Ileana Cabra Joglar (PG-13)**



Born on April 28, 1989, in San Juan, Puerto Rico. She is the daughter of Flor Joglar de Gracia, René's mother, and José Cabra, Eduardo's father. Ever since she was a small girl, she showed great interest in music. She began singing even before learning to speak, by phonetically imitating great singers of the time and learning soundtracks from her favorite movies.

In school, she was part of the Bell Choir and the Singing Choir; she also took piano lessons at the Puerto Rico Music Conservatory. Ileana inherited her voice from her mother and her grandmother, Flor Amelia de Gracia, and has taken voice lessons to further educate her talent. She was only 15 when she recorded her first song, *La Aguacatona*, for the demo that René and Eduardo were working on. Today, Ileana is recognized as one of the most powerful voices on the contemporary Latin American music scene.