



The Now Newspaper by Melanie Minty

**Full name: Santa Lucia LFR (Latin Funk Rock)** <http://www.santaluciamusic.com/>

### **1) What makes Santa Lucia LFR different than other bands?**

Some things never change. At least that appear to be the theme surrounding the Surrey, BC. Latin Funk Rock & World Santa Lucia LFR. Surrey's best kept secret, musically!.

The band's been active for almost 10 years and in that time, it's gone from the cusp of hip to.. the cusp of hop. "We were always the band opening for the new hip thing" says German Cantillo the band's fronting vocalist, founder & songwriter. "We would play and they would play and six months later, that scene was dead. That band would change their haircuts and reinvent themselves, and we would still open for them.

But despite the band's seemingly static state, Cantillo says he is quite comfortable with the perpetuation. "you don't want to live and die by a scene". But the scene is not through with us. We were always a live band, we could sit in a rehearsal space or the recording studio all day long and it just doesn't feel the same. We were always the type of band that "you must go to the pub, club or festival to go see live".

The band has built a history of addictive dance music creating a sound that evokes the early days of Latin Funk (Santana, War, etc.), while adding their own blend of Rock and Funk grooves. Bringing to the West Coast of Canada experimenting rhythms like Nuyorican Boogaloo. There is the ever present Cuban grooves engulfing the stage with monstrous horns, bass and funky breaks with furious lyrics in English and Spanish.

Santa Lucia released their third full length album "Suppressed Anthems" ( [available on itunes](#) )

<https://itunes.apple.com/artist/santa-lucia-lfr/id393854819>

<https://itunes.apple.com/album/suppressed-anthems/id393854818> a blend of horn driven music anthems with a social conscience, Unique Latin sensibilities with plenty of rock, a shot of salsa, a shed-load of funk, and some high-speed Nicaraguan cumbia.." Latin revolutionary sloganeering, environmental concerns, global politics and clenched-fist leftist anthems, and you get all that message while dancing and having a great time.

That's what separate this band from the rest.

### **2) Why are you excited about playing at The Vancouver Jazz Festival?**

German Cantillo said:

After being absent from major Vancouver Festivals for almost 2 years, I'm very exciting to be back playing in our local backyard. This give us a change once again with a new album to showcase our ability to entertain our local followers in a way that's fun and at the same time delivering a positive message.

Byron Russell said:

Santa Lucia has had the chance to play with many talented artists over the years. We like to say that we bring a unique blend of music that keeps people moving from start to finish. Being the only local latin funk rock fusion group has scored us some incredible show venues over the years. These shows have won us fans and friends alike from all over the world. From our killer rock latin percussion, to our punchy horns , energetic lyrics in both Spanish as well as English, you can't help but get up and move! Don't believe us though, come let us prove it to you at the 2013 Vancouver Jazz Festival! See you all there!!

**Other Santa Lucia LFR shows:**

**June 30th , 2013** - [Vancouver International Jazz Festival](#) - 1:45pm - David Lam Park Stage.

**July 1st, 2013** - [Canada Day Celebrations](#) @ Canada Place - Vancouver, BC

**July 13th , 2013** - [The Fanclub](#) - Vancouver, BC

**August 10th, 2013** - [Joe's Apartment](#) - Vancouver, BC

**August 16th, 17th, 18th, 2013** - [Salmon Arm Roots and Blues Festival](#) - Salmon Arm, BC

1) Please give examples of songs that you will be playing that night along with the composers.

I'm the main songwriter in the band,. We'll be playing songs like:

<https://soundcloud.com/santa-lucia-lfr/muchacha>

Muchacha: A rock song with chacha feel ballad about a heart-broken fella wanting to win her love's heart back.

<https://soundcloud.com/santa-lucia-lfr/guantanamo>

Guantanamo: A song about creating awareness about US military bases in Latin America including the infamous Guantanamo prison in Cuba. The song kind of took a life of its own, mixing a message while toying with dancing latin rhythms is what made this song and anthem to party goers and dancing crowds at festivals Having fun while delivering a message.

..and then you have funky-ish tunes like Funk Cabron: <https://soundcloud.com/santa-lucia-lfr/un-funk-cabron>

Russellfunk: <https://soundcloud.com/santa-lucia-lfr/russellfunk>

A la casa del Gringo: (party at gringo's house) <https://soundcloud.com/santa-lucia-lfr/a-la-casa-del-gringo>

2) How was the band put together? I read about how you named the band which I will definitely be adding to the article.

At the time I started this project at the end of 1999 there was no one in the city (Vancouver) playing this music or let alone interested in playing this kind of stuff.

I found Byron playing with his high school jazz band, I approached him as I needed to recruit horn players for the band and pitched him the idea, he looked at me and thought this guy is nuts (as in later

years we joked about) but he was crazy enough as well and went for it with my vision. As we discover by The Province Newspaper writer Stuart Derdeyn we were pioneers in this field in Canada.

We've been active for 10 years and in that time, it's gone from the cusp of hip to.. the cusp of hop. You have similar bands in the city now influence by what we're doing, trying to re-create the trend, despite the band's seemingly static state, I'm quite comfortable with it. You don't want to live and die by a scene.

3) What is your favourite thing about performing/writing?

I think its the not-a-care-in-the-world looks in everyone's eyes when they are dancing and having a good time. The songwriting favorite part for me is got to be the challenge to write songs that will rock in a live setting,. as no every song can reach that status.

As a band we've never been that commercial and I think that's what give us an edge from every other band, that our focus is in delivering a good time rather than pleasing the industry.

4) How did you first fall in love with music? Have you always been drawn to Latin, Funk, and Rock?

Living in exile in the early 80's all I could rely on was the love of my parents and an interest in music.

I guess it was more like a survival skill for me.

I was drawn to the LFR genre when I came to Canada via San Francisco in the early 90's a genre that was unheard of here in Canada. At the time you would hear of bands experimenting with other rhythms thus world music was born,.

As a kid growing up in Latin America meant I had to experiment too,. haha.. the mix is in our dna, I grew up with salsa, cumbia and other Latino rhythms, I've played in rock bands as well but as a musician you have to adapt and re-invent yourself so the experimentation with world rhythms just came naturally to me.

Who knows, maybe I write a country album one day too.