

**"WHAT THE ROLLING STONES ARE TO ROCK'N'ROLL, EL GRAN COMBO IS TO SALSA!
DURING ITS 50 PLUS YEARS OF PERFORMANCE, THIS LEGENDARY, 14 MEMBER SALSA ORCHESTRA FROM PUERTO RICO HAS SOLD
MORE THAN 100 MILLION RECORDS WORLDWIDE AND SHOWS NO SIGNS OF SLOWING DOWN." — Baristanet.com**



El Gran Combo de Puerto Rico, commonly known as **El Gran Combo**, is a Puerto Rican salsa orchestra based in San Juan, Puerto Rico was founded in May 1962, by Rafael Ithier. Celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2012, it is often considered Puerto Rico's most successful musical group, and is considered "*the most popular Salsa group that has ever existed*". The group received the moniker **La Universidad de la Salsa** (*The University of Salsa*) in Colombia, due to the sheer number of famous salsa musicians and singers who developed their careers with it, who started with the group (*Roberto Roena, Pellin Rodriguez, Andy Montañez and Charlie Aponte*), or who were occasionally backed up by the band (*including Celia Cruz, Héctor Lavoe and La India*). **El Gran Combo** are still actively performing after more than 50 plus years together.



**"FOR 56 YEARS, EL GRAN COMBO DE PUERTO RICO
HAS BROUGHT SALSA TO THE ENTIRE WORLD."**

—El Nuevo Herald



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