

Ramon Ortiz's career has always been characterized by the exploration of seemingly incompatible musical genres and the relentless pursuit of fusing them together. The raw energy of rock and metal, and the rhythms and melodies of Puerto Rican music are the two basic elements in Ortiz's music. But the unique and talented Ortiz always makes things look more simple than they are. His music is anything but basic.

Growing up during the eighties, Ramon first picked up the guitar at age seven in his homeland of Puerto Rico. The Caribbean island has always been a melting pot of musical expressions. Both his father and grandfather were avid guitar players and introduced him to the old Puerto Rican folk standards—a hidden influence that would completely unfurl in his adolescence. “Back then, I was learning equally from the high voltage guitar playing of Eddie Van Halen and his peers, and the classically influenced, folkloric music of my ancestors,” Ortiz says of his early days of playing. So with his undying love of rock and a rich musical lineage on his side, Ramon set out to create a genre as eclectic as the culture that raised him.

In his high school days, Ortiz formed several bands. The most eclectic and experimental of them was Whisker Biscuit. In 1993, Ortiz and several of the members eventually became **Puya**, still one of Latin America's most revered and beloved bands. In 1999, **Puya** signed with MCA/ Universal, and recorded the album *Fundamental*, produced by Gustavo Santaolaya. In that same year, *Fundamental* won the Latin Billboard Award for “Best Rock Fusion Album” and set them touring with Ozzy, The Red Hot Chili Peppers, Kiss, Iron Maiden, Pantera, System of a Down, and many others. At that point, Ortiz had proved that heavy rock and Latin music could coexist within the same musical terrain.

Later, Ortiz formed the even heavier, **Ankla**. In 2006, the band was signed to Bieler Brothers and released their first album “*Steep Trails*,” produced by Ortiz and Bob Marlette. By 2007, Ankla was touring with Ozzfest and making their way several times across the US, Canada, and Central and South America. Ankla's single “Deceit” was on heavy rotation on Sirius Satellite Radio's “Hard Attack” and quickly became a listener favorite. “**Steep Trails**” was #12 in Hard Attack's list of “Top Metal Albums of 2006” as published in *Revolver Magazine*.

His first solo album simply titled **ORTIZ** was officially released June 15, 2012 and is available on iTunes. It's a vast exploration through different music genres that define Ortiz's musical essence with his guitar leading the whole way. The album is currently #20 on the most played albums list on Sirius Satellite Radio (Liquid Metal) as published on *Revolver Magazine*. He is currently sponsored by Seymour Duncan pickups, Mesa Boogie amps and Fernandes guitars, who built him his first signature 7 string tribal themed guitar, designed by him.

Never resting on his considerable laurels as a guitarist, he still considers himself a student. “When you stop learning, when you stop engaging in your art in new ways, you stop being an artist,” Ortiz says. And that’s one thing you can know for sure—Ortiz’s musical evolution can’t be stopped.

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