

BIOGRAPHY

On February 2, 1995, in Santiago de Cuba's legendary *Casa de la Trova*, the birthplace of son and bolero, Fernando Dewar founded El Septeto Santiaguero – and now, after 23 years devoted to traditional Cuban music, the group is in one of the most important moments of their career with a notable presence in national and international venues and media.

In the most recent Lucas Awards gala, which highlights Cuba's best video clips, Septeto was awarded the *Key Artist of the Year Award*, a special prize granted by Canal Clave for the dissemination of national heritage values. Septeto's videos for their songs "*La Canción de Trova*" and "*La Meneadera*," were nominated in the categories of *Traditional* and *Folk Music*, and *Production*, respectively.

Both numbers belong to Septeto's recording *Raices*, which received a 2017 Latin Grammy nomination in the *Best Traditional Tropical Album* category. In 2015, Septeto's "*No Queiro Llantro=Tributo a Los Compadres*," won that very same category in the Latin Grammys and was also nominated for a 2016 traditional Grammy Award as *Best Tropical Latin Album*. Previously, El Septeto Santiaguero has also received nominations for their recordings "*Vamos Pa' La Fiesta*" in 2013, and "*Oye Mi Son Santiaguero*" in 2011 – both of which also won the CUBADISCO prize at home in Cuba.

In their recordings, Septeto had collaborated with the likes of José Alberto El Canario, Cheo Feliciano, Reuben Blades, Oscar D'Leone, Eliades Ochoa, Andy Montanez, Ismael Miranda, Aymee Nuviola, Reinaldo Creagh, Shark Morales, Edwin Bonilla, Jimmy Bosch, Edwin Colón Zayas, Alejandro Almenares, Luisito Quintero. Their repertoire is a journey through different aspects of Cuban popular music, with emphasis on the traditional and contemporary perspective using compositions from both classic and contemporary Cuban authors as well as composers within the group itself.

Since its foundation, El Septeto Santiaguero has traveled to more than 30 countries, performing in many of the most important festival and venues in the world. The City Council of Santiago de Cuba awarded the group the *Key to the City* accolade in 2014 and the *Flag of the City* award in 2015.