

The Story Behind « Vivir Mi Vida »

Introduction

“Vivir Mi Vida,” the joyful anthem sung by Marc Anthony, is more than a just hit song.

Born from North African roots and transformed through global collaboration, it’s a reflection of how artists use music to express complex identities.

Today, you’ll take a musical journey from Morocco to the Americas to see how the song connects languages, rhythms, and worlds.

Meet RedOne: Global Sound, Moroccan Soul

Perhaps you don’t know him but RedOne Morocco, a city where Arabic, French, and worked with people like **Lady Gaga, Enrique Iglesias, Jennifer Lopez, and**



(Nadir Khayat) born in Tétouan, Spanish blend in everyday life, **Nicki Minaj, OneDirection, Shakira.**

And he is one of the primary songwriters and composers.

Growing up between cultures made him curious about every kind of rhythm. As a teenager he moved to Sweden, learned English, and began producing songs that fuse Arabic beats, Latin hooks, and European pop energy.

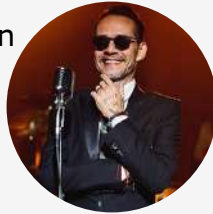
In 2012, he teamed up with Algerian singer Cheb Khaled, the King of Raï music, to create “C’est la Vie” a French-Arabic dance hit about joy and living in the moment.

RedOne’s influence also connects “C’est la Vie” to **Marc Anthony’s “Vivir Mi Vida.”** Marc Anthony’s song is the official salsa version of Khaled’s hit, keeping the same melody and positive message about enjoying life. Through this connection, RedOne’s work traveled from French-Arabic pop to Spanish salsa, showing how one song can cross languages, cultures, and musical styles.



Marc Anthony Adds the Voice of Latin New York

Marc Anthony, a Puerto Rican-American singer, he heard "C'est la Vie" and recognized its universal energy. With RedOne's blessing, he reimaged it as "Vivir Mi Vida," rewriting the lyrics completely in Spanish and rebuilding the music in a salsa-pop style.



singer from New York City. In 2013, its universal energy. With RedOne's "Vivir Mi Vida," rewriting the lyrics the music in a salsa-pop style.

He didn't just cover the song, he made it his own. He added salsa horns, Caribbean percussion, and that signature Marc Anthony power-voice. The result was a track that sounded entirely Latin while still carrying the spirit of the Maghreb underneath, a message of joy, resilience, and cultural pride for the Latin world.

Together, RedOne and Marc Anthony created more than a song. They created a conversation between worlds, showing how music can hold many identities at once. "Vivir Mi Vida" reminds us that beauty comes from connection, and that the rhythms that move us are also the ones that tell our stories.

From North Africa to America, the song became a global anthem of celebration and connection.

Sources

1. "10 Questions with RedOne." BMI Interview, 2015. ["The Bawdy Raï Music of Oran Reflects the City's Pluralist Past", New Lines Magazine.](#)
2. "Vivir Mi Vida: Meaning and Origin of Marc Anthony's Jubilant Salsa." MusicTales, 2020. <https://musictales.club/article/vivir-mi-vida-meaning-and-origin-marc-anthonys-jubilant-salsa>
3. "Song: Vivir mi vida written by Marc Anthony / Adapted from C'est la vie." SecondHandSongs. ["RedOne \(Nadir Khayat\)",_profils sur Grammy.com et IMDb.](#)



Questions

Answer the following questions:

Part 1 — Comprehension

1. Where is Yahya from ?
2. Where was RedOne (Nadir Khayat) born?
3. Who sings "Vivir Mi Vida"?
4. What was the original name of the song before Marc Anthony?

Part 2 — Reading and listening

1. Why did Marc Anthony decide to create "Vivir Mi Vida"?
2. What did he add to the song to make it sound Latin? Name two things.
3. What is the message? and, how does the music make you feel?



Part 3 — Think about it

Expand as much as you can:

The text says "Vivir Mi Vida" sounds Latin but still carries the spirit of the Maghreb underneath. Explain how one song can hold more than one culture or identity at the same time. Use one idea from the text and one idea from listening to the song.

