



**ULM:** Hi! Is this Anthony or should I call you Romeo?

**Romeo:** *It's Romeo baby!*

...And that was the beginning of my interview with the one and only, musically-acclaimed bachatero, Anthony Romeo Santos or as he charismatically put it, ROMEO. Over the past 10 years, Santos has been a key figure elevating the bachata genre to new heights with his iconic group, Aventura. They've won numerous awards and broke countless records including selling out Madison Square Garden in 2007, which Romeo cites as one of his greatest musical career achievements. In 2010, the New York quartet responsible for popularizing their brand of Dominican folk-pop, more commonly referred to as bachata, decided to take a break to pursue new solo projects. But not to worry, this by no way means they're over! According to Romeo, "We never broke up"—putting rumors to rest, he reassured me a return for the hit-making group early in 2013. Despite fans lamenting Aventura's decision to take time off, Romeo's fans need not worry! This "break" has kept the Bronx native busier than ever. While focusing on his solo project, he took the time to give me the 411 on the new chapter in his career.

Before I get into details, here is a little background on the heartthrob...Anthony Santos was born on July 21, 1981 in the Boogie Down Bronx to a Dominican father and a Puerto Rican mother. He discovered his passion for songwriting at a young age. While most teenage boys were out chasing girls and shooting hoops, Romeo stayed home to create his first form of art, his poetry. His blossoming love affair with songwriting was only the beginning for the 13 year old. Romeo joined his local church choir with his cousin and future Aventura band member, Henry Santos. The two cousins would then meet brothers, Lenny and Max shortly after, thus creating the musical nucleus that is Aventura. A string of chart-topping hits, musical accolades, and of course screaming girls soon followed! In case ULM readers needed reminding, which I highly doubt since Aventura's reputation and fame precedes them, be sure to check out my list of favorite Aventura tracks at the end of this article.

# The New Crossover Contender

Written by

---

