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L.A.B Biography



L.A.B's groove blends an eclectic mix of reggae, electronic, blues, funk and rock - all combining to create a sound entirely their own.

L.A.B made their name on the live stages of New Zealand and won Radio New Zealand's publicly-voted Best Live Act of 2019, with this reputation seeing them play to over 200,000 people that year. 2021 has now seen the band take home four awards at the 2021 Aotearoa Music Awards, including Album Of The Year, Single Of The Year & Best Group.

Their hit single 'In The Air' peaked at Number One in 2020, and has remained in the charts ever since. L.A.B's success story continues - selling-out arenas and stadiums, dominating the charts, and being awarded People's Choice and Best Roots Artist at the 2020 Aotearoa Music Awards.

L.A.B have become a mainstay in the NZ Music Charts and on the festival circuit, performing at every major festival across NZ, alongside multiple sold-out stadium and arena shows in NZ and Australia. Their chart accomplishments include all four albums reaching platinum status, alongside eight platinum singles & nine gold singles. The biggest of these include 'Why Oh Why' (three-times-Platinum), 'Controller' (five-times-Platinum) & 'In The Air' (seven-times-Platinum in NZ and Gold in Australia).

Formed by drummer & producer Brad Kora, L.A.B comprises his brother Stu Kora, Ara Adams-Tamatea, Miharo Gregory & frontman Joel Shadbolt. L.A.B released their debut album in 2017, releasing a new album every year since. Their fourth album debuted at Number One on the Official Album Charts, while single 'Why Oh Why' reached Number One on the Official Top 40 Singles Chart.

Released in November 2017, L.A.B's self-titled debut showcased the multiple sides to the L.A.B sound. Upon release, the album went straight to Number One on the iTunes Album Charts, has spent over 170 weeks in the New Zealand Top 20 Album charts since, and has been certified two-times Platinum. The single 'Controller' has since become a modern NZ anthem, being certified five-times Platinum.

Not willing to waste any time, the band were back in the studio less than four months after their debut's release, with the new album L.A.B. II released just in time for summer. Their second album saw a further 12 genre-bending tracks, and a band further honing their eclectic sound. Since release, the album has spent over 140 weeks in the New Zealand Top 20 Album charts, and has been certified Platinum.

December 2019 saw the band fulfil its goal of releasing three albums in three years, with the release of L.A.B. III. Since release, their single 'In The Air' became the biggest track in NZ, hitting Number One on the Official NZ Top 40 Singles Chart, the first independent local act to do so since 2012. It has also been certified seven-times Platinum, was the most-played song on NZ radio in 2020, and reached Number One on the 2020 NZ End of Year Singles Chart.

The following months saw L.A.B perform NZ's first arena shows in over three months, performing to sell-out audiences at Auckland's Spark Arena and Hamilton's Claudelands Arena. With L.A.B. III reaching Platinum status and being named a finalist for the prestigious 2020 Taite Music Prize, the band also took home two 2020 Aotearoa Music Awards, including People's Choice Award, while putting the finishing touches on their fourth album.

Arriving just prior to the end of 2020, L.A.B IV maintained the sound that has become L.A.B's trademark – combining reggae, funk, soul & blues. Lead single 'Why Oh Why' showed the anticipation for the release, debuting at Number One on the Official NZ Top 40 Singles Chart. The single was L.A.B's second Number One for 2020, and marked only the second time an independent artist secured two Number One singles in a calendar year. 'Why Oh Why' charted at Number One with 'In The Air' at Number Two and 'Controller' at Number Three, the first time any artist has had three singles charting inside the Top Three. The album has since seen the band win Album Of The Year, Single Of The Year & Best Group at the 2021 Aotearoa Music Awards, being the first artist since Lorde in 2017 to win both Album & Single awards in the same year.



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2021 has seen L.A.B headline festivals across New Zealand and perform five massive headline shows at the iconic Bowl of Brooklands, Mt Smart Stadium, Claudelands Arena and two shows at TSB Arena - with all five shows selling out to a total audience of over 50,000.

L.A.B continue to assert themselves as one of NZ's hardest-working acts, with no signs of slowing down. November saw the release of new single 'Mr Reggae', with their fifth album in five years L.A.B V out December 17. January 2022 saw three huge summer shows including shows at Hagley Park in Christchurch and at Auckland's iconic Western Springs.

Internationally, demand is high for L.A.B. Their debut headline tour of Australia has sold over 20,000 tickets despite being postponed multiple times since the original dates in 2020 due to the pandemic. March/April 2022 saw L.A.B perform marquee sets at the iconic Byron Bay Bluesfest & WOMADelaide Festival, and play five sold out shows to over 15,000 people at HOTA Gold Coast (2 shows), Fremantle Arts Centre (2 shows) and more.

Band members

Ara Adams-Tamatea – Bass
Miharo Gregory – Keys
Brad Kora – Drums, Vocals
Stu Kora – Keys, Vocals
Joel Shadbolt – Guitar, Vocals

Socials

<https://facebook.com/LABmusicNZ>
https://instagram.com/lab_music
https://tiktok.com/@lab_music

Discography

L.A.B, released November 24, 2017, certified two-times Platinum
Featuring the single '**Controller**', certified five-times Platinum
'**Ain't No Use**' & '**Starry Eyes**' certified Platinum
'**She's Gone**' & '**Jimmy Boy**' certified Gold
Stream/purchase - <https://smarturl.it/LABI>

L.A.B II, released December 21, 2018, certified Platinum
Featuring the single '**Rocketship**', certified Platinum
'**Baby Will You Let Me**' certified Gold
Stream/purchase - <https://smarturl.it/LABII>

L.A.B III, released December 6, 2019, certified two-times Platinum
Featuring the single '**In The Air**', certified seven-times Platinum & Gold in Australia
'**For The Love Of Jane**', certified Platinum
'**Personify**', '**Shadows**' & '**Running**' certified Gold
Stream/purchase - <https://smarturl.it/LABIII>

L.A.B IV, released December 18, 2020, certified Platinum
Featuring the single '**Why Oh Why**', certified three-times Platinum
'**Yes I Do**', certified Platinum
'**My Brother**', '**No Roots**' & '**Natural**' certified Gold
Stream/purchase - <https://smarturl.it/LABIV>

L.A.B V, digital release December 17, 2021
Stream/purchase: <https://ffm.to/labv>

Documentary

Full Length Documentary (20 mins) - <https://youtu.be/rb2cug72XGI>
Mt Smart Show Highlights (<3mins) - <https://youtu.be/WDQVNEVjyik>



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