

## THE BACK II BACK STORY

"Other groups were put together, me and my brother were born together," says **Steven Bernardo**, one half of the talented pop duo known as **Back II Back**. Identical twins, **Steven** and **Michael Bernardo** share more than their mirror images. "When we sing and perform, it's like we're completing each other musically," says Michael. Yet each brother brings a refreshingly identifiable fingerprint to his music. Steven's strong tenor vocals and Michael's well controlled falsetto combine in a musical chemistry as natural as the DNA they share.

One listen to their fresh new self titled CD album "**Back II Back**," on the **Topshelf Entertainment** label (distributed nationally by powerhouse **Lightyear/WEA**) and you'll hear a mix of memorable vocals and soulful grooves delivered over infectious dance pop confections and stirring ballads. Highlights from the album are a listeners choice, but the funky flavored "**Searching**," power ballads "**Luv I You**," "**Cry**," and "**Sin Ti**," a homage to the Bernardo twins Latino heritage are definite fan favorites. The reason **Back II Back** are proving irresistible to their ever-growing legion of young fans across America is simple, they sing from the heart.

Following their musical dreams, led the boys to being the first act signed by **NBA's Boston Celtic Eric Williams'** newly formed nationally distributed **Topshelf Entertainment Record** label. With the release of their freshman CD "**Back II Back**," powerful vocals atop cutting edge yet radio friendly jams, Steve and Michael took their fresh sound across America, in their custom designed tour bus. Soon fans all over were calling them "**the dreamy duo**" and the name stuck. **Back II Back** recently criss-crossed the country on their *own* highly popular major **14 city Radio Disney Tour**, "**Can We Work It Out...Coast to Coast with Back II Back**," followed by east coast dates on the **A-Teens, Baha Men "Pop Til You Drop Tour"**

Currently "the dreamy duo" has been busier than ever. Highlights from this fall and early winter include performing in high profile charitable events across the country like **The Make a Wish Foundation's Radiothon** or **Elton John and Billie Jean King's Smash Hits Tennis Tournament**, where the boys performed their huge pop rendition of the United States "National Anthem" of which **Sir Elton John** remarked, "these boys can sing!" Other recent highlights include **Cox NY** hit radio station's **WBLI's Winter Jam** at **The Nassau Coliseum** where Mike and Steve performed along side other pop stars like **Nick and Aaron Carter, LMNT, Play**, and **Greg Raposo** formerly of **Dreamstreet** to name a few. Says Michael about touring, "We had a blast! It was great to meet a lot of our fans from around the country. It was so cool and unbelievable. We're living out our dream." Steven agrees, "Performing is an adrenaline rush. We work very hard at it. We view ourselves as not just singers, but entertainers and we try to provide a show for all age groups."

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Being the featured artists singing "**Luv I You**," to swooning crowds on the nationally televised **Jenny Jones Show** in December, followed up by a Holiday Tour with **Greg Raposo** and being one of the featured acts for **Boston's First Night New Years Eve Celebration** at the **Hynes Convention Center**, help make 2002 quite a year for **Back II Back**.

As if **Back II Back** hasn't been busy enough, the group was seen on major television shows and in newspapers across the country this fall and summer, being interviewed and performing their single live. Fans can also find the guys featured in the pages of hot pop fanzines, **Popstar** and upcoming **M** magazines

The first **Back II Back** single, "**Didn't Mean to Make You Cry**," produced by hit-maker **Joe "Flip" Wilson** was released right after September 11<sup>th</sup> and saw the same fate of most songs released at that time. According to Steven, "it's a song everybody can relate to about the trials and tribulations of love, finding it, losing it and trying to make things work out again." But that didn't stop the legions of fans here who flock to their live shows, and visit their interactive internationally popular website [www.back2backonline.com](http://www.back2backonline.com). to connect with their faves and get the latest in everything **Back II Back**.

Ever busy in the studio, writing, and now out there performing and touring, **Back II Back** always manage to find time to give back. Whether through the **SEAP** (School and Entertainment Activities Program) in California, or other motivational programs, the Bernardo twins can be found sharing their emotionally uplifting story to kids of all ages, and ending it with a megawatt **Back II Back** concert fans won't soon forget. This Xmas Season the brothers again donated their talents to a special day of giving back to the community for **POP KIDS CARE DAY**. **Back II Back** asked all their fans to purchase new gifts and bring them to the **Sunrise Mall** with **WBLI** on **Long Island** to help build a **Pop Care Kids Gift Mountain** for families in need. The event was another incredible success for "the dreamy duo."

This winter finds Mike and Steve performing in one-off shows and touring with other great acts like **Dreamstreet's Greg Raposo**. The brothers will participate in "**My School is Slammin' an** in-school program in the New York area, where kids will have a chance to talk about the great things that make their school a special cool, hip place to learn. The program is designed to increase attendance, goal setting, and self-improvement and reward students who are active making positive contributions. The winners receive a **Back II Back** concert as a bonus.

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Harmony was not always perfect for the young brothers and to get to this point in their careers was an uphill struggle. The twins, California natives faced many challenges early in their lives. Their parents separated when they were tweens and the brothers grew up in separate homes. Michael's life remained in the tough urban surroundings he had grown up in, Music proved to be his escape as he grooved to Michael Jackson, Stevie Wonder, rap and Latino music, while singing gospel in church choirs. In contrast, Steven's life was grounded in the "safe suburbs," where he was into the sounds of Maxwell, Brian McKnight, Michael Jackson, Backstreet Boys, \*NSync and also sang gospel in his local church.

Feeling a loss for more than half their childhood, each twin looked to music to fill the void. Embarking on identical but separate paths, they each dreamed of one day becoming recording artists. While in their early teens, Michael and Steven both performed locally in California. It was through this visibility that a series of unusual events fated to reunite them. A promoter had seen both brothers perform individually at separate gigs. First thinking they were the same boy, later finding out they were two distinct people he ultimately brought them to the attention of a local talent showcase. The twins reconnected and rediscovered each other personally and musically. The rest as they say is history.

The **Back II Back** story is only beginning; the **Bernardo Brothers** with their talent, upbeat personalities and positive attitudes are destined for a tremendous future. And they can handle it. According to Michael "We are back together. Our love of music has taken us on a journey we've always dreamed of. Life is great."

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