



O.A.R.

Band History

O.A.R. (Of A Revolution) is an alternative rock band which first came together in Rockville, Maryland in the basement of drummer Chris Culos' childhood home in 1996. The group then journeyed to Ohio State to attend college.

After gaining a following as a popular live act on college campuses, the band has gained popular success since signing to Lava Records in 2005, with their singles "Love and Memories" and "Shattered (Turn the Car Around)" gaining mainstream radio airplay.

As a young group of musicians, they were the prototype of the modern, self-starting band—taking charge of their fate by working the internet and building an identifiable sound. The band's music, a rock/reggae fusion, consisted of songs that were fully accessible, yet teasingly elusive. Attracting fans all across the country, the band members toured relentlessly, pushing their album sales through boundless dedication and word-of-mouth appeal, never waiting for the industry to catch up. O.A.R. owes much of their success to piracy and Napster, the mp3 sharing engine. Around 2000, O.A.R.'s popularity greatly increased among college students because their song "Crazy Game of Poker" was a huge hit on Napster.

By the time the band had reached their 10-year anniversary together, they had sold over 1.2 million albums and performed in front of over 1 million people. Their studio recording, *Stories of a Stranger*, produced radio favorites "Love and Memories" and "Heard the World" as well as mtvU's Most Downloaded Video of 2006, "Lay Down." The band followed up the successful release with a live double-disc CD and DVD set, *Live From Madison Square Garden*, recorded during the band's second sold-out performance at the prestigious arena.

Read more about O.A.R. and their newest album at <http://www.ofarevolution.com>.

Members

- **Marc Roberge** (OSU English '01; lead vocals, rhythm guitar; 1996–present)
- **Richard On** (lead guitar, backing vocals; 1996–present)
- **Chris Culos** (OSU Political Science '01; drums, percussion; 1996–present)
- **Benj Gershman** (attended OSU; bass guitar; 1996–present)
- **Jerry DePizzo** (attended OSU; saxophone, rhythm guitar, backing vocals; 2000–present)

Full-Time Touring Members

- **Mikel Paris** (keyboards, percussion, backing vocals; 2006–present)

Part-Time Touring Members

- **Jon Lampley** (OSU jazz studies '13; trumpet, backing vocals, 2011–present)
- **Evan Oberla** (OSU jazz studies '09; trombone, backing vocals, 2011–present)

Album and Ticket Sales

- To date O.A.R. has sold almost 2 million albums and over 2 million concert tickets, including two sold-out shows at Madison Square Garden.

Charitable Endeavors and Other Appearances

- The band's "Heard the World" foundation was founded to support youth, education and sustainable programs both in the US and abroad.
- In 2011, O.A.R. supported the Jimmy V Celebrity Golf Classic with a concert donating a portion of ticket sales to the V Foundation.
- The band teamed up with the large US defense contractor, SAIC, to raise money for the Paralyzed Veterans of America, a service organization focused on assisting veterans with spinal cord injuries and diseases, through digital downloads of the band's song "Light Switch Sky." Proceeds from downloads of the song through July 22, 2010 support paralyzed veterans. The song was co-written by O.A.R. and its fans through a competition on Twitter.