



**RAY BARRETTO'S 1975 SALSA CLASSIC
BARRETTO
RETURNS TO VINYL FOR ITS GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY**

Featuring such enduring hits as “Ban Ban Queré,” “Guararé,” and “Canto Abacué,” the album marks the influential bandleader’s first LP with celebrated vocalists Rubén Blades and Tito Gómez

Available May 9th on 180-gram vinyl and hi-res digital



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Los Angeles (March 12, 2025)—**Craft Latino** proudly announces a **50th anniversary** reissue of the GRAMMY®-nominated album **Barretto**, the genre-defining salsa classic from legendary conguero and bandleader, **Ray Barretto**. The album, which **returns to vinyl for the first time since its 1975 release**, marks Barretto’s first recording to feature the renowned voices of **Rubén Blades** and **Tito Gómez** and includes such enduring hits as “**Guararé**,” “**Ban Ban Queré**,” and “**Canto Abacué**.” Set for release on **May 9th**, **Barretto** was **mastered from its original analog tapes** by **Dave Polster** and **Clint Holley** at **Well Made Music** and pressed on **180-gram vinyl** and housed in a replica of its classic jacket, including a die-cut flap on the front cover that opens up to album credits and the original cover notes written by Pablo “Yoruba” Guzman.. A **limited-edition “Yellow Smoke”** 140-gram color vinyl variant (**limited to 300 copies**), with an **exclusive bundle option** that includes a classic Fania Records T-shirt, is available at [Fania.com](https://www.fania.com). Additionally, the album will make its debut in **hi-res (192/24) digital** on **May 9th**. [Click here](#) to pre-order **Barretto**.

In 1975, celebrated bandleader **Ray Barretto** (1929–2006) was enjoying one of the most triumphant periods of his long and influential career. For more than a decade, the Brooklyn-born Puerto Rican musician had enjoyed his status as one of the foremost names in Latin jazz and Afro-Cuban rhythms. He had become *the* go-to conguero in New York City, playing alongside such jazz greats as Wes Montgomery, Cal Tjader, Kenny Burrell, and Dizzy Gillespie. As a bandleader, meanwhile,

Barretto achieved stardom with his 1963 hit, “**El Watusi**,” later becoming a foundational figure in the soulful boogaloo movement and, at the end of the decade, was at the forefront of the emerging salsa scene, releasing such popular albums as 1968’s ***Acid***, 1971’s ***The Message***, and 1972’s ***Que viva la música***.

After a highly publicized shake-up of personnel within his orchestra, Barretto returned to the scene with a new group and a best-selling album, 1973’s ***Indestructible***. The release reinforced Barretto’s star power, as well as his versatility as a songwriter, bandleader, and producer. With a renewed sense of confidence, Barretto returned to the studio to work on his follow-up. Joining him were two new additions to his group: Panamanian singer-songwriter **Rubén Blades** and Puerto Rican singer **Tito Gómez**—both of whom would become regular fixtures in Barretto’s band before breaking out as stars in their own right.

The resulting album, 1975’s ***Barretto***, features a host of memorable tracks, including opener “**Guararé**.” Originally written by Pedro Speck as an energetic changüí, Barretto’s version offers a slower tempo, without losing the guaracha flavor or the witty lyricism. Featuring Gómez on vocals, “Guararé” became a signature tune for the singer—making him synonymous with the son cubano style. Other highlights include the rumba-son “**Ban Ban Queré**” and the lushly arranged son montuno “**Vine pa’ echar candela**,” with Blades on vocals.

An iconic salsa album wouldn’t be complete without selections from the great Puerto Rican composer Tite Curet Alonso—in this case “**Vale más un guaguancó**” and “**Testigo fui**.” Blades, meanwhile, showcases his skills as a songwriter with the bolero “**Eso es amar**” as well as the album’s magnificent closer, “**Canto Abacué**.” Clocking in at over eight minutes long, the epic track opens with a percussive dialogue between Barretto and **Ray Romero** (timbales and quinto), before transforming into a rumba abierta. An avant-garde flute solo, performed by **Artie Webb**, follows, while the tune takes yet another turn into an upbeat mambo, featuring an iconic solo by pianist **Gil López**.

Barretto was an instant salsa classic, while tracks like “Ban Ban Queré,” “Guararé,” and “Canto Abacué” have long remained staples on the dancefloor. The album also arrived at a particularly significant time for the genre. As the percussionist and writer Bobby Sanabria once remarked, “1975 was a pivotal year, as the Latin music industry showed that it could grow commercially while retaining its integrity and embracing progressive new ideas. There is no better example of this tendency than the album known simply as *Barretto*.”

Following the release, Barretto’s career continued to expand as he split his focus between jazz and salsa while maintaining his role as the musical director of the legendary **Fania All Stars**. Along the way, he remained a sought-after percussionist, playing alongside acts like the Bee Gees, the Rolling Stones, and Crosby, Stills & Nash. A prolific talent who never stopped innovating, Barretto released more than 50 albums during his five-decade-long career, including nine with his celebrated group, **New World Spirit**. Among many honors, the **GRAMMY**®-winning artist was inducted into the **International Latin Music Hall of Fame** in 1999, while in 2006, he received the prestigious **Jazz Masters Award** from the **National Endowment for the Arts**.

[Click here](#) to pre-order *Barretto*.

[Click here](#) to find the exclusive bundle including the “**Yellow Smoke**” color vinyl with a classic Fania Records T-shirt.

Tracklist:

Side A

1. Guararé
2. Vine pa’ echar candela
3. Eso es amar
4. Ban Ban Queré

Side B

1. Vale más un guaguancó
2. Testigo fui
3. El presupuesto
4. Canto Abacué

*Digital tracklist mirrors the vinyl

About Fania:

Highly influential, both musically and culturally, Fania Records spread the sound of salsa music from the clubs of New York City to the rest of the world and became a revered global brand in the process. Fania's master recording catalog is the definitive home for genres such as Latin big band, Afro-Cuban jazz, boogaloo, salsa and Latin R&B and includes artistic giants such as Celia Cruz, Willie Colón, Héctor Lavoe and Rubén Blades. With the creation of the international supergroup known as the Fania All-Stars, the label's signature musical style became known as the "Fania Sound." Fania's rich master catalog also includes the Pete Rodríguez's boogaloo classic "I Like It Like That" which was sampled by Cardi B in her #1 hit "I Like It." Additionally, three Fania Recordings, *Celia & Johnny* by Celia Cruz and Johnny Pacheco, *Azucar Pa' Ti* by Eddie Palmieri and *Live at Yankee Stadium* by the Fania All-Stars, appear in the National Recording Registry, a list of sound recordings that "are culturally, historically or aesthetically important, and/or inform or reflect life in the United States." For more info, visit Fania.com and follow on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv33333333333333333333), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/faniarecords), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/faniarecords), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/faniarecords), and [TikTok](https://www.tiktok.com/@faniarecords).

About Craft Latino:

Craft Latino is home to one of the largest and most prestigious collections of Latin music master recordings and compositions in the world. Its rich and storied repertoire includes legendary artists such as Antonio Aguilar, Joan Sebastian, Pepe Aguilar, Celia Cruz, Héctor Lavoe, Willie Colón, Ray Barretto, La Lupe, Ruben Blades and the Fania All Stars, to name just a few. Renowned imprints with catalogs issued under the Craft banner include Musart, Fania, TH, Panart, West Side Latino and Kubaney, among many others. Craft creates thoughtfully curated packages, with a meticulous devotion to quality and a commitment to preservation, ensuring that these recordings endure for new generations to discover.

Craft Latino is the Latin repertoire arm of Craft Recordings. The catalog label team for Concord. For more info, visit CraftRecordings.com.

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