



**CHEO FELICIANO'S SEMINAL SOLO DEBUT
CHEO
MAKES ITS LONG-AWAITED RETURN TO VINYL**

Co-produced and co-written by legendary composer Tite Curet Alonso, the 1971 album features Feliciano's breakout hit "Anacaona," plus such salsa classics as "Pa' que afinquen" and "Mi triste problema"



[Click here](#) to see the online media kit

[Click here](#) to pre-order

Los Angeles, CA (May 20, 2026)—**Craft Latino** celebrates the **55th anniversary** of **Cheo Feliciano's** record-breaking solo debut, ***Cheo***, with the album's first **US vinyl reissue** in over half a century. Co-produced and co-written by the celebrated composer **Tite Curet Alonso**, whose centennial falls this year, the 1971 album features Feliciano's breakout hit, "**Anacaona**," plus a handful of other salsa classics, including "**Pa' que afinquen**" and "**Mi triste problema**." Joining Feliciano on the album are some of the era's most renowned musicians, including Fania Records founder **Johnny Pacheco**, **Larry Harlow**, **Bobby Valentín**, **Louie Ramirez**, and **Orestes Vilató**, among others.

Set for release on **July 17th**, just days after his 91st birthday, and available for **pre-order today**, *Cheo* features **all-analog (AAA) lacquers cut from the original master tapes** by **Dave Polster** and **Clint Holley** at **Well Made Music** and is pressed on **180-gram vinyl** for an exceptional listening experience. Rounding out the package is a gatefold jacket that faithfully replicates the album's original **Vaya Records** cover art. Vinyl enthusiasts can also find a **limited-edition Medianoche Morada (Midnight Purple) color** pressing (only 300 copies), as a stand-alone or bundled with a collectible Vaya Records T-shirt available at Fania.com. Fans can also enjoy the remastered album in both **standard and hi-res audio available now** on digital music platforms.

Cheo Feliciano (1935–2014), was one of salsa’s greatest singers, whose smooth baritone vocals, nimble improvisational skills, and ability to interpret a wide range of musical styles made him stand out among his peers. Born in Puerto Rico, Feliciano relocated to New York as a teenager, where the self-taught musician soon found work as a percussionist in bands led by Tito Rodríguez, Luis Cruz, and Kako. Then, in 1957, he auditioned for a role that would change the course of his career—as the singer for the legendary Joe Cuba Sextet. He remained with the Latin soul star for a decade, fronting such hits as “El Pito (I’ll Never Go Back to Georgia)” before a two-year stint with the Eddie Palmieri Orchestra. Struggles with substance abuse, however, forced him to take a break from the spotlight. With the support of his good friend, composer **Tite Curet Alonso**, Feliciano was able to seek the help he needed.

In 1971, he returned to music, signing to **Fania Records** and partnering with Curet—then a rising talent on the scene—to record his triumphant solo debut, **Cheo**. While Curet produced and wrote much of the album, the sessions also featured an all-star lineup of musicians, including Fania Founder **Johnny Pacheco** (drums, chorus), **Larry Harlow** (piano), **Bobby Valentín** (bass), **Louie Ramirez** (vibraphones), **Vinnie Bell** (guitar), and **Orestes Vilató** (timbales), among others.

Personal and powerful, *Cheo* yielded several iconic tracks, including the autobiographical “**Pa’ que afinquen**.” Heartfelt and assured, the Guajira tune served as a confident declaration, announcing Feliciano’s return to music. It also challenged his peers to raise their own standards. Similarly poignant is the heartbreaking “**Mi triste problema**” and Feliciano’s own composition, “**Pienso en ti**.” The album’s most memorable track, however, is the lively “**Anacaona**.” Inspired by a 15th-century *Taíno cacica* (female chief) and composer of the same name, “Anacaona” pays homage to the historical figure who stood up against Spanish colonizers when they arrived in what is now Haiti. A powerful celebration of indigenous pride and resistance, the song was a smash hit in New York and Puerto Rico. As one of Feliciano’s most celebrated songs, “Anacaona” has long been considered a salsa classic.

The album not only reintroduced—and cemented—Feliciano as a musical icon, breaking sales records in the Latin market upon its release, but it also launched Curet’s career as one of Latin music’s greatest songwriters. A testament to their enduring friendship, *Cheo* has since become a seminal title in the Golden Age of Salsa. In a retrospective, *All Music* called *Cheo* “a powerhouse,” counting the album “among the most treasured of [Feliciano’s] professional life.”

In the years that followed, Feliciano’s star would only grow. As a solo artist, he released over two dozen albums during his career, including more than 15 titles with Fania. He would also become a core performer with the legendary supergroup **Fania All Stars**, appearing on their historic 1975 album *Live at Yankee Stadium*. A 2009 recipient of the **Latin GRAMMY® Lifetime Achievement Award**, Feliciano influenced countless artists over the decades, including Ruben Blades (with whom he would later collaborate), Gilberto Santa Rosa, and Jerry Rivas (El Gran Combo de Puerto Rico).

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

[Click here](#) to find the exclusive bundle including the Medianoche Morada (Midnight Purple) limited-edition color vinyl with a collectible Vaya Records T-shirt.

Tracklist:

Side A

1. Anacaona
2. Pienso en tí
3. Pa’ que afinquen
4. Mi triste problema
5. Esto es el Guaguancó

Side B

1. Si por mí llueve
2. Franqueza cruel
3. Mano caliente
4. Medianoche y sol

5. Poema de otoño

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 Soul, 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), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com), [X](https://www.x.com), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com), and [TikTok](https://www.tiktok.com).

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, the Fania All Stars and Daddy Yankee 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.

###