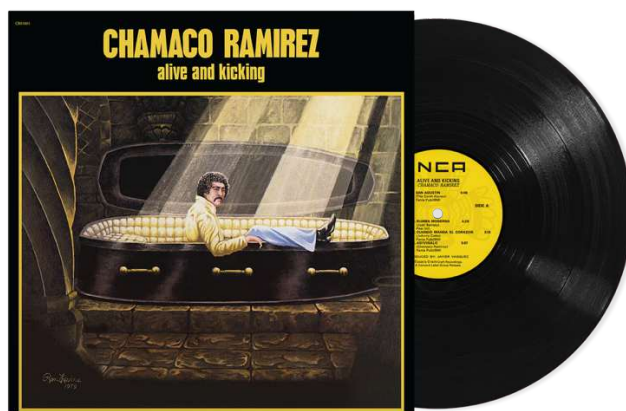




CHAMACO RAMÍREZ'S 1979 SOLO DEBUT *ALIVE AND KICKING* RETURNS TO VINYL

Out of print for over 45 years, the salsa star's only solo album features such favorites as "San Agustín," "Adivínalo," and "Así son Bongó"



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Los Angeles, CA (July 22, 2026)—**Craft Latino** honors the legacy of one of salsa's greatest *soneros*, **Chamaco Ramírez**, with the first-ever vinyl reissue of his long-out-of-print 1979 debut, ***Alive and Kicking***. Originally released on **Inca Records**, the album marked the singer's only solo release—but it packed a punch with dancefloor favorites like "San Agustín," "Adivínalo," and "Así son Bongó." Joining Ramírez on the record are such legendary musicians as **Alfredo "Chocolate" Armenteros**, **Manolín González**, **Jorge Maldonado**, and **Javier Vázquez** (who also serves as producer), plus a *coro* that includes the great **Adalberto Santiago**. Arriving **September 18th** to kick off Hispanic Heritage Month and available for **pre-order today**, this **180-gram vinyl** reissue features **all-analog (AAA) lacquers cut from the original master tapes** by **Dave Polster** and **Clint Holley** at Well Made Music, capturing the full power and brilliance of Ramírez at his best.

Vinyl collectors can also find a **limited-edition Rumba Amarilla (Yellow Rumba) color** pressing (only 300 copies), as a stand-alone or bundled with a collectible Inca Records T-shirt available at [Fania.com](https://www.fania.com). Fans can also enjoy the remastered album in both **standard and hi-res audio available now** on digital music platforms.

One of salsa's most admired *soneros*, Puerto Rican-born singer and composer **Chamaco Ramírez** (1941–1983) rose to stardom as a teenager, joining **Tommy Olivencia y Su Orquesta** as co-lead vocalist (alongside Paquito Guzmán) at just 16. Spending the next 13 years with the legendary group, he appeared on eight albums, earning a reputation for his extraordinary improvisational skills. While he also moonlighted with the Alegre All Stars and Kako y Su Orquesta, he was eager to forge his own path. In 1976, Ramírez left Olivencia's band, relocating to New York. Three years later, he released his debut, ***Alive and Kicking***, on **Inca Records**, a subsidiary of **Fania Records**.

Produced by celebrated Cuban artist **Javier Vázquez**—best known for his involvement with La Sonora Matancera—the 1979 album blended Ramírez’s own compositions with those by some of the era’s biggest songwriters. Setting the tone is the catchy opener “**San Agustín**,” a *son montuno* by the great Tite Curet Alonso, which pays tribute to the working-class San Juan neighborhood of Puerta de Tierra. From there, Ramírez transports listeners to the streets of New York with an updated interpretation of “**Rumba moderna**” from Cuban conguero Justí Barreto.

Other highlights include Ramírez’s own “**Adivínalo**,” which, despite its controversial references to drug use, became one of the album’s most popular tracks, thanks to its upbeat melody and spirited lyricism. Another standout is “**Así son Bongó**,” a classic tune by Cuban composer Joseíto Fernández. While the lyrics—and Chamaco’s emotive vocal performance—tell the story of an incarcerated man lamenting a forgotten love, his lively interpretation transforms the tune into an up-tempo guaguancó number built for the dance floor.

Joining Ramírez and Vázquez (who also moonlights on piano) are a host of well-known musicians, including trumpeter **Alfredo “Chocolate” Armenteros**, bassist **Elpidio Vasquez Jr.**, and **Jorge Maldonado** (coro/guiro/maracas)—all of La Sonora Matancera fame. The coro is further bolstered by the great **Adalberto Santiago** and **Tito Allen**, while the band is rounded out by such esteemed players as trumpeter **Harry D’Aguilar**, saxophonists **Manolín González** and **Mario Rivera**, plus **Alberto Valdez** (conga), **Edgar Lopez** (bongo), and **Mike Collazo** (timbales).

Completing the album is an eye-catching cover, designed by artist **Ron Levine**, in which Ramírez is depicted emerging from a coffin into a ray of sunlight. While the design was inspired purely by the album’s title—and the idea that the singer was still “alive and kicking” after a few years of maintaining a low profile following his time with Olivencia—it proved to be prophetic: just four years after the album’s release, Ramírez was killed by gun violence at 41.

Though *Alive and Kicking* would be Ramírez’s only solo album, the nine-song set stands as a mighty capstone to his career—proof of his prowess not only as a singer but as a bandleader and songwriter. It remains a salsa classic today.

[Click here](#) to pre-order *Alive and Kicking*.

[Click here](#) to find the exclusive bundle including the Rumba Amarilla (Yellow Rumba) limited-edition color vinyl with a collectible Inca Records T-shirt.

Tracklist:

Side A

1. San Agustín
2. Rumba moderna
3. Cuando manda el corazón
4. Adivínalo

Side B

1. Así son bongó
2. Kikiriki
3. Respétala
4. No es vacilón
5. Fania

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 Rodriguez'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](https://www.fania.com) and follow on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv33333333333333333333), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/faniarecordings), [X](https://www.x.com/faniarecordings), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/faniarecordings), and [TikTok](https://www.tiktok.com/@faniarecordings).

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](https://www.CraftRecordings.com).

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