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## Eliades Ochoa brings 'Guajiro' tour to Madison at Overture Center on March 7

**Madison, Wis.** (Feb. 20, 2024) — The rugged features, the signature hat, the cowboy boots and the iconic “man in black” image... the songs from the school of life imbued with the sort of hard-earned, country-tinged wisdom that can’t be bought. You don’t have to look or listen too hard to understand why [Eliades Ochoa](#) is often called “Cuba’s Johnny Cash.”

Yet if parallels abound, his new album “Guajiro” also shows him to be a singular voice with his own unique style and sound, rooted deep in Cuban tradition but with an appeal that is as timeless as it is universal.

**Eliades Ochoa** will perform at Overture Center in Capitol Theater on Thursday, March 7 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets (\$40-\$60) are available at [overture.org](https://overture.org).

### About Eliades Ochoa

Back in 1997 when he shot to international recognition as a member of the Grammy-winning Buena Vista Social Club, Eliades was the young gun. True, he was by then in his 50<sup>th</sup> year and had already been leading Cuba’s leading band *Cuarteto Patria* for 18 years, but he was still in the flush of youth compared to legendary veterans Compay Segundo and Ibrahim Ferrer, who had been playing since before he was born and with whom he duetted unforgettably on classic songs such as “Chan Chan” and “Candela.”

A quarter of a century later, Eliades is now the veteran with a legendary back story of his own and “Guajiro” presents Eliades as we’ve never heard him before. The songs on “Guajiro” – most of which are his own compositions – are the most intimate and personal Eliades has ever recorded. “The album tells a lot about me and my history,” he says. “It’s really the story of my life and each song has a lot of meaning.”



In making “Guajiro,” he called upon an array of sympathetic collaborators. Producer Demetrio Muñiz represents a direct link to Buena Vista, having acted for many years as the musical director of the touring band that spun-off from the original project. But others are drawn from far beyond the shores of Cuban music, including the Mississippi blues harmonica player **Charlie Musselwhite**, Fania All-Stars legend **Rubén Blades** and indie-rock auteur Joan Wasser, who records as **Joan As Police Woman**. “It’s different from the albums I’ve done before, taking me outside my comfort zone,” Eliades notes. “I’ve been playing traditional *son cubano* for many years, and at this point in my life I wanted to do something a little different, and I’ve always loved collaborating and being open to other rhythms and working with different artists.”

What triggered his late blossoming as a songwriter he isn’t entirely sure—other than a feeling that the time was ripe, the inspiration was strong and that life’s journey had provided him with insights which cried out to be shared. “It’s a different stage of my life from when we made Buena Vista,” Eliades says. “People like Compay and Ibrahim had a big history and lots of stories and making that album with them opened doors to the entire world. Now it feels like the right time for me to tell my stories. I’m in a good place, and these songs are close to my heart. You could say it’s my manifesto.”

With the release of “Guajiro,” he adds a new and revealing chapter that weaves together all the threads and strands of his storied life and career into a definitive and compelling personal testament that honours his past while ambitiously taking his music into pastures new.

“Se Soltó Un León,” a classic Puerto Rican *plena* with blazing horn arrangements, is available to listen to now.

[LISTEN TO ‘SE SOLTÓ UN LEÓN’](#)

For more information, visit: [eliadesochaofficial.com](http://eliadesochaofficial.com).

**OVERTURE CENTER FOR THE ARTS** in Madison, Wis., is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts organization that features seven state-of-the-art performance spaces and four galleries where national and international touring artists, nine resident companies and hundreds of local artists engage people in nearly 700,000 educational and artistic experiences each year. Overture’s mission is to support and elevate our community’s creative culture, economy and quality of life through the arts. [overture.org](http://overture.org)

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