

Che Sarà (What will (it) be?)

Written by bluelover

Saturday, 07 November 2015 23:40 -

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"Che Sarà," the 1971 San Remo Music Festival entry became a mega-success for Jose Feliciano throughout Europe, Asia and South America. "Che sarà" is an Italian song, written by Jimmy Fontana (music) and Franco Migliacci (lyrics). Up until that year, each song was interpreted by two artists or performers to showcase the songwriters' craft rather than the singers' interpretations. *The Festival della canzone italiana di Sanremo* is the most popular Italian song contest and awards, held annually in the city of San Remo and consisting of a competition amongst previously unreleased songs. It was the inspiration for the Eurovision Song Contest.

Che Sarà

"Che sarà" was sung by José Feliciano and the Ricchi e Poveri group and came second. RCA's Italian producers saw the song and the festival as a way to bring José Feliciano, already an international star, to Italy, as he already knew Jimmy Fontana. Although Ricchi e Poveri was a new, young group, it was chosen to sing the second version after Gianni Morandi, a well known Italian singer and RCA artist, had declined to sing the song. Jimmy Fontana, reportedly, was disappointed by RCA's decision and withdrew from the music business for many years.



José Feliciano, San Remo, 1971

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The lyrics of the song describe the singer's sadness at having to leave his native village (*Paese mio che stai sulla collina disteso come un vecchio addormentato; Oh my village set on the hill, lying down like an old, sleeping man*

) and were inspired by Cortona, a small town in Tuscany where the lyricist,

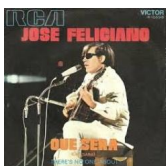
Franco Migliacci,

had lived for many years. For Jimmy Fontana, who wrote the music, the song is devoted to Bernalda, his wife's home village.



Franco Migliacci

Coincidentally, the Cortona story echoes the personal history of José Feliciano, who was born in the hill village of Lares in Puerto Rico, and who left it for New York, joining many other Puerto Rican migrants to the USA. In fact, the Spanish version of the song is considered by many in the Latino population to be a migrants' hymn.



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Jose Feliciano - Que Sera (spanish)

Jimmy Fontana (1934 –2013) was born Enrico Sbriccoli in Camerino, Italy, he took the name "Jimmy" from musician Jimmy Giuffre and "Fontana" from an arbitrary name out of the phone book, early in his career. He started his own jazz band, Fontana and his Trio, with piano, bass and drums. At the end of the 1950s, he turned to light music and began his solo career. His hits include "Non te ne andare" (1963) and "Il mondo", which ranked first on the Italian hit parade in 1965. "La mia serenata" won the Disco per l'estate Festival in 1967. At the 1968 Cantagiro summer festival, he sang a cover version of the Tom Jones hit "Delilah", titled "La nostra favola"; the song peaked at second place on the Italian hit parade.



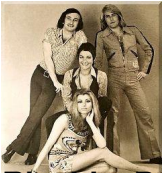
Jimmy Fontana

Ricchi e Poveri (The Rich and the Poor) was formed as a vocal band in 1967 by Franco Gatti, Angela Brambati, Angelo Sotgiu and Marina Occhiena. In 1971, they won second prizes at the Sanremo and becoming one of Italy's most popular groups. In the 1980s, after Occhiena had left the band, the remaining three shifted toward a more lightweight, dance-oriented music. One of Sanremo's regulars, Ricchi e Poveri finally won first prize in 1985 with "Se M'Innamoro."

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Pinch of Youth: José Feliciano (born 1945) with a leading world wide rock and roll star in the 1960s



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Jose Feliciano - Che Sara 1971