

Various Artists

Si, Para Usted, Vol 2

WAXING DEEP



Talk about opportunity. Producer **Dan Zacks** is the first person to ever receive a key to EGREM's vaults, the

Castro-era state-sponsored record label. In the '70s, Cuban musicians could only record for this entity. There may have been lyrical restraints, but the music—conga-driven, horn-induced, and melodically poignant—is excellent. Granted, *Vol. 1* featured more

electric guitars and rhythmic frenzies; consider this an addendum rather than a stand-alone. That doesn't mean that this fine second volume does not carry its weight, though. **Los Rápidos's** "Safari Salvaje" abounds in African guitar influence, while **Los Barba's** two tracks sound as inspired by Os Mutantes as folkloric roots. Clear winners on this comp are the two Los Brito efforts, matching anything in tone and groove as its Buena Vista descendants would produce over two decades later.

Derek Beres

