



VARIOUS ARTISTS

**Si, Para Usted: The Funky
Beats Of Revolutionary
Cuba, Vol. 1**

Waxing Deep

Hearty congrats to Dan Zacks (who also produces his own radio show/podcast, Waxing Deep), for researching/compiling this album of

once forgotten Cuban gems. Culling tracks from pioneering artists in the 1970s and '80s, this album explores the funkier side of the island's music. Thus tracks here are often more akin to Kool and the Gang or Earth Wind & Fire than Buena Vista Social Club. Many of the album's 17 cuts are real ear-openers, even if the orchestration sounds somewhat dated or, at worst, clichéd (disco or "Shaft," anyone?). Irakere's "Bacalao Con Pan" easily shows why the group was, and is to this day, considered years ahead of its time, combining funk, salsa, jazz, pop, and folkloric elements. Another standout is bassist Jorge Reyes' "Pocito 11," featuring trumpeter Arturo Sandoval. The informative liner notes by Zacks are a plus. If you like caliente Cuban music, put this on the top of your "must have" list.

—ROBERT KAYE