



BY DAVID HUTCHEON



Various



Changüí – The Sound Of Guantánamo

PETALUMA. [CD](#)

The sound of ungentrified old Cuba, direct from the fields and village squares.

IT'S LIKE finding 50 rough, discarded demos for the *Buena Vista Social Club*: recorded *in situ* in the rural parts of the eastern province of Cuba, where back-breaking labour is interrupted by impromptu parties that last all weekend, this 3-CD box set, curated by journalist Gianluca Tramontana, is arguably the first in-depth survey of the folk music that gave birth to a revolution. You can feel the heat, the dust and the rum, but the real magic comes from the tres (the Cuban guitar, strung in three pairs, with a distinctive metallic twang) and percussion, the sort of lightning that needs to be captured as it happens, where it happens. The uninhibited performances are a joy throughout, while the cross-pollination with African styles that would, in their turn, be influenced by the Caribbean gives you something upon which to ruminate.

