

ADVERTISEMENT



**NEW**  
CineMate® GS II  
speaker system

Enjoy Bose®  
home theater sound.  
With ease.

**Learn more ▶**



**Hot Topics:**  
David Letterman Apology • Swine Flu • Kate Gosselin

Video • Blogs • Mobile • Newsletters • ABC • ESPN

Home News Politics Blotter Health **Entertainment** Money Tech Travel World News Nightline This Week Primetime 20/20 Good Morning America

**More Entertainment:** • Michael Jackson • Jon & Kate • Patrick Swayze • Celebrity Photos • Farrah Fawcett • Stars Behind Bars • Movies • Quick Fix

**Now Playing** 



**WATCH:** Letterman: No Laughing Matter?



**WATCH:** The White House on Afghanistan



**WATCH:** Super Weed Can't Be Killed



**WATCH:** To Vaccinate, or Not to Vaccinate

[Home](#) > [Entertainment](#)

# Buena Vista Diva Goes to US for 1st Time Since '03

Buena Vista's Portuondo headed back to US; says music can better bilateral ties

By **ANDREA RODRIGUEZ** Associated Press Writer  
HAVANA October 5, 2009 (AP)

The Associated Press  
[Post a Comment](#)

Share this story with friends

E-mail RSS Print Font Size **A A A**

Digg  Facebook Twitter Reddit StumbleUpon More



FILE - In this July 8, 2006 file photo, Cuban singer Omara Portuondo performs at the 40th Montreux... (AP)

Omara Portuondo, the sultry-voiced diva of the Buena Vista Social Club, has been granted permission to visit the U.S. for the first time since 2003 and hopes a dose of her sensuous sound can inspire both countries to improve frozen relations.

The U.S. Treasury Department has granted Portuondo, who turns 79 this month, permission to perform at the San Francisco Jazz Festival on Oct. 20 and give a concert three days later at the University of California, Los Angeles.

"Cuban music is the best medicine,"

Portuondo said in a recent interview. "It's good to be able to share culture, which is the soul of a people."

Her career spans six decades. But Portuondo had fallen into obscurity until American guitarist and producer Ry Cooder brought her and other aging Cubans musicians together in the 1990s and "Buena Vista Social Club" made them international stars.

The singer and dancer has visited the United States dozens of times. But the Bush administration tightened visa rules in 2003, making it tougher for Cuban musicians, artists and academics to travel there.

Portuondo's latest visit coincides with the U.S. release of her album "Gracias," which has been nominated for a Latin Grammy in the category of best contemporary tropical album. Portuondo would not say if she will seek permission to attend the awards ceremony next month in Las Vegas.

Portuondo played in San Francisco as part of a Buena Vista Social Club U.S. tour that began in November 1999. This time, she will be coming with her own band, which includes noted Cuban pianist Harold Lopez Nusa.

"We are going to present this record which has been nominated for a Latin Grammy and is called 'Gracias,'" she said. "On it, I'm doing just that, giving thanks to so many people from so many parts of the world, and other musicians, who have supported my career for 60 years."

Among those appearing on the album are Cuban jazz legend

## Watch Video



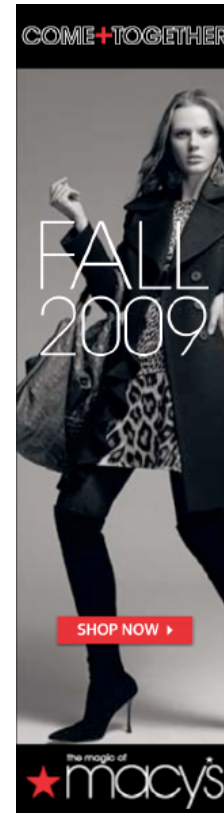
**WATCH:** 'View': Should Letterman Keep Talking?



**WATCH:** Steve Martin's 'View' of Letterman



**WATCH:** The Jokes Don't Stop for Letterman



COME TOGETHER

FALL 2009

SHOP NOW ▶

The magic of macy's

## Entertainment News



**Charlize, Billy Bob, DiCaprio: Celebs With OCD**

Charlize Theron is latest celebrity to admit to obsessive-compulsive disorder.

[Charlize, Billy Bob, DiCaprio: Celebs With OCD](#)  
[Liz Taylor Heads to Hospital for Heart Procedure](#)  
[Is Letterman Joking Too Soon about Sex Scandal?](#)  
[Kate Gosselin: Jon Drained Joint Bank Account](#)  
[MTV to Air DJ AM's 'Gone Too Far'](#)

### Sponsored Links

**Mortgage Rate 4.00% FIXED**

\$200,000 loan for \$771/month. See New Payment - No SSN Rqd... Refinance.LeadSteps.com

**Refinance at 4.00% FIXED**  
\$200,000 mortgage for \$699/month. See Lower Payment NOW - No SSN...  
Refinance.LoanOffers.com

[Buy a link here](#)

Chucho Valdes and Rocio Jimenez, Portuondo's granddaughter, who was just 8 when the album was recorded. Portuondo brought her granddaughter to the studio for fun, and the youngster began playfully singing along to the lead vocals. Portuondo was so pleased with the sound of the impromptu duets, that she recorded herself and Rocio singing the song "Cachita" together.

1 | 2 [NEXT >](#)  
[Post a Comment](#)

[Next Story: Charlize, Billy Bob, DiCaprio: Celebs With OCD](#)

Share this story with friends

E-mail RSS Print

Digg [submit](#) Facebook Twitter Reddit StumbleUpon More

**Sponsored Links**

**Mortgage Rate 4.00% FIXED**

\$200,000 loan for \$771/month. See New Payment - No SSN Rqd. Save Now!  
Refinance.LeadSteps.com

**Refinance at 4.00% FIXED**

\$200,000 mortgage for \$699/month. See Lower Payment NOW - No SSN Rqd.  
Refinance.LoanOffers.com

**Mortgage Rate Drops to 4.0% FIXED!**

\$200,000 loan for \$708/month. Free Quotes - No SSN Rqd. Save \$1000s!  
Mortgage.RefinanceFrontier.com

[Buy a link here](#)

**Comment & Contribute**

Do you have more information about this topic? If so, please [click here](#) to contact the editors of ABC News.

[POST YOUR COMMENT](#)

**Slideshows**



**PHOTOS:** Seinfeld: Where Are They Now  
**PHOTOS:** Golden Oldie? Haw'n's Off Day  
**PHOTOS:** Jessica Alba's Canine Friend

**ABC News to Go**

[RSS Feeds](#) [E-mail Newsletters](#)  
[Podcasts](#) [ABC News Mobile](#)

**Most Popular**

[MOST VIEWED](#) [MOST COMMENTED](#)

- Where's the Beef? Top 10 Unexpectedly Risky Foods
- Cops Almost Kill Homeowner, Not Intruder
- Is the U.S. Preparing to Bomb Iran?
- WATCH:** The 10 Riskiest Foods
- WATCH:** Did 'Dance' Show Get X-Rated?
- WATCH:** Nintendo's Video Game Masterpiece
- PHOTOS:** Jim Carrey Packs on the Pounds
- PHOTOS:** Golden Oldie? Haw'n's Off Day
- PHOTOS:** Peek-A-Boo! The Celebrity Sheer Trend

[More Popular News »](#)

**ESPN Headlines**

Twins outlast Tigers in 12 to wrap up AL Central  
Source: FSU won't ask Bowden to step down  
Bradford hopes to return to action Saturday  
Phillies turn to Lee to start Game 1 of NLDS  
Crabtree, agent meet with Niners personnel

[More News at ESPN »](#)

**More you'll love on abc**

**Mondays 8/7c: Dancing with the Stars** Watch the hottest stars compete!



**Wednesdays 9/8c: Modern Family** The funniest new comedy on TV! Watch an episode



**Wednesdays 9:30 ET: Cougar Town** Courteney Cox's sexy new comedy! Watch an episode



**Thursdays 8/7c: FlashForward** Miss the first episode? Click here to watch now!



**Thursdays 11:35 ET: Nightline** Which commandments are you breaking?




[MOST DUGG](#) [UPCOMING](#)

**Most Dugg Stories on ABC News**

- 337 [Fight Between the Crew Leaves Air India Cockpit Unmanned](#)
- 295 [ABC News' Cokie Roberts: Polanski Should be Shot \(w/video\)](#)

- 433  Cheers! Guinness Beer Turns 250
- 398  Biden: 2010 GOP Success would be â€œThe End of the Road..."
- 522  Airbus Wants to Replace Black Boxes with Real Time Data

ADVERTISEMENT

**GOOD MORNING AMERICA BIRTHDAY CHEER**  
 Share your birthday with GMA and it may be announced on the show!  
 SPONSORED BY  **[ CLICK HERE ]**

ADVERTISEMENT

ADVERTISER LINK

[The New York Times](#)  
 Get home delivery of The New York Times for as low as \$3.45 a week

Sponsored Links

**Mortgage Rate 4.00% FIXED**  
 \$200,000 loan for \$771/month. See New Payment - No SSN Rqd. Save Now!  
[Refinance.LeadSteps.com](#)

**Refinance at 4.00% FIXED**  
 \$200,000 mortgage for \$699/month. See Lower Payment NOW - No SSN Reqd.  
[Refinance.LoanOffers.com](#)

**Mortgage Rate Drops to 4.0% FIXED!**  
 \$200,000 loan for \$708/month. Free Quotes - No SSN Rqd. Save \$1000s!  
[Mortgage.RefinanceFrontier.com](#)

[Buy a link here](#)



External links are provided for reference purposes. ABC News is not responsible for the content of external Internet sites. Copyright © 2009 ABC News Internet Ventures.

[BACK TO TOP ▲](#)

Topics

- [News](#)
- [Politics](#)
- [Blotter](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
- [Money](#)
- [Technology](#)
- [Travel](#)
- [Recipes](#)
- [Behind the Scenes](#)

Shows

- [World News with Charles Gibson](#)
- [Nightline](#)
- [This Week with George Stephanopoulos](#)
- [Primetime 20/20](#)
- [Good Morning America](#)
- [What Would You Do?](#)
- [Quick Fix](#)
- [ABC News Now](#)
- [ABC.com](#)

Tools

- [Register](#)
- [Sign In](#)
- [Feedback](#)
- [Blogs](#)
- [Wireless](#)
- [Emails & News Alerts](#)
- [Message Boards](#)
- [RSS Headlines](#)
- [Podcasts](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [Site Map](#)

About

- [Contact Us](#)
- [Advertising](#)
- [Terms of Use](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)
- [ABC News Store](#)