



# THE TIMES



**Rhythm king: Orlando Lopez joins Ry Cooder and Manuel Galbán on a nostalgic journey to his roots**

## WORLD MUSIC ALBUMS IT DON'T MEAN A THANG IF IT AIN'T GOT THAT TWANG. CLIVE DAVIS DOES THE MAMBO

**RY COODER/MANUEL GALBÁN**  
Mambo Sinuendo  
★★★★☆

WORLD MUSIC fashionistas have a habit of coming over all blasé at the very mention of Cuba. Ever since the world and its neighbour fell for the charms of the elderly members of the Buena Vista Social Club, the market has been awash with recordings and reissues from Havana, some very good, others a dubious exercise in bandwagon marketing.

No one could accuse **Ry Cooder** of cashing in, since he was the performer who helped to set the whole phenomenon in motion. *Mambo Sinuendo* (EastWest/Nonesuch/Perro Verde), finds the American maverick in collaborative mood once more, this time in the company of a fellow-guitarist, **Manuel Galbán**, who has graced sessions by the mightiest Buena Vista name of them all, Ibrahim Ferrer.

It is an unashamedly nostalgic small-group project, evoking sultry echoes of the era when the mambo was an all-conquering force on dance-floors everywhere. Cooder long ago described Galbán as Cuba's answer to Duane Eddy, and the album spells out the connection for all to see, even down to the inclusion of a number with the puckish title

*Los Twangueros*. Galbán also slips in some tasteful keyboard work, and the presence of the bassist **Orlando "Cachaito" Lopez** enhances the aura of laid-back virtuosity.

THE TIMES  
JANUARY 28, 2003  
CIRCULATION: 720,000