



**Omara Portuondo and Chucho Valdés**  
Omara & Chucho

Were these 13 songs meant to be heard in public? It feels as if the pair (combined age 149, yet both in fine form, with only the regret in Portuondo's voice revealing any wear) were just messing about in private for their own amusement. Therein lies the greatness as the pianist toys with ragtime (*Me Acostumbré A Estar Sin Ti*) and blues (the standout *Esta Tarde Vi Llover*, with Wynton Marsalis setting the mood beautifully) and the queen of Cuban torch singers playfully bats his challenges right back. Wonderful. **DH** (*World Village; May*)

