

# WORLD MUSIC

## CUBA

---

WD-CU1 United States 1956

### **MAMBO EN LA CUEVA (MAMBO IN THE CAVE)**

WD – Mambo – Salsa – Vocal & Instrumental

**Comp:** Tata GUTIÉRREZ

**Perf:** **ARSENIO RODRIGUEZ Y SU CONJUNTO**

René Scull or El Barroso (vocal)  
Arsenio Rodriguez (tres)  
Candido Antomattei (guitar)  
Edil Rivera & Luis Berríos Serratta (trumpets)  
Ray Coen (piano)  
Lázaro Prieto (bass)  
Raúl Travieso (bongo)  
Kiki (congas)

**Prod. Co:** RCA Victor Records

**Rec. Co:** Seeco, New York, NY

**Rec. Date:** April 2, 1953

**Time:** 2:21

1. Original 78:

RCA Victor 23-6734

**Flip Sd:** Acera el oído (Give Me Your Ear)

10" 78rpm

2. Original 45:

RCA Victor 51-6734

**Flip Sd:** Acera el oído (Give Me Your Ear)

7" 45rpm

**Notes:** Arsenio Rodriguez was a very important figure in early Cuban music and his recording career spanned from the early 1930s to his last LP in 1968. "Between 12 Sept 1940 and 1 July 1958 Arsenio and his conjunto (group) cut 134 sides for Victor. (Johnson 2006) He was born in Guñra de Macurijes in the Matanzas Province, which is a major karst area in Cuba. Due to an accident in his youth he was totally blind. His favored instrument was the Cuban tres, a 6-string instrument, 3 courses of 2 strings, but he also played guitar, bass, conga, maracas, and quinto drum. (Salazar 1994)

At the end of the '30s the mambo was first created by combining the Cuban *danzón* with African rhythms and adding the conga. By the mid '40s Antonio Arcaño and Arsenio Rodriguez "were the most popular bandleaders" in Cuba and both had a major part in "inventing" the mambo. (Salazar 1994)

The natural cave nightclub, Las Cuevas, outside the colonial city of Trinidad, possibly inspired this mambo to the composer, Tata Gutiérrez. This cave nightclub was fully operating in the mid '50s (Anon. 1958) and continues today as the Discoteca Carlos de Ayala. Another Cuban cave nightclub, Cueva del Pirata, a flank margin cave in Varadero, may also have inspired this piece.

In the audio sample you could hear at the end of each stanza, "En la Cueva." For the instrumental bridge there are fine solos on trumpet and piano. An altogether great piece of classic Cuban mambo.

**Ref:** Anon. 1958, Colonial Jewel Trinidad, *Cuba Magazine*, 1958



Arsenio Rodriguez (in Spanish), [Wikipedia](#)  
Arsenio Rodriguez y su conjunto, Mambo en la cueva 45, [Discogs](#)  
Arsenio Rodriguez y su conjunto, Mambo en la cueva, (2:19), [YouTube](#) (◀**COMPLETE AUDIO SAMPLE**)  
García, David F. n.d., *Arsenio Rodriguez and the Transnational Flows of Latin Popular Music*, p. 158-159, (Source for Discography Data: Cristobal Diaz Ayala)  
Johnson, Alastair 2006, An Essential Discography of Arsenio Rodriguez, [Muzikifan](#)  
Lavocah, Mike 2004, Arsenio Rodriguez, [Milonga](#)  
Salazar, Max 1994, Arsenio Rodriguez, Life Was Like a Dream, *Latin Beat Magazine*, v. 4, n. 2, Mar. 1994, p. 12-17

---

**WD-CU2** United States 2002

## **VIRGEN DE LA CUEVA**

WD – Salsa – Vocal & Instrumental

**Comp:** (?)

**Arr:** Rolando Lozano

**Perf:** **MAZACOTE'S ALL STARS**

Dervy Ramos (vocal)

Rolando Lozano (piano)

Angel López (bass)

José "Perico" Hernández, José Papo Rodríguez, & Orlando

Lopez "Mazacote" (congas, timbales, & percussions)

**Prod. Co:** Universal Music Latino

**Time:** (6-part potpourri) 7:53

**CD:** CARNIVAL NIGHTS IN HAVANA

Universal Music Latino 160537 (Tk 2 – Part 1)

**Notes:** A very lively salsa number that is not the same as the merengue song, "Virgen de la Cueva," composed by Cuco Valoy (see under World Music – [Dominican Republic](#) – [WD-DO1](#)) nor the same salsa song as the guaguancó number presented under World Music – [Columbia](#) – [WD-CO3](#). This short piece is only the first part of a six-part potpourri, which includes – La Chambelona, Quitate el Zapato, Yayabo, A la Pelota, & Vamomos, Vamomos.

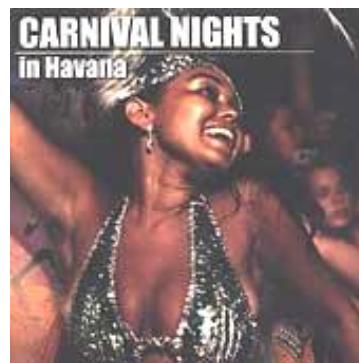
In the 30-second audio clip the phrase "Virgen de la cueva" was heard twice at the start the couplets that were separated by a piercing trumpet riffs and a piano riff.

**Ref:** Miami, 2010 US eBay posting

Mazacote, Carnival Nights in Havana CD, [Allmusic](#) (◀**AUDIO SAMPLE**)

Mazacote All Stars, Carnival Nights in Havana CD, [Amazon](#) (◀**AUDIO SAMPLE**)

Mazacote All Stars, Carnival Nights in Havana CD, [CDUniverse](#) (◀**AUDIO SAMPLE**)



[caveinspiredmusic.com](http://caveinspiredmusic.com)