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Whether he was recording in New York or Los Angeles, his Cuban-exile status always made the late **Israel “Cachao” Lopez** an honorary Miamian—and many of his classic '50s descargas are thankfully compiled on the newly issued *The Havana Sessions*. Five decades on, these songs still sound as vital as ever: Cachao lets his deftly fingered bass do the walking, while all around him the legendary figures of Latin jazz jam away.

– *Brett Sokol*