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# ¡Oh Cuba Hermosa! El cancionero político social en Cuba hasta 1958, Book presentation by Cristóbal Díaz Ayala

Cuban Research Institute, Florida International University

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# Cuban Research Institute

School of International and Public Affairs



## ¡Oh Cuba Hermosa!

*El cancionero político social en Cuba hasta 1958*

### Book presentation by Cristóbal Díaz Ayala

February 22, 2013 | 8:00 PM | Books & Books, Coral Gables, FL  
265 Aragon Avenue, Coral Gables, FL 33174

Cristóbal Díaz Ayala has written more than 12 books about Latin American music, especially Cuban, in addition to dozens of articles and lectures about the same topics. His works include *Música cubana del areyto al rap cubano*, *Los contrapuntos de la música cubana*, *San Juan-New York: Discografía de la música puertorriqueña*, *Cuba canta y baila*, *Si te quieres por el pico divertir*, and *Cuando salí de La Habana*.

From its first inhabitants, the Taíno Indians, Cubans have used songs and dances to preserve the history and traditions of their nation. All the history of the country can be followed through the words of its songs. Written in Spanish, this two volume work takes us through the use of songs to criticize social customs and political realities in Cuba. Topics such as racial discrimination, the abuse of women, the creation of the myth of the Cuban mulata as the ideal of feminine beauty, the exaltation of the Cuban countryside or its deplorable state due to careless exploitation, all this comes through diluted in the powerful cocktail of its music. The book also mentions composers who risked their lives writing songs against despotic rulers, and performers who by singing them on stage, or in recordings, also put themselves in danger of persecution. In addition, many of these songs became depositories of words and expressions that the people invented and do not appear in dictionaries. During many years, the author listened to thousands of Cuban songs to choose the ideal ones for this book, which conserves them for posterity through the lyrics of hundreds of songs included in it.

The event is free and open to the public. Lecture will be in Spanish. For additional information and to RSVP call CRI at (305) 348-1991.

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