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## **Album Review**

**Editor's Pick:** By Peter Watrous, **Highly Recommended.**

If anyone doubted the genius being produced in New York by the meeting between exile Cuban jazz musicians and their North American brethren, they'd only have to check out Villafranca's new album. With Dafnis Prieto on drums for most of the tracks, and Eric Alexander on saxophone, and Villafranca in between on piano, the music has to work, and it does. This is enlightened, modern jazz, the sort of thing that's become almost common around here, the sort of music that sets the standard for the rest of the world. Villafranca's into the Blue Note experimentalism of the 1960s, and suggestions of Wayne Shorter and Herbie Hancock waft through the music; it's all original music, including a suite dedicated to the Afro Cuban god Odunda (which features some pretty blow-out piano improvising). Yosvany Terry shows up on a few tracks; the bassist is Jeff Carney.