

Contents

from *You Come Singing*

| | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| Rice Comes to <i>El Volcán</i> | 3 |
| The Nuns in the Family | 5 |
| Clotheslines | 8 |
| Luis Navarro Rubio Comes Singing | 11 |
| White Wall | 15 |
| The Valet's Lament | 18 |
| Heavy Metal Speaks | 21 |

from *Garabato Poems*

| | |
|--|----|
| Lazarito & the Habanero Chilis | 25 |
| The Dirt Eaters | 26 |
| The Hatchery | 27 |
| The Night Trail Called <i>El Lechero</i> | 29 |
| Mazorra, or House for the Incurrible | 31 |
| The Seamstress | 33 |
| On the Assembly Line | 35 |
| Song for the Royal Palms of Miami | 36 |

from *In the Republic of Longing*

| | |
|---|----|
| Bitterness | 41 |
| Free | 44 |
| <i>Gallos Finos</i> | 46 |
| Cuban American Gothic | 47 |
| The Trouble with Frogs | 48 |
| A Song at the End of the Cuban Revolution | 49 |

from *Palm Crows*

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| Song to the <i>Cucuyo</i> | 53 |
| Song to the Mango | 54 |
| Song to the Passion Fruit | 55 |
| Study in Shadow | 58 |
| Nocturnal | 59 |
| <i>Duende</i> | 61 |
| In the House of White Light | 63 |
| The Great Chinese Poets Visit Havana | 65 |
| <i>El Exilio</i> | 67 |
| The Stayer | 69 |

from *Banyan*

| | |
|---|----|
| <i>Cancionero del Banyan</i> | 73 |
| Beyond a Street Corner in Little Havana | 74 |
| No Work Poem #1 | 75 |
| Mango Eating in America | 76 |
| Recitative after Rembrandt's "The Anatomy Lesson of Dr. Nicolaes Tulp" | 78 |
| The Table | 80 |

from *Guide to the Blue Tongue*

| | |
|---|----|
| <i>La tempestad de las palabras blancas</i> | 83 |
| Prospero's Papermaking Recipe | 84 |
| The Alchemy of Self-Implsion | 85 |
| Prospero in Havana | 86 |
| The Reconciliation Between <i>Los que se fuerón y los que se quedarón</i> | 87 |
| Curved Geometry, a Botero Beauty's Retrospective | 88 |
| <i>Isla</i> | 90 |
| At the Somnambulists' Convention | 91 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Shakespeare Visits Havana | 92 |
| The Old Soothsayer Enters Santiago de Cuba | 94 |
| American Drag Rhapsody: J. Edgar Hoover in Havana | 96 |
| | |
| New Poems | |
| Indigo Bunting's Last Molt | 101 |
| The Exile Speaks | 102 |
| Poem for Eliades Ochoa, <i>Maestro del alambre dulce</i> | 103 |
| La Florida | 104 |
| Japanese Magnolia | 106 |
| The Seed Collector | 107 |
| The Burning | 109 |
| Tea Leaves, <i>Caracoles</i> , Coffee Beans | 111 |
| Orange | 113 |
| Purple Finch | 115 |
| Poet-Warrior Dance | 117 |
| My Need of Bruce Weigl | 118 |
| Virgil's Crib | 120 |
| The What of Rocks | 121 |
| Upon Hearing that My Poetry Is Being Published "Everywhere" | 122 |
| | |
| Acknowledgments | 125 |