

The Buffalo News

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Jazz

Luciana Souza Tide

[Verve]

A double triumph. It's not just a lovely and winning new disc by gifted 43-year-old bossa nova singer Luciana Souza (born in Sao Paulo of musician parents, educated in Boston at Berklee and the New England Conservatory), but it is also produced by her husband, Larry Klein, who has turned into one of the greatest producers of discs by sensitive female singers today. Klein is not only a jazz bass player and ex-husband of Joni Mitchell (among their discs together was her masterwork "Both Sides Now" arranged by Vince Mendoza), but he's also the producer currently trusted by Madeline Peyroux, Tracy Chapman and Melody Gardot to present them best.

What husband and wife do here is never less than very fine and is sometimes delicious, as in the opening bossa nova "Adeus America & Eu Quero Una Samba," with its terrific acoustic guitar solo by Romero Lubambo (who is superb on every selection he's on). The fact that Souza is enough of a trained singer to adorn new works by the likes of classical composer Osvaldo Golijov doesn't change the fact that she is, literally, a ballad and, especially, bossa nova singer to the manor born. And all the jazz players Klein got to accompany her—including keyboardist Larry Goldings—clearly know it.

Klein, by the way, also produced a vocal disc for David Mamet's wife, Rebecca Pidgeon, who also appears as a background vocalist here.

On "Once Again," you'll hear that this disc is the sister record of the newest disc by Peyroux.

Call it the vocal school of Larry and Luciana.

Everything they do, these days, is worth hearing.

—Jeff Simon