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"Using a literary stimulus isn't new for this Brazilian-American jazz singer: she set Elizabeth Bishop's poems to music for a 2000 album, and on *Neruda* (Sunnyside) she does the same for Pablo Neruda. But Ms. Souza's second inspiration was to use a musical stimulus from the past as well: the Catalan composer Federico Mompou. Mixed with the songs on "*Neruda*" (which are accompanied by Ed Simon on piano) are parts of Mompou's "*Songs and Dances*" for solo piano; Ms. Souza's fresh, wandering art-song melodies bleed into or out of them. Ms. Souza doesn't mess around: over the last five years her albums have shown her to be an impressive singer of jazz and Brazilian music, with an agile, well-controlled voice. Now she's gaining momentum as a quite serious composer."