

## Luciana Souza and Trio Corrente – Cometa



The fleet and flexible Luciana Souza is a jazz singer with deep roots in the complex and joyous music of her home country, Brazil. When immersing herself in Brazilian songs, she has typically collaborated with guitarists. *Cometa* is a result of Souza accepting an invitation to work and record in São Paulo with a young piano trio (bassist Edu Ribeiro, pianist Fabio Torres, and bassist Paulo Paulelli), digging into the deep songbook of Brazilian bossa nova and artful samba/pop, but also creating new tunes that employ the rich rhythms and harmonies that animated the music of Jobim and so many others.

“Quando Você Vier”, written by Torres, more than stands up to the classics — a bouncing joy and is the equal of, for example, Dorival Caymmi’s “Requebre Que Eu Dou Um Doce”. The trio attacks every track like the brilliant *jazz* trio that they are, but these are three musicians who would know how to water down or compromise the subtleties in the polyrhythms and lush chords in this music. Souza has never sounded better. If her singing tends to be light or small (more in the tradition of Astrud Gilberto than of Elis Regina, perhaps), here it is powerful through its precision and rhythmic attack.

Always tuneful, Souza meets this jabbering, ecstatic trio with all her musical intelligence on display. You come away sensing that any real distinctions between Brazilian music and jazz are strictly academic.