

## KARRIN ALLYSON – “Essential download”: IMAGINA

By Owen McNally/ April 17, 2008

[Imagina: Songs of Brasil \(Concord\)](#)



Just when you think you've had about enough bossa nova, along come vocalist Karrin Allyson's seductive, sometimes sad takes on Brazilian songs that put the spirit of the new back in bossa nova.

With her vibrant jazz sense of rhythmic phrasing and expressive way with narrative that any cabaret singer might well envy, Allyson has created exquisite renditions of 14 songs, half by bossa nova maestro Antonio Carlos Jobim, including several gems rarely heard in North America.

Emotionally, the music ranges from the celebratory "O Morro Nao Tem Vez (Favela)" to the bluesy or fado-like melancholy of "Pra Dizer Adeus (Time To Say Goodbye)."

The title track is an intoxicating cocktail mix of Maurice Ravel, romance, the sentimental and the sensuous. "Double Rainbow" is a lyrical samba sonnet to nature. And "Outono (Stay)" is an intimate, impressionist portrait of two lovers' romantic vision of their future revealed in the light of a post-coital afterglow.

Allyson, who's also a pianist and arranger, squeezes all the deliciously bittersweet wit and romance out of the lyrics and melodies; scats and vocalizes inventively and grooves beautifully with her splendid backup combo. Her unison work with vibist Steve Nelson is absolutely luminous, as is her tight, bright rapport with all her combo collaborators.

Quite fittingly, the grand finale for this bossa bash is "E Com Esse Que Eu Vou" a funky, deep-grooved, ebullient invitation to party.

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