

NEW WORLD MUSIC

Recommended Records: Spring, 2007 |

Review Archives

Havana Carbo "Through A Window, Like A Dream" (Modl Music, 2006)

Elegant, unhurried, utterly classy ballads from Cuban-American vocalist Havana Carbo... She sings in several romance languages -- French, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese -- covering classics by Augustin Lara, Ernesto Lecuona and Bola De Nieve, as well as Brazilian composers Djavan and Edu Lobo. Highlights include a vocal version of Django Reinhardt's achingly beautiful "Nuages," and a gentle duet with guitarist Romero Lubambo on Edu Lobo's "Pra Dizer Adeus." The unifying force is Carbo's warm, weary, authoritative voice -- moving beyond middle age, Carbo is an older singer, and like many ballad singers, she has aged well, bringing emotional depth and color into her work, as well as a sense that she simply does not need to rush through any of this, or worry about how her work will be received. And while she is singing in the romantic tradition of Latin America, she eschews the bombastic side of the *boleros* -- hushed, calmer singers such as Joao Gilberto and Ella Fitzgerald (in her softer moments) come to mind...this is a very rich and rewarding album. Worth checking out!

