

Jobim in New English

Contributed by Daniella Thompson
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Do you wince each time you hear these pearls?
I took your picture with my trusty Rolleiflex
And find that all I have developed is a complex
Or these?

But each day as she walks to the sea
She looks straight ahead, not at he
by Daniella Thompson

With lyricists like Gene Lees (who wrote the former), Norman Gimbel (author of the latter), and Ray Gilbert (who turned “O Morro Não Tem Vez” into “Somewhere in the Hills”), no wonder Tom Jobim eventually figured out he was better off writing his own English lyrics.

Mal Adam and Chris Slater thought it was time the originals received more respectful translations. The results are available on the new CD Nova Jobim from Puratone Recordings in Hull, England.

The new translations don't pretend to be poetry, but they are competent lyrics that convey the spirit and meaning of the original songs.

Performed by vocalist Lyn Acton with Bossa Loco, the songs are not exactly what I would call Brazilian music.

Although the blurb on the Puratone site claims that “[co-producer] Jay [Moy]’s knowledge of samba rhythms really helped to place the bossa nova where we wanted it—as part of samba before being part of jazz,” there’s actually more jazz than samba here.

That shouldn't disturb bossa nova lovers who aren't samba purists. Listen to audio samples.

Lyn Acton + Bossa Loco:
Nova Jobim, volume 1
(Puratone Recordings
PURA004 CD; 2004) 56:17 min.

01. Água de Beber [Water to Drink]
02. Brigas Nunca Mais [Fight No More]
03. O Amor em Paz [Once I Loved]
04. A Felicidade [Happiness]
05. Desafinado [Slightly Out of Tune]
06. Corcovado [Quiet Nights, Quiet Stars]
07. Chega de Saudade [No More Blues]
08. Meditação [Meditation]
09. O Morro Não Tem Vez [Favela]
10. Insensatez [How Insensitive]
11. Garota de Ipanema [Girl From Ipanema]
12. Vivo Sonhando [Dreamer]

You can read more about Brazilian music and culture at Daniella Thompson on Brazil here: <http://daniv.blogspot.com/>