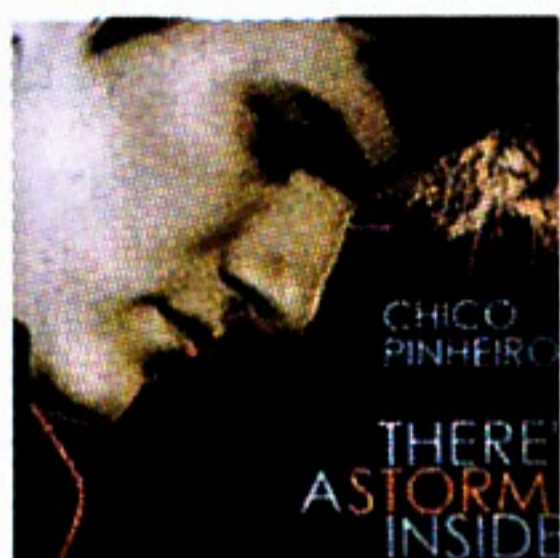


CHICO PINHEIRO

There's a Storm Inside (Sunnyside)



A heaving exhalation of strings. The tactile brush of fingers on nylon strings. A vibratoless voice, confidential and sweet, singing “Our

Love Is Here to Stay.” Within minutes, Chico Pinheiro’s fourth album makes its intention unabashedly clear. In a word: seduction.

Of course, because it’s love done Brazilian-style, there’s plenty of sea and sand, along with a steady undercurrent of *saudade*, that Portuguese happy-sad feeling that colors and tugs at the heart of all bossa nova. Whether the songs here swing percussively (“Recriando a Criação”), sway gently (“Valsa No 8”), sing praises (a cover of Stevie Wonder’s ballad “As”) or percolate like aromatic black coffee (“Boca De Siri” and “Sertão Wi Fi”), you can sense that a wistful glance or a teardrop is always just around the corner.

Throughout, Pinheiro’s charms as a vocalist, guitarist and composer are hard to resist: Imagine a young Chet Baker with Luiz Bonfá’s chops and Marcos Valle’s aching sense of melody. Add in a feisty rhythm section (drummer Edu Ribeiro, bassist Paulo Paulelli and pianist Fabio Torres), darkly beautiful string arrangements, and guests Dianne Reeves, Luciana Alves and Bob Mintzer, and you get a record that will have you surrendering with a “Yes, yes, yes.”

BILL DEMAIN