

«...Portugese-born, of Cape Verdean parentage, opening act Carmen Souza was another of those enchanting surprises that Celtic Connections consistently springs, combining a jazz virtuoso's vocal technique and range with an array of Lusophone influences, from fado to samba, morna to bossa and much more besides, including a bittersweet, almost Celtic-sounding ballad and a frisky, sunny-hued "Cape Verdean blues" in tribute to the islands' national drink. ...» ~ **The Scotsman by Sue Wilson**

«...Portuguese singer, guitarist and pianist Carmen Souza's trio began in Brazil with Milton Nascimento's Ponta de Areia and quickly established that their approach would be one of laid-back persuasion and quiet mastery. While Souza sang and scatted in voices that ranged from the childlike to the deeply sexy, her superb bassist, Theo Pascal and marvellously relaxed but alert drummer, Elias Kacomanolis often insinuated as much as stated the groove. ...» ~ **The Herald Scotland by Rob Adams**

«...Constantly surprising ...» ~ **JAZZWISE**

«...the music is the most beautiful kind that you can ever get to hear anywhere ... Splendor Plate! ...» ~ **Dani Heyvaert - Rootstime.be**

«...This perfectly oiled set mixes Cape Verdean rhythms such as morna, Funaná and Batuk with jazz...Epistola is an album that you have to give it time to sink in. The complex beauty of the compositions manifests itself only after a few spins. ...»  
~ **Bas Springer - Mixed World Music**

«...Extraordinary opening concert ... Carmen Souza's voice is a marvel of nature without fanfare molds ... that seems to have a pitch in the throat that makes it impossible to issue a note out of place. ...» ~ **Epistola Live review, Granada Hoy**

«...Inimitable is Carmen Souzas voice. A voice, that carries warmth and melodie the same way as crudeness and edginess...» ~ **Jazzthetik**

«...Carmen Souza and Theo Pascal reveal with majesty and rhapsody the radiant beauty of this music ... Such is the visceral intensity of this music-making that a certain girding of the loins may be required before you listen (to this music) again and again ... and again...»  
~ **Raul da Gama, Latin Jazz Network**

«...Whether you are under the sky of Paris, or in the basement of the label, ending up with Carmen Souza is a real experience ... A moment of grace, a perfect moment. ...» ~ **Le Cargo**

«...Souza's vocal matches the cool wail of Parker's sax, and the accordion mixes world sounds with bop licks...» ~ **James Reaney, The London Free Press**