

## The Soraya's Onstage Jazz Club welcomes Jazz Singer and Composer

### Luciana Souza

### *The Book of Longing*

### Featuring Chico Pinheiro & Scott Colley

Her Album [\*The Book of Longing\*](#) Now Available

**Friday and Saturday, January 17 & 18 at 8PM**

(Los Angeles, CA) December 18, 2019 – The Soraya's intimate onstage Jazz Club welcomes GRAMMY® Winner **Luciana Souza** for two nights performing songs from her critically acclaimed album, *The Book of Longing*. Inspired by the poetry of Leonard Cohen, Brazilian-American vocal jazz veteran Souza explores the theme of *saudade*, or yearning, in this work. *NPR* music critic Michelle Mercer has said of Souza's *The Book of Longing*, "[This is her] most graceful album...it's one of her best yet."

Luciana Souza along with special guest musicians Chico Pinheiro (bass) and Scott Colley (guitar), who accompanied Souza on the album, will perform both nights at 8pm in The Soraya's intimate Onstage Jazz Club on Friday and Saturday, January 17 and 18. Tickets start at \$44 and can be purchased at [TheSoraya.org](http://TheSoraya.org).

"We are very excited for the first artist in our Jazz Club lineup this season," said Thor Steingraber, Executive Director of The Soraya. "Hosted by La Marisoul of La Santa Cecilia, Jazz Club features three distinctive female artists who are infusing jazz music with folk, poetry and visual art inspirations from across the Americas. Luciana Souza is an extraordinary jazz singer and composer who will be performing songs from her album *The Book of Longing* live for our Onstage Jazz Club audience. You won't want to miss it."

A virtuosic string duo, Pinheiro and Colley, will join Souza on stage for her intimate performance at The Soraya.

Following Souza's January performances, this season of the Onstage Jazz Club will continue with Chilean vocalist, guitarist and composer **Camila Meza** on March 7 and Chilean saxophonist **Melissa Aldana** on March 12 & 13. Los Angeles' own Marisol Hernandez, lead singer of La Santa Cecilia and frequent performer at The Soraya, has been the host of this season's Jazz Club performances.

## **About Luciana Souza and *The Book of Longing***

The Brazilian-American jazz singer and composer has been nominated for six GRAMMYS® and won a GRAMMY® as a featured vocalist on Herbie Hancock's album, *River – The Joni Letters*.

Souza, who is best known for songs from her native Brazil, explores the theme of saudade, or yearning, in her latest recording, *The Book of Longing*. Her songs are inspired by the poetry of Leonard Cohen, Emily Dickinson, Edna St. Vincent Millay, and Christina Rossetti, and includes original lyrics by Souza herself. *NPR* music critic Michelle Mercer noted, "*Longing* is in Luciana Souza's blood. As the child of Bossa Nova songwriters, she grew up steeped in saudade..."

Souza credits her musical collaborators on the album, guitarist Chico Pinheiro and bassist Scott Colley, "The musicians also helped me by creating this very transparent place where things can't be hidden. We are all exposed— sounds and words."

## **More about Luciana Souza**

Born in São Paulo, Brazil, Ms. Souza grew up in a family of Bossa Nova innovators - her father, a singer and songwriter, her mother, a poet and lyricist. Ms. Souza's work as a performer transcends traditional boundaries around musical styles, offering solid roots in jazz, sophisticated lineage in world music, and an enlightened approach to new music.

As a leader, Luciana Souza has been releasing acclaimed recordings since 2002 - including her six Grammy-nominated records *Brazilian Duos*, *North and South*, *Duos II*, *Tide*, *Duos III*, and *The Book of Chet*. Her debut recording for Universal, *The New Bossa Nova*, was produced by her husband, Larry Klein, and was met with widespread critical acclaim. Luciana's recordings also include two works based on poetry - *The Poems of Elizabeth Bishop And Other Songs*, and *Neruda*. Of her 2015 release, *Speaking in Tongues*, *The New York Times* said: "Luciana Souza has used her voice as an instrument of empathy and intimacy, cultural linkage and poetic disquisition... singing wordlessly but with full expressive intent." Her critically acclaimed latest recording, *The Book of Longing*, saw Ms. Souza immersed in the world of poetry again. Luciana set poems by Leonard Cohen, Emily Dickinson, Edna St. Vincent Millay, and Christina Rossetti to music.

Ms. Souza has performed and recorded with musical luminaries including Herbie Hancock (on his Grammy winning record, *River – The Joni Letters*), Paul Simon, James Taylor, Bobby McFerrin, Maria Schneider, Danilo Perez, and many others. Her longstanding duo work with Brazilian guitarist Romero Lubambo has earned her accolades across the globe, and her complete discography contains more than sixty records as a side singer. Luciana Souza's singing has been called "transcendental," "perfect," and of "unparalleled beauty." *Entertainment Weekly* writes, "Her voice traces a landscape of emotion that knows no boundaries." Of her work with the chamber music ensemble, A Far Cry, the *Boston Globe* said: "Her performance was more than beautiful. It was consolatory, and true to the work's air of ultimate things."

Luciana Souza has been a prominent soloist in two important works by composer Osvaldo Golijov – *St. Mark Passion*, and *Oceana*. She has performed with the Bach Akademie Stuttgart, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and the Brooklyn Philharmonic. Other orchestral appearances include performances with the New York Philharmonic, the Atlanta Symphony, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra and the American Composers Orchestra. Her work in chamber music includes a fruitful collaboration with the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet, composers Derek Bermel, Patrick Zimmerli, and the five composers of *The Blue Hour* - Rachel Grimes, Angelica Negrón, Shara Nova, Caroline Shaw, and Sarah Kirkland Snyder - a setting of a poem by Carolyn Forché.

Ms. Souza began her recording career at age three with a radio commercial, and recorded more than 200 jingles and soundtracks, becoming a first-call studio veteran at age sixteen. She spent four years on faculty at Berklee College of Music in Boston, where she received a Bachelor's in Jazz Composition. Ms. Souza earned a Master's degree in Jazz Studies from New England Conservatory of Music and taught for four years at Manhattan School of Music, in New York City. Ms. Souza continues to teach Master Classes all over the world. In the last year she has taught at Berklee College of Music, UCLA, York University in Canada and The Musik Akademie in Basel, Switzerland.

From 2005 to 2010, Luciana was the Jazz Artist in Residence with the prestigious San Francisco Performances. In 2005 and 2013 Luciana was awarded Best Female Jazz Singer by the Jazz Journalists Association. *Billboard* magazine has said of Luciana: "she continues her captivating journey as a uniquely talented vocalist who organically crosses genre borders. Her music soulfully reflects, wistfully regrets, romantically woos, joyfully celebrates..."

### **Calendar Listing for Luciana Souza, *The Book of Longing***

**Dates:** Friday, January 17 at 8pm  
Saturday, January 18 at 8pm

**Venue:** Jazz Club  
Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts (The Soraya)  
18111 Nordhoff Street, Northridge, CA 91330

**Tickets:** **Prices:** Starting at \$44. Prices subject to change.  
**By Phone:** (818) 677-3000  
**Online:** [TheSoraya.org](http://TheSoraya.org)

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### **About Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts (The Soraya)**

The 2019-20 Season marks the ninth year for the award-winning Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts which has quickly become one of the cultural jewels of the greater Los Angeles region. Under the leadership of Executive Director Thor Steingraber, The Soraya continues to expand its programming and outstanding multidisciplinary performances. The Soraya presents a wide variety of performances that not only include new and original work from the Los Angeles region but also work from around the world appealing to all of LA's rich and diverse communities.

Located on the campus of California State University, Northridge, The Soraya's season offers a vibrant performance program of nearly 50 classical and popular music, dance, theater, family, and international events that have served to establish The Soraya as the intellectual and cultural heart of the San Fernando Valley, and further establish itself as one of the top arts companies in Southern California. The award-winning, 1,700-seat theatre was designed by HGA Architects and Engineers and was recently cited by the Los Angeles Times as "a growing hub for live music, dance, drama and other cultural events."