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Far more assured and sonically arresting than on 1993's *Eleven Eleven*, the

Bossa Nova Beatniks have concocted a diverse second disc of ample retro charm, blending Tom Wait-ish blues, subtle folk, and languid rockabilly. Flavorfully spiked with jazzbo sax (including guest members of L.I. ska legends, *The Scofflaws*), *Sugar Magnolia*'s mini-choir, and a pungent panoply of congas, bongos, and other Afro-Latin percussion. The Beatniks' zesty disparate strands are united by the distinctly soft, silky croon of leader Tom Gould. Peaking with the gorgeous, moonlit vamp of "20th Century LTD." The slinky title cut, lilting "Fingers in The Cake," and Dylan-gets-salsified rocker "Red Red Johnny". Heart is consistently pleasing.

