

'Tania León: Teclas de mi Piano' Adam Kent, piano (Albany) Tania León's "Stride" won the 2021 Pulitzer Prize for music. While we wait for an official recording of that, we have this survey of her piano catalog.

# The New York Times

The pianist Adam Kent has the measure of León's sound throughout, whether he's dealing with student pieces written in the 1960s or more recent items like "**Homenatge,**" from 2011. In the latter, he brings a virtuoso's zest to the dance rhythms and bluesy clusters that cavort in the composition's opening minutes. But he also offers a patient, less showy sensibility during the ruminative airs of the final minutes. In liner notes, León cites the son clave rhythm of a song from her native Cuba as informing one piece; other items on the album elaborate on choice

examples from Bach ("Variación") and Sondheim ("Going... Gone"). Throughout, Kent pays as much attention to León's formal invention as to the way she reworks her diverse inspirations. The album's sequencing keeps you on your toes. Poised miniatures from the composer's apprentice years (including "Rondó a la Criolla" and "Homenaje a Prokofiew") directly precede denser, more mature standouts like "Rituál" and "Mística." Although León's language is different from decade to decade, her ear for slightly bent phrases in the early works can help prepare a listener for the way she later learned to make starker dissonances dance. SETH COLTER WALLS