

WINTER 2007 SEASON

University of Michigan • Ann Arbor



UNIVERSITY
ums
MUSICAL SOCIETY

and
**Pfizer Global Research
and Development**
present

Gilberto Gil

Vocals and Guitar

Program

Friday Evening, March 16, 2007 at 8:00
Hill Auditorium • Ann Arbor

Luminoso

*Tonight's selections will be announced by the artist from the stage and
will be performed without intermission.*

57th Performance of the
128th Annual Season

Global Series:
Mexico & the Americas

*The photographing or
sound and video record-
ing of this concert or
possession of any device
for such recording is
prohibited.*

Tonight's performance is sponsored by Pfizer Global Research and Development:
Ann Arbor Laboratories.

Special thanks to David Canter, Senior Vice President of Pfizer for his continued
and generous support of the University Musical Society.

Funded in part by the U-M Office of the Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs.

Funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a
great nation deserves great art.

Educational programs funded in part by the Whitney Fund at the Community
Foundation for Southeastern Michigan.

Media partnership provided by *Metro Times*, WDET 101.9 FM, WEMU 89.1 FM,
and Michigan Radio.

Mr. Gil appears by arrangement with International Music Network.

Large print programs are available upon request.

In his four-decade journey as a leading voice of a generation and the father of a historic movement, Gilberto Gil has never performed in North America stripped down to the music's most basic human essence—melodies steeped in emotion, accompanying rhythms quietly undulating and percolating, timeless narratives delivered with bravura by an unmistakable voice—all culminating into a clear, spiritual and luminescent presence.

Gilberto Gil has developed one of the most relevant and renowned careers as a singer, composer, and guitarist in both world and pop music. In a career that has spanned four decades, with over 30 albums released, Mr. Gil has six gold records, four platinum singles, and 5 million records sold. The Tropicalist genre he introduced, alongside Caetano Veloso, has secured his fame internationally as well as at home in Brazil. His extensive and prolific catalogue of work has been covered and recorded by João Gilberto, Elis Regina, Gal Costa, Sérgio Mendes, Ernie Watts, and Toots Thielmans. Over the years, his political and environmental activism gained prominence alongside his musical career and reached a new height in 2002 when he was appointed minister of culture for Brazil. As a musician and as a diplomat, Mr. Gil possesses a key role in the constant modernization of Brazilian popular music and culture throughout the world.

He began playing the accordion at age eight, and listened to street singers in the marketplace around Salvador. By the end of the 1950s, Gilberto Gil was studying business administration at Savelador's Federal University and playing with a group called Os Desafinados. At this time he heard singer and guitarist João Gilberto on the radio and was so impressed that he immediately bought a guitar and learned to play and sing the *bossa nova*. He spent the early '60s composing songs for TV ads, and in 1964, was featured in *Nos Por Exemplo*, a show of *bossa nova* and traditional Brazilian songs directed by Caetano Veloso. In 1965, he moved to São Paulo; after singing and playing in various shows, he had his first hit when singer Elis Regina recorded his song "Louvacao." He began to establish himself as a singer of protest songs and became popular amongst Brazilians involved in the Tropicalia



Gilberto Gil

movement, which opened up native Brazilian folk music to other kinds of influences and included the usage of rock and folk instruments. The success of the single "Louvacao" inspired Mr. Gil to record an album of his own material with the same title.

Gilberto Gil made his first self-titled recording in 1966. His musical fusion of *bossa nova*, *samba*, and other peripheral styles was so revolutionary that it frightened Brazil's military dictatorship into arresting him. (He and Caetano Veloso were placed in solitary confinement while authorities figured out what they wanted to do with the pair.) At this point, Mr. Gil was forced to leave for

Great Britain. After three years residing in England, where he had the opportunity to work with groups including Pink Floyd, Yes, the Incredible String Band, and Rod Stewart's band in London clubs, Mr. Gil returned to Brazil in 1972. He recorded *Expresso 2222*, which spurred two hit singles in Brazil, "Back in Bahia" and "Oriente." In 1976, he toured with Mr. Veloso, Gal Costa, and Maria Bethânia and released the *Doces Bárbaros* album.

For the remainder of the 1970s, Gilberto Gil recorded for a variety of Brazilian record companies until signing an international contract with the WEA group of record labels in 1977. He toured US colleges in 1978 and firmly established his place in the international jazz world with his albums *Nightingale* (1978) and *Realce* (1979). In 1980, Mr. Gil teamed up with reggae musician Jimmy Cliff. The pair toured Brazil, and Mr. Gil's cover of Bob Marley's "No Woman, No Cry" climbed to number one, selling 700,000 copies.

In 1982, he had crossover success with "Palco," which became popular in dance clubs and led to stadium tours of Europe.

Because Gilberto Gil fused *samba*, *salsa*, and *bossa nova* with rock and folk music, he is recognized today as a pioneer in world music. In the late 1970s, he became a prominent spokesman for the black consciousness movement which was then taking place in his native country.

The early 1990s saw Mr. Gil continuing his involvement in social and political causes in Brazil, finding widespread support for his political stances, and was elected to office in the port city of Salvador, his hometown.

DRG Records Music from Brazil recently released *Gil Luminoso*, a new album from Mr. Gil this March. *Gil Luminoso* is the only recording in the artist's illustrious career to showcase his exquisite talent in the minimalist setting of voice and guitar. The album was recorded in 1999 and was packaged as a companion piece to the Bené Fonteles' book *GilLuminoso: a poética do Ser*. It was released commercially in Brazil in September 2006.

Tonight's concert marks Gilberto Gil's UMS debut.