

2006-2007 Season



dance music theater

Performances

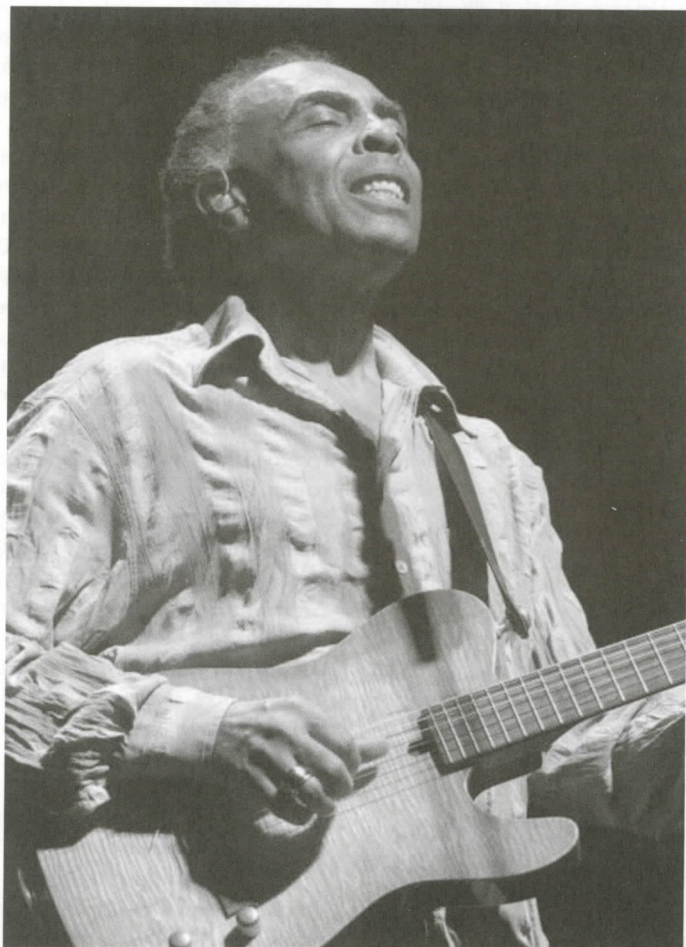
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY



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Sunday, March 25, 2007, 7pm
Zellerbach Hall

Gilberto Gil
Luminoso



Cal Performances' 2006–2007 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

About the Artist

Gilberto Gil has developed one of the most relevant and renown careers as a singer, composer and guitar-player in both world and pop music. In a career that has spanned four decades, with over 30 albums released, Gil has six gold records, four platinum singles and five 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, Gil possesses a key role in the constant modernization of Brazilian popular music and culture throughout the world.

Gil joined his first group, the Desafinados, in the mid-1950s, and by the beginning of the 1960s was earning a living as a jingle composer. Although known primarily as a guitarist, he also plays drums, trumpet and accordion.

He began playing the accordion when he was eight, and he listened to street singers in the marketplace around Salvador. By the end of the 1950s, Gil was studying business administration at Savlador'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 1960s composing songs for TV ads, and in 1964 he was in *Nos Por Exemplo*, a show of bossa nova and traditional Brazilian songs directed by Caetano Veloso. In 1965, he moved to São Paulo, and after singing and playing in various shows, he had his first hit when singer Elis Regina recorded his song "Louvacão." He began to establish himself as a singer of protest songs, and he became very popular with Brazilians involved in the Tropicalia movement, which opened up native Brazilian folk music to other kinds of influences. The

success of the single "Louvacão" inspired Gil to record an album of his own material with the same title.

Gil made his first self-titled recording in 1966, but his first hit single didn't come about until 1969, with "Aquele Abraco." His musical fusion of bossa nova, samba and other styles was so revolutionary it frightened the country's military dictatorship into arresting him, and that's when he headed to Great Britain. (He and Caetano Veloso were placed in solitary confinement while authorities figured out what they wanted to do with the pair.) After three years in England, where he had the chance to work with groups like Pink Floyd, Yes, the Incredible String Band and Rod Stewart's band in London clubs, he returned to Brazil in 1972. He recorded *Expresso 2222*, which spurred two hit singles in Brazil, "Back in Bahia" and "Oriente." After playing at the Midem Festival in France in 1973, Gil recorded *Ao Vivo* in 1974. A year later, he recorded with Jorge Ben for the album *Gil & Jorge*. In 1976, he toured with Veloso, Gal Costa and Maria Bethânia and released the *Doces Bárbaros* album. For most of the rest of the 1970s, he recorded for a variety of Brazilian record companies until signing an international deal with the WEA group of 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). He also released a double live album in 1978, *Gilberto Gil ao Vivo em Montreux*, recorded during his performances at the jazz and blues festival in Switzerland. In 1980, Gil teamed up with reggae musician Jimmy Cliff. The pair toured Brazil, and Gil's cover of Bob Marley's "No Woman, No Cry" climbed to number one, selling 700,000 copies.

Gil followed up in 1981 with *Luar (A Gente Precisa Ver o Luar)*, one of his most acclaimed recordings. In 1982, he performed again at the Montreux Festival, but this time with Jimmy Cliff. He followed up with *Um Banda Um* (1982), *Extra* (1983) and *Raça Humana* (1984), the last recorded with Bob Marley's Wailers.

About the Artist

In the late 1970s, Gil became a prominent spokesman for the black consciousness movement then taking place in Brazil. In 1982, he had huge crossover success with "Palco," which became popular in dance clubs and led to stadium tours of Europe. Back in the United States, he would play mid-sized jazz clubs in New York and Los Angeles. Gil celebrated his then two-decade career in 1985 with the album *DIA Dorim Noite Neon*, and released *Gilberto Gil em Concerto*, recorded live in Rio, in 1987.

The early 1990s saw Gil continuing his involvement in social and political causes in his native country, finding widespread support for his political stances, and he was elected to office in the port city of Salvador, his hometown, aka the Black Rome.

A leader of the Tropicalia movement in Brazil in 1967 and 1968 along with artists like Caetano Veloso and Gal Costa, he and other

musicians mixed native styles with rock and folk instruments. Because Gil fused samba, salsa and bossa nova with rock and folk music, he is recognized today as one of the pioneers in world music. Among Gil's other albums are *Refazenda* (1975), *Gilberto a Bahia* (1985) and *Parabolic* (1992). He released *Acoustic* for the Atlantic Jazz label in 1994. On *Acoustic*, he's joined by Carlos Fonseca on acoustic guitar and Jorges Gomes on drums and mandolin.

DRG Records released *Gil Luminoso*, the new album, on March 6, 2007. *Gil Luminoso* is the only recording in his 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 *GiLuminoso: A Poética do Ser*. It was released commercially in Brazil in September 2006.

Adagla

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