

Gilberto Gil

"I knew that music was my language, that music would take me to see the world, would take me to other lands. For I thought there was the music of the earth and the music from heaven."

Gil, about his childhood in the city where he lived, in Bahia, where he used to race to the first clarinet sound of the band, which started the religious celebrations, and seemed to invade everything.

His career began with the accordion, still in the 50s, inspired by Luiz Gonzaga, the sound of the radio and the religious parades in town. Within the Northeast he explored a folk country sound, until Joao Gilberto emerges, the bossa nova, as well as Dorival Caymmi, with its coastal beach sound, so different from that world of wilderness he was used to. Influenced, Gil leaves aside the accordion and holds the guitar, then the electric guitar, which harbors the particular harmonies of his work until today. Since his early songs he portrayed his country, and his musicianship took very personal rhythmic and melodic forms. His first LP, "Louvação" (Worship), released in 1967, concentrated his particular ways of translating regional components into music, as seen in the renown songs Louvação, Procissão, Roda and Viramundo.

In 1963 after meeting his friend Caetano Veloso at the University of Bahia, Gil begins with Caetano a partnership and a movement that contemplated and internationalized music, theater, visual arts, cinema and all of Brazilian art. The so-called Tropicália or Tropicalist movement, involves talented and plural artists such as Gal Costa, Tom Ze, Duprat, José Capinam, Torquato Neto, Rogério Duarte, Nara Leão and others. The movement discontents the current dictatorship, which considers it harmful to society with its libertarian actions and creations, and eventually exiled partners.

The exile in London contributes to an even greater influence of the Beatles, Jimi Hendrix and the entire pop world at the time that loomed in the work of

Gil, who also makes a record in London, with songs in Portuguese and English.

Upon returning to Brazil, Gil continues a rich phonographic production career which lasts until today. With nearly 60 albums released and 4 million copies sold and having been awarded nine Grammys. Among them are LPs, CDs and DVDs, Expresso 2222, Refazenda, Viramundo, Refavela, Realce, Nightingale, Um Banda Um, Dia Dorim, Raça Humana, Unplugged MTV, Quanta, Eu Tu Eles, Kaya N'Gandaya, Banda Dois, Fé na Festa, String Concert & the Rhythm Machines among many others, Gil has created a vast and comprehensive video and musical body of work. In his project, Gilbertos Samba, he reinterprets classics recorded by João Gilberto, where he pays tribute to the eternal master. During 2015 and 2016, Gil celebrated his 50 years of friendship and career with Caetano Veloso in a legendary concert "Caetano and Gil - Two friends, one Century of Music" recorded and available on CD and DVD format. In 2017 Triple Aces was released and his cards laid out on the table: Gilberto Gil, Nando Reis and Gal Costa performed on the most important stages in Brazil and Europe and the show was also recorded on cd and dvd. In 2018, Ok Ok Ok album was released that includes the participation of his family. Winner of the Latin Grammy Award in November, 2019, this show was performed in major cities of the world.

Each new project endured by Gil, has its forms consolidated in various tours around the world.

Every album becomes a tour and many tours become live records. Always willing to undertake national and international tours for each new project, Gil's presence is confirmed each year in major festivals and theaters in Europe and he has made several tours throughout the Americas, Asia, Africa, and Oceania. He has a captive audience for his concerts abroad, since the first international performances in 1971 and from his remarkable participation in the Montreux Festival in 1978.

In 2002, after his appointment as Minister of Culture, Gil also starts circulating the international socio-political, environmental and cultural landscape. Under the Ministry in particular, he designs and implements new policies ranging from the creation of the Pontos de Cultura (cultural hotspots) to the lead presence of Brazil in Forums, Seminars and Conferences worldwide, working on topics ranging from new technology, copyright, cultural development, cultural diversity and the place of southern countries in the globalized world.

His multiple activities have been recognized by various nations, which have already named him, among others, Artist of Peace by UNESCO in 1999, FAO Ambassador, as well as various decorations and awards, such as Légion d' Honneur from France, Sweden's Polar Music Prize , between others.

The recognition of his most recent life and work came through the nomination of Doctor Honoris Causa by the University of Berklee and immortal by the Brazilian Academy of Letters (ABL) to occupy chair number 20. Both titles received in 2021.

Throughout 2025, Gilberto Gil presented the project “Gilberto Gil – Tempo Rei – The Final Tour,” opening it at Arena Fonte Nova in Salvador (Bahia) and went on to visit Brazil’s major capitals, including São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Belo Horizonte and Recife, among others, always drawing large audiences and marking his farewell to major stages and large-scale tours. The project was concluded in São Paulo in March 2026, but his connection with the stage and with his audience will remain. He will continue to perform on special occasions and follow his personal projects, always guided by his great passion and one true muse: the music.

A unique Music Ambassador, driven by cultural conviction.