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**KING OF BRAZILIAN POP MUSIC SINGER, SONGWRITER AND COMPOSER  
GILBERTO GIL MAKES HIS FIRST TRIP TO CAL PERFORMANCES  
SUNDAY, MARCH 25 AT 7:00 P.M.**

**EIGHTH UNITED STATES TOUR CELEBRATES THE RELEASE OF HIS NEW SOLO CD**

**BERKELEY, February 16, 2007**—After four decades of driving Brazilian popular music, superstar **Gilberto Gil** makes his first solo concert tour, debuting at Zellerbach Hall **Sunday, March 25 at 7:00 p.m.** Celebrating the release of his upcoming solo CD *Gil Luminoso* March 2007, Gil's North American tour, like his CD, showcases his enormous talent in the simplest of settings: his voice and guitar in a performance stripped down to music's essence—melodies steeped in emotion and timeless narratives. With songs composed over a 25-year span, the concert reveals some of the deepest facets of his art. Gil is one of the musical architects of Tropicália, a cultural movement that challenged Brazil's military junta with its innovation and popular appeal. Known as a pioneer in world music, he fuses together samba, bossa nova, rock, reggae, funk and rhythms while employing lyrics that never shy away from tackling difficult issues. Because of his passion and active involvement with his country, Gil became the Minister of Culture for Brazil in 2003, a title he still holds today. "The voice that shook Brazil" (*The New York Sun*), will perform songs from *Gil Luminoso* and favorites from his repertoire.

Born in Salvador da Bahia, Brazil in 1942, Gilberto Gil grew up listening to the "duels" of *violeiros* (a kind of improvised musical battle waged by blind singers and guitar players) in local markets and was influenced by the street singers and pop music he heard on the radio. At age eight, the regional music of Brazil's Northeast inspired him to learn to play his first instrument, the accordion.

By the end of the 1950's, Gil was playing in *forros* (a popular dance party of Bahia) with a group called Os Desafinados (The Out of Tunes). It was around this time he heard singer and guitarist João Gilberto, the musical inspiration of his generation, on the radio and was so

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impressed that he bought a guitar and learned to play the *bossa nova*. For the most part of the early 1960's, he earned a living composing and recording jingles for commercials. It was not until 1965 that Gil moved to São Paulo and scored his first hit with legendary singer Elis Regina. The two recorded the song "Louvação" and with the success of this single, it gave him the opportunity to record his first album also titled *Louvação*. Under more urban influences of city life in Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, Gil began to expand his roots-oriented sound to embrace other styles of music. He earned a reputation as a singer of protest songs and became one of the leaders of Tropicália.

The Tropicália movement opened up native Brazilian folk music to other kinds of outside influences, which began to frighten the country's military dictatorship. In 1969, Gil and his fellow musician, Caetano Veloso, were detained by the police and exiled to London. During his three years of exile in London, Gil had the opportunity to work with groups like Pink Floyd, Yes, the Incredible String Band and Rob Stewart's band. It was during this time that he recorded his first album in English and increased his fluency with both acoustic and electric guitar. Finally allowed to return to Brazil in 1972, Gil recorded *Expresso 2222* which spawned two hit singles: "Back in Bahia" and "Oriente."

For most of the 1970s, Gil recorded for a variety of Brazilian record companies until signing an international deal with the WEA group of labels in 1977. He toured in United States colleges in 1978 and firmly established his place in the international jazz world with his albums *Nightingale* (1978) and *Realce* (1979). Gil also became a prominent spokesman for the black consciousness movement in Brazil during the late 70s.

Gil celebrated his 20-year career anniversary in 1985 with the release of the album *Dia Dorim Noite Neon* and staged a major concert event in São Paulo called "Gil 20 Anos Luz" (Gil, Twenty Years of Light). Brazil's biggest stars commemorated his milestone on stage with Gil including Caetano, Gal, Maria Bethânia, Chico Buarque, Robert Carlos and Jorge Benjor. In 1999, Gil won his first Grammy award for his album *Quanta Live*.

With his passion for politics and advocacy, Gil was invited to join President Lula Inacio da Silva's administration as Minister of Culture for Brazil in 2003. Through this work, Gil has effectively connected many of Brazil's culturally disparate regions through programs that educate the populace on the country's rich heritage. He has made a unique contribution as cultural ambassador for Brazil throughout the world and worked to bring Brazilian music to the cutting edge of new technology.

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets for **Gilberto Gil** on **Sunday, March 25 at 7:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$36.00, \$48.00, and \$68.00**. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at [www.calperformances.net](http://www.calperformances.net); and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens and other students receive a \$2 discount, and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$3 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988, or visit the Cal Performances web site at [www.calperformances.net](http://www.calperformances.net).

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**CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

**Sunday, March 25 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus**  
Bancroft Way at Telegraph, Berkeley

*World Stage*

**Gilberto Gil**

**Program:** The king of modern Brazilian pop music, **Gilberto Gil**, who helped found *tropicalia*, the folk-rock Brazilian hybrid musical movement that followed *bossa nova*, comes to Cal Performances for one night only.

**Tickets:** \$36.00, \$48.00, and \$62.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at [www.calperformances.net](http://www.calperformances.net); and at the door.

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