

CONTACT:
Christina Kellogg 510.643.6714
ckellogg@calperfs.berkeley.edu
Joe Yang 510.642.9121
scyang@calperfs.berkeley.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 12, 2010

**BRAZIL'S SUPERSTAR GILBERTO GIL
BRINGS THE WEST COAST PREMIERE OF HIS STRING CONCERT
TO ZELLERBACH HALL WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17 AT 8:00 P.M**

***Key Notes:* Radio host Jesse “Chuy” Varela and guests will discuss how Gil has revolutionized the sounds of Brazil on Wednesday, March 17 from 5–6:30 p.m. at Zellerbach Hall mezzanine**

BERKELEY, February 12, 2010—Seven-time Grammy Award-winning singer, composer and guitarist **Gilberto Gil** returns to Zellerbach Hall **Wednesday, March 17 at 8:00 p.m.** with the West Coast debut of his String Concert, an acoustic re-interpretation of his original compositions and historic repertoire. He will be accompanied by **Jaques Morelenbaum** (cello) and his son, **Bem Gil** (guitar and percussion). “I will try to give to those who come to see us an idea of the eternal miracle of the song,” says the senior Gil. Known for fusing his powerful *bossa nova* sound with the rhythms of samba, rock, reggae and funk while employing lyrics that never shy away from tackling difficult issues, Gil augmented his career with over four decades of political and environmental activism. In 2003, Gil was appointed Brazil’s Minister of Culture by President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. In summer 2008, Gil stepped down from his post in order to devote more time to his family and music. In December 2009, his new CD/DVD *Bandadois*, recorded live in São Paulo, was released. The “prevailing tone of [his] songs is a ruminative sweetness, albeit one achieved via brainy harmonic and melodic gambits...” (*Los Angeles Times*).

A *Key Notes*: Jazz & World Music lectures series event will be hosted by KCSM radio host **Jesse “Chuy” Varela**. He and his special guests will discuss the many ways composer/singer and guitarist Gilberto Gil has revolutionized the sounds of Brazil. This talk will take place **Wednesday, March 17 from 5–6:30 p.m.** at Zellerbach Hall. While the talks are free and open to the public, tickets must be purchased for entrance to the associated concerts.

-MORE-

GILBERTO GIL

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 1950s, Gil was playing in *forros* (popular dance parties 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, and was so impressed that he bought a guitar and learned to play the *bossa nova*.

The Tropicália movement in the 1960s, immediately embraced by Gil, opened up native Brazilian folk music to other kinds of outside influences, which frightened the country's military dictatorship. In 1969, Gil and his fellow musician and longtime collaborator, Caetano Veloso, were detained by the police and exiled to London. During his three years of exile, Gil worked with such groups as Pink Floyd, Yes and the Incredible String Band. It was during this time that he recorded his first album in English and increased his fluency on both acoustic and electric guitar. Finally permitted 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 U.S. 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 1970s.

The 1990s and 2000s brought numerous CDs, tours and great acclaim for his unflinching creative engagement in bringing to the world the heart and soul of Brazilian music. Through his work, Gil has effectively connected many of Brazil's culturally disparate regions through programs that educate the populace about the country's rich heritage. With 52 albums released,

Gilberto Gil boasts 12 gold records, five platinum albums, seven Grammys and more than four million records sold.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Gilberto Gil** on **Wednesday, March 17** at **8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$36.00, \$48.00, \$68.00** and **\$76.00**. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperformances.org; and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens, other students and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$5 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988 or visit the Cal Performances web site at www.calperformances.org.

For select performances, Cal Performances offers UCB student, faculty and staff, senior and community rush tickets. Rush tickets are announced three hours prior to a performance and are available in person only at the Ticket Office beginning one hour before the performance; quantities may be limited. Rush ticket sales are limited to one ticket per person; all sales are cash only. Rush ticket prices are \$10.00 for UCB students; \$15.00 for UCB faculty and staff (UCB ID required) and seniors age 65 or older; and \$20 for all other community members. Information is available on Cal Performances' Facebook page and at (510) 642-9988, press 2 for the rush hotline, three hours prior to a performance only.

#

Cal Performances 2009/10 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

Classical 102.1 KDFC is our 2009/10 season media sponsor.

#

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

-MORE-

Wednesday, March 17 from 5–6:30 p.m.
KEY NOTES: JAZZ & WORLD MUSIC SERIES

Zellerbach Hall Lobby Mezzanine
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave, Berkeley

Jazz radio host **Jesse “Chuy” Varela** and special guests will discuss how composer/singer and guitarist Gilberto Gil has revolutionized the sounds of Brazil. While the talks are free and open to the public, tickets must be purchased for entrance to the associated concerts.

#

Wednesday, March 17 at 8:00 p.m.

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

World Stage

Gilberto Gil, vocals and guitar

The String Concert

Jaques Morelenbaum, cello

Bem Gil, guitars and percussion

Program: The king of Brazilian pop music and 2006 Grammy winner Gilberto Gil performs for one night only.

Tickets: \$36.00, \$48.00, \$68.00 and \$76.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperformances.net; and at the door.
