**Gil Evans**

**Ian Ernest Gilmore** "**Gil**" **Evans** (born **Green**; May 13, 1912 – March 20, 1988) was a Canadian [jazz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jazz) pianist,[arranger](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Music_arranger), composer and [bandleader](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bandleader). He is widely recognized as one of the greatest orchestrators in jazz, playing an important role in the development of [cool jazz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cool_jazz), [modal jazz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Modal_jazz), [free jazz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Free_jazz) and [jazz fusion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jazz_fusion). He is best known for his acclaimed collaborations with [Miles Davis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miles_Davis).

Born in [Toronto](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toronto), [Ontario](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ontario), Canada, his name was changed early on from Green to Evans, the name of his stepfather. His family moved to [Stockton, California](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stockton,_California) where he spent most of his youth. After 1946, he lived and worked primarily in [New York City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_City), living for many years at [Westbeth Artists Community](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Westbeth_Artists_Community" \o "Westbeth Artists Community).