

= Gilberto Gil =

Gilberto Passos Gil Moreira (born 26 June 1942) , better known as Gilberto Gil (Brazilian Portuguese : [ʒilbɛʁtu ʒi?] or [ʒiu ? ʒb??t? ʒiu ?]) , is a Brazilian singer , guitarist , and songwriter , known for both his musical innovation and political commitment . From 2003 to 2008 , he served as Brazil 's Minister of Culture in the administration of President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva . Gil 's musical style incorporates an eclectic range of influences , including Rock music , Brazilian genres including samba , African music , and reggae .

Gil started to play music as a child and was still a teenager when he joined his first band . He began his career as a bossa nova musician , and then grew to write songs that reflected a focus on political awareness and social activism . He was a key figure in the Música popular brasileira and tropicália movements of the 1960s , alongside artists such as longtime collaborator Caetano Veloso . The Brazilian military regime that took power in 1964 saw both Gil and Veloso as a threat , and the two were held for nine months in 1969 before they were told to leave the country . Gil moved to London , but returned to Bahia in 1972 and continued his musical career , as well as working as a politician and environmental advocate .

= = Biography = =

= = = Early years (1942 ? 1963) = = =

Gil was born in Salvador , an industrial city in the northeast of Brazil , though he spent much of his childhood in nearby Ituaçu . Ituaçu was a small town of fewer than a thousand , located in the sertão , or countryside , of Bahia . His father , José Gil Moreira , was a doctor ; his mother , Claudina Passos Gil Moreira , an elementary school teacher . As a young boy , he attended a Marist Brothers school . Gil remained in Ituaçu until he was nine years old , returning to Salvador for secondary school .

Gil 's interest in music was precocious : " When I was only two or two and a half , " he recalled , " I told my mother I was going to become a musician or a president of my country . " He grew up listening to the forró music of his native northeast , and took an interest in the street performers of Salvador . Early on , he began to play the drums and the trumpet , through listening to Bob Nelson on the radio . Gil 's mother was the " chief supporter " in his musical ambitions ; she bought him an accordion and , when he was ten years old , sent him to music school in Salvador which he attended for four years . As an accordionist , Gil first played classical music , but grew more interested in the folk and popular music of Brazil . He was particularly influenced by singer and accordion player Luiz Gonzaga ; he began to sing and play the accordion in an emulation of Gonzaga 's recordings . Gil has noted that he grew to identify with Gonzaga " because he sang about the world around [him] , the world that [he] encountered . "

During his years in Salvador , Gil also encountered the music of songwriter Dorival Caymmi , who he says represented to him the " beach @-@ oriented " samba music of Salvador . Gonzaga and Caymmi were Gil 's formative influences . While in Salvador , Gil was introduced to many other styles of music , including American big band jazz and tango . In 1950 Gil moved back to Salvador with his family . It was there , while still in high school , that he joined his first band , Os Desafinados (The Out of Tunes) , in which he played accordion and vibraphone and sang . Os Desafinados was influenced by American rock and roll musicians like Elvis Presley , as well as singing groups from Rio de Janeiro . The band was active for two to three years . Soon afterwards , inspired by Brazilian star João Gilberto , he settled on the guitar as his primary instrument and began to play bossa nova .

= = = Musical career (1963 ? present) = = =

Gil met guitarist and singer Caetano Veloso at the Universidade Federal da Bahia (Federal

University of Bahia) in 1963 . The two immediately began collaborating and performing together , releasing a single and EP soon afterwards . Along with Maria Bethânia (Veloso 's sister) , Gal Costa , and Tom Zé , Gil and Veloso performed bossa nova and traditional Brazilian songs at the Vila Velha Theatre 's opening night in July 1964 , a show entitled Nós , por Exemplo (Us , for Example) . Gil and the group continued to perform at the venue and he eventually became a musical director of the concert series . Gil collaborated again with members of this collective on the landmark 1968 album Tropicália : ou Panis et Circenses , whose style was influenced by The Beatles ' Sgt. Pepper 's Lonely Hearts Club Band , an album Gil listened to constantly . Gil describes Tropicália : ou Panis et Circenses as the birth of the tropicália movement . As Gil describes it , tropicália (or Tropicalismo) was a conflation of musical and cultural developments that had occurred in Brazil during the 1950s and 1960s ? primarily bossa nova and the Jovem Guarda (Young Wave) collective ? with rock and roll music from the United States and Europe , a movement deemed threatening by the Brazilian government of the time .

Early on in the 1960s , Gil earned income primarily from selling bananas in a shopping mall and composing jingles for television advertisements ; he was also briefly employed by the Brazilian division of Unilever , Gessy @-@ Lever . He moved to São Paulo in 1965 and had a hit single when his song " Louvação " (which later appeared on the album of the same name) was released by Elis Regina . However , his first hit as a solo artist was the 1969 song " Aquele Abraço " . Gil also performed in several television programs throughout the 1960s , which often included other " tropicalistas " , members of the Tropicalismo movement . One of these programs , Divino Maravilhoso , which featured Veloso , gained attention from government television censors after it aired a satirical version of the national anthem in December 1968 .

In February 1969 Gil and Veloso were arrested by the Brazilian military government , brought from São Paulo to Rio de Janeiro , and spent three months in prison and another four under house arrest , before being freed on the condition that they leave the country . Veloso was the first to be arrested ; the police moved to Gil 's home soon afterward . Veloso had directed his then @-@ wife Andréa Gadelha to warn Gil about the possibility of arrest , but Gil was eventually brought into the police van along with Veloso . They were given no reason or charge for their arrest . Gil believes that the government felt his actions " represent [ed] a threat [to them] , something new , something that can 't quite be understood , something that doesn 't fit into any of the clear compartments of existing cultural practices , and that won 't do . That is dangerous . " During his prison sentence , Gil began to meditate , follow a macrobiotic diet , and read about Eastern philosophy . He composed four songs during his imprisonment , among them " Cérebro Eletrônico " (Electronic Brain) , which first appeared on his 1969 album Gilberto Gil 1969 , and later on his 2006 album Gil Luminoso . Thereafter , Gil and Veloso were exiled to London , England after being offered to leave Brazil . The two played a last Brazilian concert together in Salvador in July 1969 , then left to Portugal , Paris , and finally London . He and Veloso took a house in Chelsea , sharing it with their manager and wives . Gil was involved in the organisation of the 1971 Glastonbury Free Festival and was exposed to reggae while living in London ; he recalls listening to Bob Marley (whose songs he later covered) , Jimmy Cliff , and Burning Spear . He was heavily influenced by and involved with the city 's rock scene as well , performing with Yes , Pink Floyd , and the Incredible String Band . However , he also performed solo , recording Gilberto Gil (Nêga) while in London . In addition to involvement in the reggae and rock scenes , Gil attended performances by jazz artists , including Miles Davis and Sun Ra .

When he went back to Bahia in 1972 , Gil focused on his musical career and environmental advocacy work . He released Expresso 2222 the same year , from which two popular singles were released . Gil toured the United States and recorded an English @-@ language album as well , continuing to release a steady stream of albums throughout the 1970s , including Realce and Refazenda . In the early 1970s Gil participated in a resurgence of the Afro @-@ Brazilian afoxé tradition in Carnaval , joining the Filhos de Gandhi (Sons of Gandhi) performance group , which only allowed black Brazilians to join . Gil also recorded a song titled " Patuscada de Gandhi " written about the Filhos de Gandhi that appeared on his 1977 album Refavela . Greater attention was paid to afoxé groups in Carnaval because of the publicity that Gil had provided to them through his

involvement ; the groups increased in size as well . In the late 1970s he left Brazil for Africa and visited Senegal , Ivory Coast , and Nigeria . He also worked with Jimmy Cliff and released a cover of " No Woman , No Cry " with him in 1980 , a number one hit that introduced reggae to Brazil .

In 1996 , Gil contributed " Refazenda " to the AIDS @-@ Benefit Album Red Hot + Rio produced by the Red Hot Organization .

In 1998 the live version of his album Quanta won Gil the Grammy Award for Best World Music Album . In 2005 he won the Grammy Award for Best Contemporary World Music Album for Eletracústico . In May 2005 he was awarded the Polar Music Prize by Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden in Stockholm , the prize 's first Latin American recipient . On October 16 of the same year he received the Légion d 'honneur from the French government , coinciding with the Année du Brésil en France (Brazil 's Year in France) .

In 2010 he released the album Fé Na Festa , a record devoted to forró , a style of music from Brazil 's northeast . His tour to promote this album received some negative feedback from fans who were expecting to hear a set featuring his hits . In 2013 , Gilberto Gil plays his own role as a singer and promoter of cultural diversity in a long feature documentary shot around the southern hemisphere by Swiss filmmaker Pierre @-@ Yves Borgeaud , Viramundo : a musical journey with Gilberto Gil , distributed worldwide . The film also inaugurates the T.I.D.E. experiment for pan @-@ European and multi @-@ support releases .

= = = Political career (1987 ? present) = = =

Gil describes his attitude towards politics thus : " I 'd rather see my position in the government as that of an administrator or manager . But politics is a necessary ingredient . " His political career began in 1987 , when he was elected to a local post in Bahia and became the Salvador secretary of culture . In 1988 , he was elected to the city council and subsequently became city commissioner for environmental protection . However , he left the office after one term and declined to run for the National Congress of Brazil . In 1990 , Gil left the Brazilian Democratic Movement Party and joined the Green Party . During this period , Gil founded the environmental protection organization Onda Azul (Blue Wave) , which worked to protect Brazilian waters . He maintained a full @-@ time musical career at the same time , and withdrew temporarily from politics in 1992 , following the release Parabolicamará , considered to be one of his most successful efforts . On October 16 , 2001 Gil accepted his nomination to be a Goodwill Ambassador for the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations , having promoted the organization before his appointment .

When President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva took office in January 2003 , he chose Gil as Brazil 's new Minister of Culture , only the second black person to serve in the country 's cabinet . The appointment was controversial among political and artistic figures and the Brazilian press ; a remark Gil made about difficulties with his salary received particular criticism . Gil is not a member of Lula 's Workers ' Party and did not participate in creating its cultural program . Shortly after becoming Minister , Gil began a partnership between Brazil and Creative Commons . As Minister , he has sponsored a program called Culture Points , which gives grants to provide music technology and education to people living in poor areas of the country 's cities . Gil has since asserted that " You 've now got young people who are becoming designers , who are making it into media and being used more and more by television and samba schools and revitalizing degraded neighborhoods . It 's a different vision of the role of government , a new role . " Gil has also expressed interest in a program that will establish an Internet repository of freely downloadable Brazilian music . Since Gil 's appointment , the department 's expenditures have increased by over 50 percent . In November 2007 Gil announced his intention to resign from his post due to a vocal cord polyp . Lula rejected Gil 's first two attempts to resign , but accepted another request in July 2008 . Lula said on this occasion that Gil was " going back to being a great artist , going back to giving priority to what is most important " to him .

= = = Personal life = = =

Gil has been married four times . His fourth wife is Flora Nair Giordano Gil Moreira . The couple has five children , four of whom are still living . The fifth child ? Pedro Gil , Egotrip 's drummer ? died in a car accident in 1990 . Preta Gil , an actress and singer , is his daughter .

Gil 's religious beliefs have changed significantly over his lifetime . Originally , he was a Christian , but was later influenced by Eastern philosophy and religion , and , later still , explored African spirituality . He is now an agnostic . He practices yoga and is a vegetarian .

Gil has been open about the fact that he has smoked marijuana for much of his life . He has said he believes " that drugs should be treated like pharmaceuticals , legalized , although under the same regulations and monitoring as medicines " .

= = Musical style and influences = =

Gil is a tenor , but he sings in the baritone or falsetto register , with lyrics and / or scat syllables . His lyrics are on subjects that range from philosophy to religion , folktales , and word play . Gil 's musical style incorporates a broad range of influences . The first music he was exposed to included The Beatles and street performers in various metropolitan areas of Bahia . During his first years as a musician , Gil performed primarily in a blend of traditional Brazilian styles with two @-@ step rhythms , such as baião and samba . He states that " My first phase was one of traditional forms . Nothing experimental at all . Caetano [Veloso] and I followed in the tradition of Luiz Gonzaga and Jackson do Pandeiro , combining samba with northeastern music . "

As one of the pioneers of tropicália , influences from genres such as rock and punk have been pervasive in his recordings , as they have been in those of other stars of the period , including Caetano Veloso and Tom Zé . Gil 's interest in the blues @-@ based music of rock pioneer Jimi Hendrix , in particular , has been described by Veloso as having " extremely important consequences for Brazilian music " . Veloso also noted the influence of Brazilian guitarist and singer Jorge Ben on Gil 's musical style , coupled with that of traditional music . After the height of tropicália in the 1960s , Gil became increasingly interested in black culture , particularly in the Jamaican musical genre of reggae . He described the genre as " a form of democratizing , internationalizing , speaking a new language , a Heideggerian form of passing along fundamental messages " .

Visiting Lagos , Nigeria , in 1976 for the Festival of African Culture (FESTAC) , Gil met fellow musicians Fela Kuti and Stevie Wonder . He became inspired by African music and later integrated some of the styles he had heard in Africa , such as juju and highlife , into his own recordings . One of the most famous of these African @-@ influenced records was the 1977 album Refavela , which included " No Norte da Saudade " (To the North of Sadness) , a song heavily influenced by reggae . When Gil returned to Brazil after the visit , he focused on Afro @-@ Brazilian culture , becoming a member of the Carnaval afoxé group Filhos de Gandhi .

Conversely , his 1980s musical repertoire presented an increased development of dance trends , such as disco and soul , as well as the previous incorporation of rock and punk . However , Gil says that his 1994 album Acoustic was not such a new direction , as he had previously performed unplugged with Caetano Veloso . He describes the method of playing as easier than other types of performance , as the energy of acoustic playing is simple and influenced by its roots . Gil has been criticized for a conflicting involvement in both authentic Brazilian music and the worldwide musical arena . He has had to walk a fine line , simultaneously remaining true to traditional Bahian styles and engaging with commercial markets . Listeners in Bahia have been much more accepting of his blend of music styles , while those in southeast Brazil felt at odds with it .

= = Discography = =

= = Awards , nominations , and positions = =