



SOCIETY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS  
*Bringing the World's Best to Houston*

## ***Press Release***

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Gilberto Gil, the King of Brazilian Pop Music, Heads to Houston for One Night Only**

### **Presented by Society for the Performing Arts**

HOUSTON (Feb. 22, 2010) – Society for the Performing Arts (SPA), bringing the world's best to Houston, presents Brazil's pop music king and former minister of culture, Gilberto Gil, Friday, March 26 at 8 p.m. in Jones Hall.

Titled "The String Concert," the evening will feature Gil performing acoustic versions of his top hit songs. Joining him on stage will be his son, guitarist Bem Gil, and cellist Jaques Morelenbaum, who throughout his long career has played alongside such luminaries as Antonio Carlos Jobim, Caetano Veloso, Ryuichi Sakamoto and David Byrne.

The Grammy-winning Gil has developed one of the most relevant and renowned careers as a singer, composer and guitar-player in world and pop music. In a career that has spanned four decades, with more than 30 albums released, Gil has six gold records, four platinum singles and five million records sold. The Tropicalist genre he introduced, alongside Caetano Veloso, has made him famous internationally, as well as at home in Brazil. His extensive and prolific catalogue of work has been covered and recorded by João Gilberto, Elis Regina, Gal Costa, Sérgio Mendes, Ernie Watts and Toots Thielmans.

When his 17th album *Nightingale* was released in 1979, the first in the United States, Gil's music transcended borders and boundaries, achieving global status. Aside from Gil's brilliant performances at the famed Montreux Jazz Festival, the innovative musician has toured with great success throughout Europe, Africa, Asia, South and North America.

Over the years, his political and environmental activism gained prominence alongside his musical career and reached a new height in 2002 when he was appointed minister of culture for Brazil. As a musician and as a diplomat, Gil possesses a key role in the constant modernization of Brazilian popular music and culture throughout the world.

Part of SPA's International series, this event is generously sponsored by Mayer-Brown, Continental Airlines, H-E-B, The Brown Hand Center and BMC Software.

Tickets range from \$20-\$55 and can be purchased online at [www.spahouston.org](http://www.spahouston.org), by phone at 713-227-4SPA or at the courtyard level ticket office at Jones Hall located at 615 Louisiana St. Hours of operation: 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Monday – Friday, and 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Saturday. For groups of 15 or more, call 713-632-8114.

**About Society for the Performing Arts**

Founded in 1966, Society for the Performing Arts (SPA) is the largest independent non-profit presenting organization in the Southwest. Since its inception, SPA has sponsored more than 800 performances of the world's finest music, dance and theater events, in adherence to the belief that the arts are fundamental to the overall enrichment and quality of life within the community. In addition to presenting artists, SPA seeks to provide a variety of learning experiences for adults and children through master classes, lectures and special student performances, as well as build relationships between the performing arts and other interests within the greater Houston area and throughout the state of Texas.

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