

João Gilberto - João Gilberto (1961)

Written by bluesever

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1 –João Gilberto *O Samba Da Minha Terra* 2 –João Gilberto *O Barquinho* 3 –João Gilberto *Bolinha De Papel* 4 –João Gilberto *Saudade Da Bahia* 5 –João Gilberto *A Primeira Vez* 6 –João Gilberto *O Amor Em Paz* 7 –João Gilberto *Você E Eu* 8 –João Gilberto *Trenzinho -Trem De Ferro* 9 –João Gilberto *Coisa Mais Linda* 10 –João Gilberto *Presente De Natal* 11 –João Gilberto *Insensatez* 12 –João Gilberto *Este Seu Olhar*
Acoustic Guitar [Violão], Voice – João Gilberto Arranged By, Piano [Uncredited] – Antonio Carlos Jobim (tracks: A2, A5, A6, B1, B3, B4, B5) Ensemble – Antonio Carlos Jobim & Orchestra (tracks: A2, A6, B3, B5), Walter Wanderley & Seu Conjunto (tracks: A1, A3, A4, B2, B4)

Every song a symphony in two minutes. Features arrangements from Antonio Carlos Jobim and the Walter Wanderley Trio on accompaniment. Everything on this classic album is classic. At the time an innovator of almost unimaginable proportions, today's João Gilberto's work is classic. And all the classic songs written by classic composers are interpreted, with class, on this classic early entry in the catalog of João's classic discography.

It is filled with genius staples in the 'bossa nova canon' – "O barquinho", "Você e eu," and "Insensatez" for example, which have all been recorded numerous times by numerous people in numerous worthwhile interpretations. But one of João Gilberto's shamanic skills was taking a tune like Caymmi's "Samba da minha terra" and transforming it while retaining its essence like an alchemist distilling a musical elixir of eternal youth. Plus, he sings the line "chicken din, chknndong n a din, chdongdongdong ch diiiiing, chdondong ch chding ch chdon don don" in it. Which reminds me, I have to remark one of his other remarkable talents, his onomatopoeic skills evident on songs like "Trem de Ferro-Trenzinho"... Who else can do that and not sound silly? Or better yet, who else can do that and stay in time with his complex syncopation? The album closes with one of my favorite Jobim compositions "Este seu olhar", a true gem of lovelorn melancholic transcendence. Off the top of my head I can't think of anybody else who recorded this (I'm sure I'm wrong) but it doesn't matter – there is no surpassing the master's

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masterful mastery of this one.

About the only tune I find a little tedious is 'Presente de natal' that manages to combine a love song and a Christmas song in what is a bit of an overdose of glucose for me. Small quibble about a masterful album from a master. But I have to feign a critical ear, right?

I hope you all enjoy this vinyl rip. It is from a first pressing vinyl copy from an album that is HALF A CENTURY OLD so of course there is some surface noise. But I find it quite nice. The second side of the album has more distortions than the first, for whatever reason. Perhaps some day I will score another copy and do a combined-rip super-upload. Lest I forget, I was planning this post a long while back to celebrate João's 80th birthday. Then I sort of forgot it was upon us. So, this is a day late, but I have a feeling we will be celebrating him for a while this year still! --- flabbergasted-vibes.org

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