

Bebel Gilberto – Agora (2020)

Written by bluelover (Bogdan Marszałkowski)
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A1 Tão Bom A2 Agora A3 Cliché A4 Bolero A5 Essence B1 Na Cara B2 Deixa B3 Raio B4 Yet Another Love Song B5 O Que Nao Foi Dito B6 Teletransportador Backing Vocals – Mart'Nália (tracks: 6, 8) Mixed By, Programmed By, Bass, Keyboards, Percussion – Thomas Bartlett Drums, Percussion – Magrus Borges (tracks: 1, 6, 7) Lead Vocals, Backing Vocals – Bebel Gilberto

As the daughter of João Gilberto and Miúcha, singer/songwriter Bebel Gilberto was born into Brazilian music royalty. Hers has been a nomadic life. Born in New York City, she was raised in Brazil, Mexico, and the U.S.; she left school at 14 and has lived all over the world. That wandering spirit has informed her musical life from the beginning. Early on, she added global club and dance music into MPB and vice-versa. Her restlessness is also reflected in *Agora*, her first album in six years. After 2014's *Tudo*, Gilberto felt creatively stuck; she took a long trip to Italy for inspiration. Upon her return she called longtime friend and producer Thomas Bartlett to catch up. He invited her to stop by Reservoir Studios the next day. With no goal, their collaborative sessions netted 17 co-written tracks. Between 2018 and 2019, Gilberto lost her best friend and both parents. She and Bartlett subsequently worked together sporadically, adding three more cuts. At the end of the year, they culled 11 tracks from 20. *Agora* translates as "now" in English, and is arguably the most electronic record Gilberto has ever released. Informed by love, romance, grief, endings, and beginnings, it's loopy yet mature, vulnerable, and nakedly sincere. The title track, initially composed in 2008, has been thoroughly remapped by Bartlett's attractive layers of strings, organic-sounding ambience, and bassy beats, and contains a lovely hook from the intro to Dr. John's "I Walk on Gilded Splinters." "Cliché" was conjured on the spot in the studio. Gilberto completely improvised its lyrics (about clichés, of course) atop multi-tracked electric pianos, celeste, electric bass, muted snares, and organ. First single "Deixa" commences with shifting Afro-Brazilian rhythms and dark, multi-tracked, and dubby horns before Gilberto unfolds its sensual melody around the bassline as harp and marimba paint the backdrop. "Bolero" follows a crooked pathway between Cuban and Brazilian balladry, with plucked strings, claves, and piano. Its steamy mix enfolds Gilberto's sensual melody and lyric. With its ticking, treated maraca beats, "Na Cara" adds moody electronic funk to Brazilian jazz as Gilberto and duet partner Mart'náli present a languid call-and-response lyric

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to contrast their distinct vocal qualities. The final two tracks, "O Que Nao Foi Dito" and "Teletransportador," showcase Gilberto at her most experimental. The former is a dark-tinged processional wrapped in exotic percussion, a bossa melody, and hovering keys under Gilberto's powerful singing. The latter is a dreamy, nocturnal ballad wrapped in lush textures, hushed vocals, percussion, and jazz piano. As a whole Agora's ranging, sensual production provides an alluring, even beguiling, frame for this duo's sophisticated songwriting. With a laid-back pace, the album's slipstream sonic quality may require a couple of listens to fully absorb, but it's well worth the effort. Gilberto has made a career of seeking adventure in her music, but her partnership with Bartlett on Agora surpasses all expectations and creative limits. ---Thom Jurek, allmusic.com

Ikona brazylijskiej bossa novy, Bebel Gilberto, powróciła w sierpniu 2020 roku wydawnictwem „Agora”. Nowy materiał wyprodukował Thomas Bartlett (Sufjan Stevens, St. Vincent).

„Wiele przeszłam w trakcie tworzenia tego albumu. Straciłam przyjaciela, po pół roku mamę i niedługo potem ojca. To bardzo trudne dla mnie doświadczenia. W przypadku „Agory” zastosowała zupełnie inne podejście i otrzymałam wiele miłości i wsparcia od Thomasa, producenta albumu. Zaufał mi i pozwolił być sobą. W efekcie końcowym nowy materiał jest bardziej szalony, dojrzalszy i niesamowicie szczery” - mówi Bebel.

Wielokrotnie nominowana do nagrody Grammy, kompozytorka i wokalistka, Bebel Gilberto od czasu ukazania się jej solowego debiutu w 1986 r. oczarowuje fanów oraz krytyków na całym świecie. Na międzynarodową scenę muzyczną wkroczyła dzięki utworowi, który znalazł się na słynnej kompilacji „RED HOT+RIO”. Wydany w 2000 r. krążek „Tanto Tempo” odniósł światowy sukces. Dzięki niemu Gilberto uzyskała status najlepiej sprzedającej się brazylijskiej artystki od lat 60-tych. Wśród uznanych przez krytykę albumów znalazły się - „Bebel Gilberto” (2004 r.), na którym dopracowała swoje brzmienie, tworząc akustyczny styl lounge, który pokazał jej mocne strony jako brazylijskiej kompozytorki oraz „Momento” (2007 r.) ukazujący jej umiejętności łączenia wszystkich stylów muzycznych. Krążek „All in One”, nominowany do Grammy w 2009 r., w większym stopniu podkreślił osobowość Bebel i jej zamiłowanie do organicznych rytmów. Ostatnie wydawnictwo artystki zatytułowane „Tudo” ukazało się w 2014 r. ---voiceshop.pl

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