

America. I didn't have any intention of coming. I was scared of airplanes, and I didn't want to travel very much. But . . . That [trip] was a foreign service thing, you know. We had practically all the bossa nova guys. We had João Gilberto, we had Carlos Lyra, we had Sergio Mendes, we had Luiz Bonfá, Bola Sete. About twenty-five to thirty guys. The whole batch. Then we went to Washington and we gave a concert there. Then we went to the Village Gate in New York, and then we were free, and everybody went home, because nobody had the permission to stay. So they went back. And I was going to go back, too. And I thought, "You know, I've never left Brazil." I was thirty-five. "And I think it's time to see what's it like, these great musicians I've heard since I was a kid. And I should say hello." They were all around. Stan Getz wanted to do an album, and things like that. So I decided to stay. Everybody went home, but João Gilberto and I decided to stay.

I had many songs that the publishers wanted, so they gave me some advances and I could rent an apartment. And I got my union card, I got a visa and everything. Creed Taylor, who was working for Verve, very much wanted to do an album with Stan Getz and João Gilberto. I arranged the album [*Getz/Gilberto*] and played on it. It did very well.

The winter closed in. It was harsh enough on those of us who were accustomed to cold, but for the Brazilians left lingering in New York after the Carnegie Hall disaster, it was worse. They would shiver in something close to pain on their way to a little Brazilian cafe on West 44th Street, just east of Times Square. There, finding solace in the Portuguese chitchat, they would linger over *cafezinho*, their faces long with saudade for home, reluctant to exit into that cruel winter. On New Year's Eve, Schifrin threw a party for them at his apartment in Queens. I remember Baden Powell arriving there with his guitar wrapped in a blanket to protect it from the cold. He played duets with the late Jimmy Raney.

Jobim wanted to make a demo with my lyrics to both songs.

He asked if I could find a pianist to do it with us. Yes, I said, Bill Evans. The pianist said he would be glad to do it. We laid down "Corcovado" without incident. And then we turned to "Desafinado". To amuse Evans and me, Jobim, playing guitar, sang all the wrong ways he'd heard Brazilian singers do it. We were laughing helplessly by the end of it. And then, when we came to do a take, I had the wrong versions so firmly fixed in my ear that in the end we had to abandon it. I just couldn't get it right. I treasured that tape, because it had Evans and Jobim together on it. It was destroyed in a fire around 1972.

Taylor put Gilberto, Jobim, and Getz together for an album titled *Getz/Gilberto*, recorded on March 18 and 19, 1963. One of the songs was "The Girl from Ipanema", with a lyric by Norman Gimbel. The opening line in the Portuguese lyric contains five notes; Gimbel reduced it to three ("Tall and tan . . ."), which completely destroys the swing. Taylor wanted to use the English language version of the song. Astrud Gilberto, João's wife, who was in the studio, harbored secret dreams of singing. So she sang it. The lyric was written for a man, so for the line "she looks straight ahead not at me", she invented the grammatical horror "she looks straight ahead not at he".

But it was a hit. Astrud hadn't been paid a penny for the session though of course her husband had. And within days, the record was on the charts. It was at this point that Getz called Taylor's office. Taylor's secretary took the call; when he returned and she told him Getz was anxious to talk to him, Taylor thought Getz must be calling to see that Astrud got some share of the royalties. On the contrary, he was calling to make sure that she got nothing.

The story of this soon got around, prompting one of the more famous wisecracks about Getz. Al Cohn, one of the great wits, who had been with Getz in the Woody Herman Four Brothers band, said, "It's nice to see that success hasn't changed Stan Getz."