

24. João Gilberto: Eu Sambo Mesmo

(J. de Almeida) Fermata do Brasil Ltda. - Editora Musical Samba Ltda. /
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From João; orig. CD Philips 848188-2
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João Gilberto, vocal & guitar; Clare Fischer, keyboards; Jim Hughart, bass; Joe Correro, drums;
Michito Sanchez, percussion; horns; arr. by Clare Fischer

Gilberto's superb 1990 release is final proof that he is bossa nova itself. No one can allege that it is not a bossa album, though there are no tunes from the "bossa era" or by a "bossa composer." Its repertoire consists of songs from the '40s and the '50s, yet all of them sound like true bossas! This track, a fabulous song by Janet de Almeida (who passed away in 1945, aged just 26), had its debut in the repertoire of the vocal group Anjos do Inferno. Gilberto had previously recorded two other great tunes by Almeida: "Eu Quero Um Samba" (the opening track on this compilation, performed by Os Namorados), and "Prá Que Discutir Com Madame?," a highlight from his Grammy-nominated album Live at Montreux. Which leads us to agree with journalist Ruy Castro, who states that it seems Gilberto performed this entire musical revolution by continuing to sing the same songs that he had listened to in his childhood. And, of course, we should add, in the way he thinks they should be sung: in the Gilberto way, that is, in the bossa nova way.



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