

Astrud Gilberto - Gilberto With Turrentine (1971)



A1 Wanting Things 2:35 A2 Brazilian Tapestry 5:10 A3 To A Flame Soloist, Flute – Hubert Laws 3:17 A4 Solo El Fin = For All We Know 3:10 A5 Zazueira 3:40 B1 Ponteio 3:35 B2 Travelling Light 3:25 B3 Vera Cruz 5:05 B4 Love Story = Historia De Amor 3:29 B5 Where There's A Heartache 3:10 Bass – Ron Carter, Russell George Cello – George Ricci Conductor – Deodato Drums – Airto Moreira, Dennis Seiwell, Dom Um Romao, Joao Palma Electric Piano – Eumir Deodato Flute – George Marge, Hubert Laws, Jerome Richardson, Romeo Penque Guitar – Gene Bertoncini, Sam Brown, Sivouca Harmonica – Toots Thielemans Percussion – Airto Moreira, Dennis Seiwell, Dom Um Romao, Joao Palma Soloist [All Solos], Guitar – Bob Mann Tenor Saxophone – Stanley Turrentine Viola – Harold Coletta Violin – Emanuel Green, Gene Orloff, Harry Katzman, Joe Malin, Julie Held, Paul Gershman

I have been listening to this album since I was 3 years old when my father first brought this home from the record store in 1972. It is just incredible. Astrud's voice and laid-back delivery are better here than on her earlier (and better-known) Verve albums.

The real treasures of this album though are the outstanding arrangements by Eumir Deodato, who once again proves he is the master of this type of music. Nearly every track is full of interesting, complex, yet beautiful instrumentation. He blends mellow low strings with lots of Fender Rhodes electric piano, plenty of electric and acoustic guitar, and a wide variety of Brazilian percussion instruments. It's just a rich tapestry of sound that never fails to intrigue me, even though I've probably heard the album a hundred or more times.

Stanley Turrentine is all over this record, and his solos are soulful, strong, and melodic as always. If you can get past a couple of the Carpenters songs that are included, you'll find it to be a timeless album. This is one you'll want to listen to this one over and over. ---ontherecord.co

This album is a curious but very listenable amalgam of easy listening jazz with strings and Brazilian rhythms. It is also a patch-up job. Apparently Ms Gilberto was not happy with the sessions so walked off the job, leaving producer Creed Taylor to add more than a few instrumental tracks to flesh out the lack of vocal contributions from the main attraction. Strangely though the whole thing works beautifully.

Astrud sings with all her usual charm. Her voice slightly tremulous conveys a vulnerability and conviction that is utterly captivating. She could never be accused of being a particularly technically assured songbird, but her voice is just right for such as 'Travelling Light' and 'For All We Know'.

The supporting band is made up of some wonderful musicians, not least Toots Thielemans, Emir Deodarto, Hubert Laws, Ron Carter to name but a few. Together they give Astrid sensitive support made all the better by the superb arrangements of Deodarto. The re-mastered sound is superb, the warmth of the instruments-especially the sax work of Turrentine which comes through very vividly.

Guitarists should listen Gene Bertonici on 'To a Flame' and 'Vera Cruz' who offers a master-class in tasty soloing. I love this album and I think you might as well! Ps: the bonus tracks are fine, except for 'Polytechnical High' which is a bit of a dated novelty tune. ---os, amazon.com

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