

GUI HARGREAVES | RELEASE

Gui Hargreaves

Gui Hargreaves is a promising name of the contemporary 'new MPB' generation (for Brazilian popular music). Singer-songwriter and poet from Juiz de Fora, Minas Gerais, Gui, 26, began his career in Belo Horizonte, then moved to São Paulo in early 2017 for the release of his second studio album: Volta.

Gui creates in his songs a fusion of elements of different natures, uniting roots of Brazilian song-writing and traditional rhythms to contemporary poetics. Also feeding a lot from other countries own popular music traditions: jazz, rock, pop, folk, classical, eastern and western music have all been great influences in his work.

Having travelled a lot around Brazil and other counties, he has let himself be influenced by the landscapes he travelled through, and his songs carry the tales from those places he wandered by, and the people he met; speaking of human relations, dreams and affections, meetings and mismatches.

Gui was on the road for the whole of 2016, right after putting out his first album, Brasileiro. During this time, he performed in cities like Rome, Milan, Ortigia, London, New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco. Out there he collaborated with plenty of talented musicians such as Erlend Øye, Tess Amodeo-Vickery, Sasha Pushkin and Stefano Ortisi; had music videos recorded and live radio shows at local stations. In London, Gui performed at the Vortex Club, Joyeux Bordel (with the English-Brazilian singer Nina Miranda - Smoke City) and was also the live music act for the 2016 Rio Olympic Games opening ceremony party at the Embassy of Brazil in London. When in the USA, he performed gigs in various historical live music spots in New York City, such as the Bowery Electric @The Map Room, Silvana's, Club Bonafide and Pete's Candy Store. Still there he recorded a couple of videos for the international project Sofar Sounds, for which he went to the west coast to play, in LA and SF.

Beyond music, he dedicates himself also to writing poetry, and this devotion to the lyrical part he carries all the way into the process of writing his songs. Having a book of contemporary haiku poetry published in 2014, entitled 'diminuto'.

Volta

Volta is an album conceived on the road. It is the very symbolical result of Gui's year out performing around different countries in 2016. The project began to be conceived while he was performing as part of the artistic residency MOON – in the southern Sicilian island of Ortigia – where he developed most of the songs. Getting to London was no-where planned neither the recordings that were about to come by. Gui started by performing at jazz clubs and the people he met during those first weeks, lead to the invitation of recording during that same July/16, at the newly built Rosewood Studio in south London.

Those recordings became this privileged unimagined piece of group work. It is important to state that Volta was a team effort, and happened in the most wonderful way a musician can possibly imagine: having an open studio all for themselves, to freely create and experiment, day in, day out, all through the nights, calling up different players to drop by and try out new ideas together.

For that, it is thanks to the supporting musicians who performed in the recordings that the album was conceived. They were all great British names such as the talented young Ed Scull (producer of the album, responsible for the studio, the management of the whole team and one of the hands behind the arrangements; he is an excellent orchestral percussion player who has followed some symphonic Pink Floyd recordings, and also plays with Rick Wakeman and more); Howard Turner, tenor saxophone player (Chick Corea, Fela Kuti, Airto Moreira e Flora Purim) and so the list goes on. With enough time explore new dimensions on his music, Gui has achieved a unique soundscape on this work. The lyrics go from Portuguese to English and French, talking about the emotions of those who wander as the things that we leave behind when we depart, also those which we cannot depart from when we leave.

As Gui Hargreaves' family came from England all the way back in mid-19th century, and he has lived in the South West of England to study when young, having this art work conceived in London was particularly important as a way to reconnect to his British roots.