

GIL EVANS is according to composer Bill Mathieu, one of the most painstaking of arrangers. “The mind reels at the intricacy of his orchestral and developmental techniques,” Mathieu says. “His scores are so careful, so formally well-constructed, so mindful of tradition that you feel the originals should be preserved under glass in a Florentine museum.” And the wonder of it all is that Gil is self-taught. In the 1930s, he led his own band in California. In the early 1940s his band was taken over by Skinnay Ennis, and Gil remained as arranger. But his most lasting and productive band work was done with the Claude Thornhill Orchestra, where his style jelled. Gil orchestrated several of the trend-setting “Birth of the Cool” sides in the late 1940s, then went on to great fame as arranger-conductor for several very successful Miles Davis albums. The current Gil Evans, still developing and constantly surprising, is represented on this album, on *The Individualism of Gil Evans* (to be released soon on CD) and on Kenny Burrell’s album, *Guitar Forms* (Verve 825-576-2).