



Guy Mendilow will perform from his latest album on Saturday.

By Hinda Mandell

When meeting Guy Mendilow in person, the first thing you notice is his blonde pony-tail.

The second, and more lasting impression, comes from the lilt of his voice. His accent reflects the varied places that he has called home: Israel, South Africa, United States and Brazil. In fact, to talk to Mendilow about the global jet-setting that has defined much of his life, is to enter a borderless world where the common denominator is music.

"In many ways, what my life has been about, because we moved around so much, was going from one culture to another culture, and finding common ground," said

Mendilow, 28.

On Saturday, Mendilow and the musicians who perform with him will celebrate the release of "Guy Mendilow Live" at the Goethe-Institut. The Consulate General of Israel to New England is also sponsoring the event.

The CD provides listeners with that rare musical offering: Catchy licks that almost instantly have listeners moving along to the groove. The nine-track compilation progresses from African to South American, Israeli to Ladino influences. The traditional Israeli song "Hine Ma Tov" is presented here with a Brazilian twist.

The global troubadour hits the stage

"The sound is like old Israeli meets Brazilian meets African harmonics meets overtone singing," said Mendilow, speaking of his music in general. "It's not one pure thing. Nothing in this group is one pure thing."

Last year, Mendilow was voted Boston's best world music act, according to a Boston Phoenix poll.

Last year, Mendilow was voted Boston's best world music act, according to a Boston Phoenix poll.

While Mendilow plays guitar and various percussive instruments, don't expect to find a traditional sound on this CD.

In addition to vocals – Mendilow's main instrument – he also plays the berimbau, an instrument he describes as a musical bow and arrow. He built the device while living in Brazil.

Born in Israel, Mendilow is also a citizen of the U.S. and England. This type of cosmopolitanism is reflected within the Mendilow clan.

"In my family, everyone has a different accent," he said.

What they share, though, is their connection to music. Before Mendilow was born, his father was a professional jazz musician. While he later became a professor of political

science, which explains the family's globe trotting, said Mendilow, the family always sang together and listened to music.

For this musician, who speaks Hebrew, English, Spanish and Portuguese – and who also sings in Ladino and Arabic – the glory of what he does is finding a common ground among different cultures. That's what makes him all jazzed up about his music. And that's what makes his music so exciting.

For more information on Guy Mendilow and his music, visit www.guymendilow.com. The Saturday performance at the Goethe-Institut Boston is scheduled for 9 p.m.

