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**ACCLAIMED HARPIST ANNA MARIA MENDIETA RELEASES A WORLD PREMIERE TANGO
ALBUM WITH GRAMMY®-WINNING TEAM TITLED
*TANGO DEL CIELO***

SAN FRANCISCO, CA— On August 21, 2020, Anna Maria Mendieta will release [TANGO DEL CIELO](#), on all digital platforms. The album is an inspired collection of Tango bringing into focus the music of Astor Piazzolla as we approach the 100th anniversary of his birth in 2021.

The album focuses on new virtuosic arrangements for **harp** and **orchestra** featuring the original works of **Astor Piazzolla, Isaac Albéniz, Pablo Ziegler, Jacob Gade, Jeremy Cohen, Gerardo Matos Rodríguez, Roberto Firpo, Ernesto Lecuona, Raoul Laparra** and a new work by **Anna Maria Mendieta**. These new orchestrations have been created specifically for Anna Maria Mendieta by composers including multi Grammy® winner & Oscar nominee **Jorge Calandrelli**; multi Grammy® winner and pianist for Piazzolla, **Pablo Ziegler**; and multi Grammy® nominee **Jeremy Cohen**. This re-imagining of Argentine tango & Spanish music for the harp was recorded at **Skywalker Sound** with Grammy® winning engineer **Leslie Ann Jones**.

A project ripe with Piazzolla connections and history, *Tango Del Cielo* brings Anna Maria Mendieta's technical prowess to the forefront. Mendieta considers the harp a perfect vehicle for tango, and has spent almost two decades advocating for the form and collaborating with the most important and influential figures in the tango world. These efforts, brought to life through the lens of some of Piazzolla's closest colleagues and artistic collaborators, come together in the form of *Tango Del Cielo*, a new vision for tango and harp.

MEDIA ONLY ALBUM DOWNLOADS:

LINK: [TANGO DEL CIELO](#)

PASSWORD: tango2020

ABOUT THE CREATORS:

Praised as an “*exceptional soloist and charismatic player*” (Richard Scheinin, of the San Jose Mercury News,) **Anna Maria Mendieta** has forged a path as an innovator in the world of harp music and performance. Anna Maria has always been drawn to the music of tango & Astor Piazzolla, but discovered in 2004 there was no existing music for harp in this genre. After years of collecting tango music written for other instruments, she began creating her own arrangements and developed a new technique of playing the harp to execute the stylistic nature, chromatic passages, and percussive effects unique to tango such as: Chicharra, Latigo, Tambor, Golpe de Caja, Specialized Pizzicato, and Arrastres.

In 2006 she was introduced to members of Piazzolla's own performing group and began collaborating with them to create new arrangements and compositions for the harp. In order to have a deeper understanding of the music of tango, Anna

Maria has also studied the art of Tango dance. She has studied with some of the most prominent tango maestros, musicians, and dancers in the world such as Javier Cohen, Director of La Escuela Música Popular de Avelleneda, and Leonardo Barri & Barbara Wainwright in Buenos Aires, and members of Forever Tango.

Anna Maria comes from an artistic family. Her ancestors danced the tango in the roaring 1920's. Her grandmother was a flapper who proudly talked of another relative, silent screen star Nita Naldi. In researching her movies, to her surprise, Anna Maria discovered that Nita not only co-starred and danced with tango legend Rudolf Valentino in many movies, but also played the harp in a famous scene in "Blood & Sand". Their images are featured in a tribute to the Silent Films in the *Tango del Cielo* show.

In 2006, Anna Maria was invited to premiere her arrangements of Argentine Tango music at the American Harp Society's National Conference. This caught the attention of film makers and agents and led to the formation of her national touring company, *Tango del Cielo* (Tango of Heaven), which has become the focus of a documentary film. Her *Tango del Cielo* concerts feature Argentine Tango, Flamenco, Spanish Classical, and Latin Jazz in a multimedia presentation. When she's not playing the harp on stage, Anna Maria is dancing on the stage as a part of the show. For her dance performances, she has been joined by award-winning Tango and Flamenco dancers from the US and abroad such as Fanny Ara, from NBC's *World of Dance*, Marcelo Molina (two-time USA National Champion of Argentine Tango), Maxi Copello & Raquel Makow (Champions of Buenos Aires), Carlos Aria & Eliana Almeciga (Champions of Columbia), Roxana & Fabian Belmonte (judges of the *World Tango Competition*, Buenos Aires), Sandor & Parissa from *Dancing With the Stars*, and Quartet San Francisco, winners of the *International Tango Music Competition*

In 2007, Anna Maria performed the music of Astor Piazzolla as guest soloist with the San Jose Chamber Orchestra with arrangements for her by Grammy® winners Pablo Ziegler and Daniel Binelli, experts of Piazzolla's music and members of his touring group. This unique programming marked history for its use of harp as the featured instrument in this genre and the review was selected by the *League of American Orchestras* for international publication.

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Jeremy Cohen's jazz violin performances have earned him nationwide accolades. Classically-trained and a student of Itzhak Perlman and Anne Crowden, Cohen's eclectic style reflects his respect for a wide range of violinists from Perlman and Fritz Kreisler to Joe Venuti and Eddie South.

Cohen has performed as soloist with numerous orchestras including the Virginia Symphony, the California Symphony and the Reno Philharmonic. His recording credits include motion picture and television soundtracks including "The Dukes of Hazzard" and Jane Fonda's "Dollmaker," and as concertmaster on recordings with Linda Ronstadt, Ray Charles, Aaron Neville, Howard Keel and Cleo Laine. He appeared on Carlos Santana's Grammy®-winning CD "Supernatural" and the original "Star Wars" compilation CD with John Williams. On the stage he was the solo violinist in "Forever Tango" and "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas" and has toured and recorded with the Grammy® winning Turtle Island String Quartet. As an orchestrator he has arranged and composed for orchestras including the San Francisco Symphony, Marin Symphony

Jorge Calandrelli began his career in Argentina and Europe as Pianist, Arranger and Conductor. Calandrelli moved to the United States in 1978, he is one of today's most prolific arrangers and has worked in the Pop, Jazz, Latin, and Classical fields.

Most recent is Jorge's involvement on the new album "Cheek to Cheek" with Tony Bennett and Lady Gaga where he arranged and conducted all orchestral arrangements, as well as the "Great Performances" live show conducted for PBS at the Lincoln Center in New York just aired on the heels of the album release. He also conducted on the Tour at the Wiltern Theatre in LA, the Hollywood Bowl in LA, and at the Royal Albert Hall in London. With the completion of the *Duets II* album Jorge Calandrelli reaches a milestone celebrating a 30-year association with Tony Bennett.

Six time **Grammy®** winner, two **Oscar** Nominations and 28 **Grammy®** nominations, ASMAC honored Jorge Calandrelli with the 2014 Golden Score Award for Arranging, the highest award given to an arranger in the USA.

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Pablo Ziegler Buenos Aires-born, Grammy®-winning pianist, composer and arranger has been one of the most important figures in Argentine New Tango, the vibrant musical hybrid of traditional tango, American jazz, and European art music. After performing in tango grand-maestro Astor Piazzolla's legendary quintet for over a decade, and appearing on iconic Piazzolla recordings including *Tango: Zero Hour*, *La Camorra* and *Central Park Concert*, Ziegler has led his own groups for over 25 years, refining and reimagining the bounds of the modern tango tradition.

Recent seasons have seen Ziegler performing at major venues, including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center Out of Doors, Muziekgebouw, Verbier Festival, Ravinia Festival SFJAZZ, Montreal Jazz Festival, the Ottawa International Jazz Fest, Tokyo Jazz Festival, La Jolla SummerFest, Laguna Beach Music Festival, Blue Note, Birdland and many others.

Ziegler's most recent release, 2017's *Jazz Tango* won the 60th Grammy® for Best Latin Jazz Album with his trio, Hector Del Curto and Claudio Ragazzi. 2013's the LATIN Grammy®-nominated *Amsterdam Meets New Tango*, sees his quartet paired with the Netherlands' Metropole Orkest, playing his most famous compositions re-arranged for jazz orchestra. Ziegler's 2005 release, *Bajo Cero*, won the LATIN Grammy® for Best Tango Album, and in 2008, his album *Buenos Aires Report* was nominated for the same honor. Ziegler released his first Solo Piano album by Steinway and Sons in 2018. Pablo Ziegler is a Steinway Artist and Honorary Citizen of New Orleans.

Leslie Ann Jones grew up immersed in the Los Angeles TV and music scene. Her father performed with his band, Spike Jones and his City Slickers, with her mother Helen Grayco lending her singing talents. Leslie was given a Sears Silvertone electric guitar at age 14 and has continued making music since. She is a multiple Grammy®-winning recording engineer who has recorded albums for everyone from Rosemary Clooney to Kronos Quartet. Joining Skywalker Sound in 1997 as the Director of Music Recording and Scoring, Leslie records orchestral scores, mixes film and video elements and records and produces music albums. Leslie also serves on numerous advisory boards including G.A.N.G, the Game Audio Network Guild's Board of Directors.

Watch Leslie discuss her time working on this project: <https://youtu.be/K3K8xmYs8uA> (musical sample starts at ~1:23")

QUICK FACTS:

- The year 2021 will mark the 100th Anniversary of the birth of **Astor Piazzolla**, Argentina's beloved tango composer.
- **Jorge Calandrelli** – Multi Grammy® Award winner, Academy Award nominee and friend of Piazzolla. Calandrelli was asked by Piazzolla to create an orchestrated arrangement of *Oblivion* for the Royal Philharmonic in London. During production, with the news of the death of Piazzolla, Jorge composed an interlude to be inserted as a tribute to Piazzolla. It was this arrangement that won Piazzolla his first Grammy® Award posthumously. For this harp album, Jorge Calandrelli has recreated the famous arrangement, but instead with the harp as the main voice and a surprise intro.
- **Pablo Ziegler** – Multi Grammy® Award winner. Friend of Piazzolla and his pianist for 10 years with his touring group. Composed & Arranged *Milonga en el Viento*. Arranged *Introduccion al Ángel* and composed the Solo Harp Cadenza.
- **Jeremy Cohen** – Co-Producer. Winner of the 2014 International Tango Competition. Multi Grammy® Award nominee. Jeremy's violin was the violin used by the concertmaster for the MGM Hollywood Movies during the Golden Age of Hollywood from 1939-1969. Its solos can be heard in such movies as *The Wizard of Oz*, *An American In Paris*, and *Dr. Zhivago*. Jeremy performs on this special violin for the solos on the album. He also composed *Al Colon*, orchestrated *Malaguena* and *Bordel*, and arranged for *Libertango*, *La Cumparsita*, and *Jalousie*.
- "Jalousie" was composed by **Jacob Gade**, a concertmaster of a silent film orchestra in Denmark for one of the very first "Zorro" movies starring Douglas Fairbanks.
- Anna Maria's Great Aunt Nita Naldi was Rudolph Valentino's co-star for many movies. It was through the movies of Rudolph Valentino and the silent films that tango was first popularized in the USA and throughout the world. The album's artwork is of live photos from Anna Maria's touring show "Tango Del Cielo" (Tango From Heaven) featuring a nod to Old Hollywood for this reason.

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