
Redlands Bowl Summer Music Festival

Presents

Anna Maria Mendieta's

Tango del Cielo

“Tango from Heaven”

Friday, August 3rd, 2021 - 8:00 p.m.
Redlands Bowl, 25 Grant Street, Redlands, CA

Program

Music is one of the most powerful tools in igniting the imagination and fueling the emotions.

Welcome to *Tango Del Cielo*! Our program blends the heavenly sounds of classical harp and strings with the romantic Tango of Argentina and the fiery Flamenco of Spain; also added are Spanish Classical, and Latin Jazz. As the music plays, use your imagination to bring what stories and images come forth. We too, have brought our suggestions of images and dance tableaux to spark your creativity, paint the picture, and set the scene for the journey of *Tango Del Cielo*!

Adiós Nonino - by Piazzolla, arranged by Daniel Binelli

Introducción al Ángel - by Astor Piazzolla, with Harp Cadenza by Pablo Ziegler

Asturias (Leyenda) - by Isaac Albéniz

Spain - by Joaquin Rodrigo/Chick Corea

Un Bajo de Magia - by Sascha Jacobsen

~ Silent Film Montage ~

Jalousie - by Jacob Gade

Histoire du Tango: 1st Movement - “1900” - by Astor Piazzolla

Danse Espagnole from La Vida Brève - by Manuel de Falla

Transcribed for violin by Fritz Kreisler

Oblivion - by Astor Piazzolla

Madera y Cuero - Percussion Solo by Antonio Gomez

Jomocha - Cello Solo by Joseph Hébert

Manhã de Carnival "Theme from Black Orpheus" - by Luis Bonfá

Malagueña Fantasia

Malagueña by Ernesto Lecuona

Malagueña-Milonga by Anna Maria Mendieta

Performers

Anna Maria Mendieta, harp

Thomas Yee, violin

Joseph Christianson, violin

Joseph Hébert, cello

Sascha Jacobsen, bass

Antonio Gomez, percussion

Fanny Ara, flamenco dancer

Tango Dancers: Maxi Copello & Raquel Makow Sandor & Parissa

Film Montage created by Bill Mendieta

Paintings by Jeremy Sutton

Tango del Cielo



Anna Maria Mendieta, harpist, enjoys a busy career as a soloist, orchestral musician, recording artist, and teacher. She is the principal harpist with the Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera and has played with orchestras and chamber music groups around the world. Ms. Mendieta has performed for the King and Queen of Spain, Pope Benedict XVI, President Clinton and other dignitaries. Anna Maria is internationally recognized as a pioneer in performing Argentine Tango music on the harp with praises from *The American League of Symphony Orchestras* as “an exceptional and charismatic soloist.” Her creation of *Tango Del Cielo* has become an international award-winning album and the show is the focus of a documentary film. Anna Maria has appeared in motion pictures, on television, and national radio. She has shared programs with Federica von Stade, performed with Andrea Bocelli, Josh Groban, Frank Sinatra Jr., and Barry Manilow who calls her his “favorite harpist”. When she is not pulling strings, Anna Maria is out on the dance-floor as a part of the show.

Thomas Yee, violinist is a dedicated violinist, teacher and collaborator. His classical training culminated in Bachelor and Master degrees in violin performance from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Thomas is concertmaster of San Francisco Philharmonic, Associate Concertmaster of Monterey Symphony, as well as a member of the Santa Rosa and Marin Symphonies. In addition to *Tango del Cielo*, he also performs with his pianist wife, Jieun, as the *Yee Duo*, and with guitarist Jose Rodriguez, as *Duo Revirado*. In 2016, Thomas founded and operates the boutique violin shop, Bay Fine Strings in San Bruno, from which he empowers the music community with entry level to top contemporary and rare antique instruments. Through his shop's YouTube channel, he provides pedagogy, playing, and maintenance tips, instrument demos, and a *Meet the Maker* interview series.



Joseph Christianson, violinist, has performed in venues throughout the United States and across the globe including a 2012 of *La Boheme* at the Muscat Royal Opera House in Muscat, Oman under the baton of Lorin Maazel. Joseph has toured and taught chamber music workshops with Quartet San Francisco. He has worked with members of the Kronos Quartet, Takacs Quartet, and the Danish Quartet. Joseph has played with conductors such as Loren Maazel, Kent Nagano, and Scott Yoo. Joseph has been awarded fellowships at the Colorado College Summer Music Festival, Castleton Festival, Mendocino Music Festival, and the Rubin Institute of Music Criticism. Joseph is a graduate of the Peabody Institute of the John Hopkins University and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

Joseph Hébert, cellist, is well known in San Francisco Bay Area ensembles as an exceptional artist in all areas of classical, improvisational, and world styles of music. As a composer and improvisational jazz musician, he has performed in Japan, Europe, and Hawaii with instrumentalists from all over the world, as well as in collaboration with theater, dance, and choral groups. Mr. Hébert is the Assistant Principal cellist with the Oakland Symphony and has performed for movie sound tracks with the Skywalker Symphony Orchestra. He studied music at Stanford University, California State University Hayward, and UC Berkeley, where for 15 years, he was on the music faculty directing chamber ensembles, the orchestra, and vocal ensembles in the *Young Musicians Program*. Joe is also the Music Director at Corpus Cristi Church in Piedmont and is happy to announce the release of his CD “Sanctuary”.



Sascha Jacobsen, bassist, composer, arranger, educator, is the founder of the Musical Art Quintet and Los Tangueros del Oeste which perform his original works. *Strad Magazine* says his music is “...Stylish and Vigorous...beautifully arranged”. *World Music Central* says “masterfully crafted original compositions where tradition, chamber music and modern music meet.” He has also performed with Tango masters Raul Jaurena, Pepe Motta, and María Volonté, Flamenco greats, Chuscales, Jose Luis Rodriguez, and Juanito Pascual, The Kronos Quartet, Rita Moreno, Hugh Jackman, Martin Short, Mandy Patinkin & Patti LuPone, Marc Shaiman, Bonnie Raitt, Randy Newman, Josh Groban, Kristin Chenoweth, Eddie Duran, Tommy Igoe, Tim Weed and many others.

Antonio Davidson-Gomez, percussionist and educator focused on intersections of music and culture. Playing instruments from Afro-Latin, Mediterranean and Arabic traditions, Tony performs with the national touring music-dance production *Tango del Cielo*, as well as Trío Guadalevín, which connects Mexico and the Mediterranean, the Eurasia Consort, performing music of the Silk Road; and others including *Pachanga Alert!* and the Seattle Medieval Women's Choir. He has studied with masters in Cuba, Argentina, Panamá, Venezuela, Spain, Italy and Morocco. Tony is a member of many ensembles. He also works at the Broadway Center for Performing Arts and is a curriculum designer for public television.



Tango del Cielo



Fanny Ara, Flamenco dancer - is an internationally-sought after and award-winning choreographer, performer and instructor. Fans credit her as one of the driving forces of flamenco today; an artist excelling in the full spectrum of flamenco, from the most traditional to the avant-garde. She has been an invited artist in national and international festivals and has toured extensively around the world. Fanny is currently working with Caminos Flamencos and Carlota Santana as a principal dancer. She has been distinguished since 2006 with nominations from the Isadora Duncan Dance Awards in the categories of Most Outstanding Individual Dancer, Most Outstanding Music, Ensemble, and Individual Performance for her project *Juncal Street*, and Best Ensemble for her work with the San Francisco Opera in *La Traviata*. New York's Vilcek Foundation also awarded Fanny a prestigious finalist prize for "Creative Promise in Dance".

Maxi Copello & Raquel Makow, tango dancers – Maxi Copello was born "breathing" tango, watching his father's famous tango shows with awe and admiration and secretly taking classes of his own. His dance partner Raquel Makow, began dancing at the age of ten pursuing Ballroom (a sport she found essential). She won the 2011 National Portuguese Championship and toured the world winning titles in the Czech Republic and Canada. However, it was at the age of 15 that she discovered her true passion: Tango. After Raquel abandoned her ballroom career to explore Tango in Buenos Aires, Maxi Copello and she met each other for the first time at the famous milonga Sal6n Canning. On the dance floor, they found their soulmate in tango, and from then on would tour professionally to convey their love of Tango.



Sandor & Parissa, tango dancers - Sandor & Parissa, tango dancers - are internationally acclaimed performers, choreographers, and highly distinguished instructors. Sandor, originally from Buenos Aires, Argentina, is a tango Master for nearly three decades. He was a principal dancer in the Broadway/London hit show *Forever Tango*, nominated for the Tony Award "Best Choreography". Parissa has coached several celebrities, including Antonio Banderas for the movie *Take the Lead*. Sandor & Parissa have been featured performing on ABC's *Dancing with the Stars* and have choreographed many of the Argentine Tangos on the show. Together they have shared their talents on countless TV, Film, and Theatrical Productions worldwide, with outstanding reviews. They have also choreographed for Olympic & World Champion ice dancers. Sandor & Parissa are based in Los Angeles, CA and teach all levels.

Bill Mendieta, Film Producer, Stage Director - Bill is a multi-talented actor and film producer in Los Angeles. He works with Extract Entertainment and WSR Creative film production companies. As an actor, he has performed in theaters around the country in roles ranging from Hamlet to Quasimodo. His television appearances include *Days of Our Lives*, and feature films: the award-winning *Soldier of God*, *Dead Border*, as a vampire hunter, the animated feature *Race*, and the web series, "Mob Boss Associate", which he co-created. He recently completed several tours starring as Ricky Ricardo in the highly successful US tour of "I Love Lucy – Live On Stage".



About the Composers

Astor Piazzolla (1921-1992), born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, studied with Alberto Ginastera and Nadia Boulanger. It was Boulanger who persuaded him to devote himself to the tango rather than any other music. With a respect for Bach and a love for jazz, he decided to free the tango from its traditional patterns, give the music more nuances and make it more complex. For this he made use of new tonal colors and rhythms as well as dissonant harmonies. It was Piazzolla's dream to create a tango that would not only be dance music but concert music as well.

Daniel Binelli (Argentina) is an internationally renowned master of the bandoneon, seasoned composer and arranger specializing in all styles of tango. Binelli performs extensively in concert and recital throughout the world. He is widely acclaimed as the foremost exponent and torchbearer of the music of Astor Piazzolla. In 1989, he was selected by Astor Piazzolla to play second bandoneon in his New Tango Sextet and toured internationally. Previously, from 1968-1982, he was a member of the famous Osvaldo Pugliese's Orchestra, for which he created many arrangements.

Pablo Ziegler (b. 1944), Buenos Aires, Argentina, was Piazzolla's pianist for 10 years as a part of his "Nuevo Tango" Quintet group. He began playing the piano at a young age and was taught to play tangos by his father who would play them on the violin for the silent movies. An innovator in tango and with many albums to his credit, Pablo Ziegler was the recipient of the 2006 Grammy Award for the Best Tango Album, "Bajo Cero". His arrangements of "Introducción al Ángel" and "Milonga en el Viento" were especially created for Ms. Mendieta.

Isaac Albeniz (1860-1909) was a Spanish Catalan pianist and composer. As a conductor, performer and composer, he significantly raised the profile of Spanish music abroad and encouraged other musicians of his own country. Albeniz was a child prodigy, who began his concert career at age nine when his father toured both Isaac and his sister throughout Spain. He had made many attempts to run away from home and it is rumored that by the age of 12, he stowed away on a ship bound for Buenos Aires. It is verified that by age 15, he performed concerts worldwide.

Joaquin Rodrigo (1901-1999) composed more than 180 works reflecting the atmosphere of Spain; but it was the "Concierto de Aranjuez" that made him an instant celebrity in 1939. Having its roots in Spanish folk forms, the piece was inspired by and written for the gardens at the Palacio Real de Aranjuez. Blinded at the age of 3, he set out to describe in music the impressions he could experience as well as visual impressions he could only imagine. The 2nd movement was inspired as an offering to heal a war-torn country from the devastation of the Spanish Revolution.

Armando Anthony "Chic" Corea (1941-2021) was an American Jazz pianist and composer known for his work during the 1970's in the genre of jazz fusion. He was a member of the Miles Davis band in the 1960's, and later formed his Return to Forever band. Chic was born in Chelsea, Massachusetts of Spanish descent. His father, a Dixieland jazz trumpet player in the 1930's & 40's, introduced him to the piano at age 4 and later to the drums at age 8. Corea usually performs "Spain", his most popular piece, with a prelude based on Rodrigo's Concierto de Aranjuez.

Jacob Gade (1910-1949) "Jalousie" is by far the most famous piece of music ever to come from Denmark. Gade was a violinist, composer, and leader of a 24 piece orchestra that played at the Palads Teatret (Palace Theater), a silent movie theater in Copenhagen. *Jalousie* was written to accompany the American film "Son of Zorro" in 1925, starring Douglas Fairbanks. It was little known in the US until Arthur Fielder, conductor of the Boston Symphony, discovered the sheet music in the bargain bin at a local music store. He quickly recorded it in 1935 and sold a million copies.

Manuel de Falla (1876-1946) was born in Cádiz, lived in Madrid, became interested in native Spanish music, particularly with Andalusian flamenco. Falla spent many years in Paris where he met a number of composers who greatly influenced his style, among them Maurice Ravel. During WWI, he moved back to Spain and later settled in Granada. At the end of the Spanish Civil War he moved to Buenos Aires and remained in Argentina until his death. *La Vida Brève*, a one-act opera, meaning "Life Is Short", was composed in 1905 and became his first major work.

Luiz Floriano Bonfá (1922-2001) was a Brazilian guitarist and composer best known for the compositions for the award winning 1959 Portuguese-language film *Black Orpheus*. "Manhã de Carnaval" (Morning of Carnival), is considered to be one of the most important Brazilian Jazz/Bossa songs that helped establish the Bossa Nova movement in the late 1950's. Bonfá is also famous for his unique guitar style of providing melody, rhythm, and bass simultaneously to sound like an orchestra.

Ernesto Lecuona y Casado (1895-1963) was a Cuban composer and performer of Basque descent, perhaps the most legendary Cuban musician of his time. He was a prolific composer of songs and music for stage and film. A great deal of Lecuona's music was first introduced to mass American audiences by Desi Arnaz, also a fellow Cuban, and Lucille Ball's spouse. Lecuona's talent for composition has influenced the Latin American world in a way quite similar to George Gershwin in the United States, raising Cuban music to classical status.

