

Program

Music is one of the most powerful tools in igniting the imagination and fueling the emotions. Welcome to Tango Del Cielo! This program blends the heavenly sounds of classical harp and strings with the fiery Tango of Argentina and the lush music of Spain; also added are Flamenco, 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 that is the elegance of Tango Del Cielo!

Ave Maria - by Astor Piazzolla

Adiós Nonino - by Piazzolla, arranged by Daniel Binelli

Ella - by Cristian Ardito

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

Asturias (Leyenda) by Isaac Albéniz

Spain - by Joaquin Rodrigo/Chick Corea

Jalousie - by Jacob Gade

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

~ 15-20 minute Intermission ~

Café Victoria (circa 1927)

Naranjo en Flor - by Virgilio Expósito, music and Homero Expósito, lyrics

Tientos - by Raoul LaParra

Pièce en forme de Habañera - by Maurice Ravel

Danse Espagnole from La Vida Brève - by Manuel de Falla - Transcribed for violin by Fritz Kreisler

Oblivion - by Astor Piazzolla

Contigo Aprendí - Armando Manzanero

Madera y Cuero - Percussion Solo by Antonio Gomez

Jomocha - Cello Solo by Joseph Hébert

Manhã de Carnaval "Theme from Black Orpheus" by Luis Bonfá

Malagueña y Milonga - Classical by Ernesto Lecuona, Modern by Anna Maria Mendieta



Bio's



Anna Maria Mendieta

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 & Sacramento Opera and has played with orchestras and chamber music groups across the country. Ms. Mendieta has performed for the King and Queen of Spain; National Hispanic Week in Washington D.C., and with Theater Flamenco and Leading Ladies of Tango. Anna Maria is nationally 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 is the focus of a documentary film. Anna Maria has appeared on TV, movies, NPR, and the Emmy Awards. She has shared programs with Federica von Stade, performed with 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. Twitter: @HarpTango

Matthew Szemela is a violinist who crosses musical genres with ease. Praised by the New York Times for his "outrageous fiddling," he has performed as soloist, chamber and orchestral musician in several renowned concert halls in NYC (Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully, Merkin Recital Hall), the Kennedy Center (DC), and abroad (Japan, China, Korea, Belgium, Australia, Italy). In the summer of 2006, Matthew served as concertmaster of the Hustla Symphony Orchestra for Jay-Z's Reasonable Doubt 10th Anniversary Concert at Radio City Music Hall (NYC), collaborating with and the Illadelphonic, and Beyonce. Matthew has also had the pleasure of collaborating with Sting, Garth Brooks, Susan Sarandon, Johnny Mathis, Andrea Bocelli, Il Divo, Plácido Domingo, and Olivia Newton John. Shortly afterward, he joined the multi-Grammy-nominated string quartet, Quartet San Francisco, with whom he maintains a busy domestic and international touring schedule.



Matthew Szemela



Joseph Hébert

Joseph Hébert, cellist, Joseph Hébert is a cellist, choral director, and educator, versatile in classical and improvisational styles. He has performed in the U.S, Japan, Africa, and Europe, having shared the concert stage and recording studio with hundreds of artists, including Carlos Santana, Stevie Wonder, Plácido Domingo, Ray Charles, and Jesse Norman. He recently directed his choirs in Spain, Italy and the Vatican. Mr. Hébert is the Assistant Principal Cello of the Oakland Symphony and is on the faculty of California State University East Bay as a Lecturer and Cello Instructor. Joseph is a Grammy voting member for the Grammy Recording Academy. JosephHebert.com

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 Trio Guadaleví, 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. A former K-12 teacher, he is works at the Broadway Center for Performing Arts and is a curriculum designer for public television.



Antonio Gomez



Suzanne Mendieta

Suzanne Mendieta, dancer - A classically trained dancer in both ballet and flamenco, she has been a member of many dance companies, including: Theatre Flamenco, Rosa Montoya's Bailes Flamenco, San Francisco Dance Theater, and the Arabesque Dance Company. She has been a featured flamenco dancer for the San Francisco Opera's productions of "La Traviata." Additional appearances include as a soloist with the Santa Clara Ballet, Pacific Dance Theater, and Michael Smuin's Ballet/SF; as well as a featured dancer performing in China, St. Martin, the Dutch Antilles, and in Seville, Spain for the World Expo. Suzanne appeared in the film "A Walk in the Clouds," in the television series "Nash Bridges" and in numerous commercials and print ads. However, her greatest accomplishments are her five children.

Marcelo Molina, dancer - the twice winner of the USA National Argentine Tango Championship, is in popular demand as an Argentine Tango performer, choreographer and instructor of all levels. Born and raised in Córdoba, Argentina, he began his dance studies in 1997 and developed different dance styles such as Caribbean Rhythms, Folklore, Latin-American, and especially Argentine Tango. Marcelo has been a part of dance productions worldwide such as El Viejo Almacén Tango House in Buenos Aires (2007-08), Tango on Broadway (2005), and Golden Tango Spectacle Bolivia Tour (2010). In 2008, he won the Argentine Tango Córdoba City Championship, a branch of the World Tango Championship. In 2011 and 2013 Marcelo Molina won 1st place at the USA Argentine Tango Championship in the Stage Category for the Official World Argentine Tango Championship in Buenos Aires.



Marcelo Molina



Tiano Vas

Cristian Ardito (Tiano Vas) - Pop Artist & Christian Singer. With successful tours of South America and Europe, as well as special performances for Pope Benedict XVI, Tiano Vas has delighted audiences with his music combining folk & classical styles. His albums Tiano Vas, El Latido, and Diez, as well as his popular music videos highlight his Latin Rock influences. In 2011, Tiano was invited to perform for the World Youth Day celebrations in Madrid. He was the only Argentine in history to be a part of this unique musical project concluding with an exclusive audience and concert for Pope Benedict XVI.

Bill Mendieta, Video Designer, Tech, Stage Director, - Bill is a multi-talented actor, director and producer in Los Angeles. Mr. Mendieta is best known for playing Ricky Ricardo in I Love Lucy Live On Stage in Los Angeles, Chicago and the 1st national tour. He earned the Broadway World Award for Best Actor. He played a leading role in the award-winning film Soldier of God, Dead Border and She's Out of His Mind. He's also appeared on NBC's Days of Our Lives and in the web series, The Sanctum and The Nevermore Chronicles. Bill has directed projects for the Mattel Corporation, the international tour of Tango del Cielo and the world premiere of Pray to Ball at the Skylight Theatre. It is now being developed into a feature film. Twitter/Instagram: @Bill_Mendieta



Bill Mendieta