

Pan American Symphony Orchestra

The **Pan American Symphony Orchestra** (PASO) was founded over two decades ago by Argentine conductor and musician, Sergio Alessandro Buslje, with the objective of bringing Latin American symphonic music to Washington, DC concert halls. Over the years, PASO has performed symphonic music originating from Latin America with an ongoing concert series that showcases gifted Latin American musicians and soloists. With critical acclaim from the press and a loyal following from the public, PASO remains on the cutting edge of symphonic performances with newly commissioned works, such as Danzón No. 7, by contemporary Mexican composer, Arturo Marquez, who dedicated this beautiful piece to Maestro Buslje. The orchestra has performed music by Latin American women composers, and was the first orchestra in the Washington, DC area to perform the unusual, but beautifully melodic, tango-opera, *Maria de Buenos Aires*, by Astor Piazzolla. PASO has featured rarely performed works by composers from Argentina, Honduras, Mexico, Ecuador, Cuba, and Brazil. PASO is perhaps best-known for its tango performances. The only tango orchestra in the United States, PASO draws audiences from across the country for its annual DC Tango Festival with its variety of tango-themed events and its signature finale tango show at the Kennedy Center.

Sergio Alessandro Bušlje, Artistic Director and Conductor

A native of Rosario, Argentina, **Maestro Sergio Alessandro Bušlje** studied piano, conducting, violoncello, and tuba at the Universidad Nacional de La Plata in Buenos Aires. Before founding PASO in 1991, he was Assistant Conductor of the American University Symphony Orchestra and conductor of the American University Camerata in Washington, DC. Maestro Bušlje has been a frequently featured guest conductor in Argentina. In 2001, he was a guest conductor of the Sochi Symphony Orchestra in Russia. From 1999-2002 he was the principal guest conductor of the National Symphony Orchestra of Honduras. He has been a frequent guest conductor of the Guayaquil Symphony Orchestra in Ecuador. In 2009, he participated in a South American music festival in Lima, Peru and received critical acclaim for his orchestra's musicianship and unique programming. In 2011, he returned to Lima to play a command performance for President Alan Garcia. Maestro Buslje directed PASO for the 2013 Latino Presidential Inaugural Celebration at the Kennedy Center. In 2018, he was invited to perform with PASO at the International Festival of Tango in Medellin, Colombia. He has been the creative force behind the Pan American Symphony Orchestra. With his "sure command of the music's expressive scope" and his sensitive balancing of orchestral commentary, he has "quietly created a valuable Washington institution" (*The Washington Post*).

Holly Nelson, Violin

Holly Nelson, PASO's new concertmaster, received her bachelor's degree in music from the Mannes College of Music in New York City and her master's degree from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM) in Ohio, where she was the teaching assistant to Giora Schmidt. She has taught at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, the University of Maryland-Baltimore County, Fordham University in New York City, and the University of Texas - El Paso. She is currently completing her Doctor in Musical Arts degree at the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University where she studies with violinist Vadim Gluzman as a Dean's Doctoral Fellow.

Nelson was awarded a Fulbright Grant to Argentina that allowed her to fully immerse herself in studying tango music in Buenos Aires for nine months in 2023. She also performs classical and avant-garde music. She was recently awarded the Peabody Institute of Music's Presser Graduate Music Award, the conservatory's most prestigious award "designed to encourage and support the advanced education and career of truly exceptional graduate music students who have the potential to make a distinguished contribution to the field of music." Nelson has appeared in concert as a soloist and as a chamber and orchestral musician throughout the US, including residencies at Carnegie Hall, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and Jazz at Lincoln Center as a violin fellow with The Orchestra Now. She has also performed in Canada at the Banff Center for the Arts in conjunction with the International Contemporary Ensemble, given a recital tour in Taiwan

with harpsichordist Hsiu-Tzu Ryan, performed in England as concertmaster of the Britten Pears Contemporary Music Program, in Switzerland and Luxembourg with the chamber ensemble FENSADENSE as an artist of the Lucerne Festival, and in China as principal second violin with the Manhattan Symphonie during its month-long tour.

Javier Sanchez, Bandoneón

Born and raised in Buenos Aires, Argentina, **Javier Sánchez** has been playing the bandoneón for almost 30 years. Between 2005 and 2016, he was a member of the Latin Grammy Award nominee, Rodolfo Mederos' Orquesta Típica. Sánchez has toured the globe with well-known tango orchestras and tango companies, such as Tango Pasión, Tanguera and Tango Emotion (returning to Japan for 5 consecutive years). Sánchez has played in the most popular tango shows in Buenos Aires, including El Viejo Almacén, Esquina de Carlos Gardel, Café Tortoni, Piazzolla Tango Theater, among others. In 2016, he relocated to the New York metropolitan area and collaborated with a variety of tango groups, the most notable being Aces of Rhythm directed by Pablo Aslan (debuted at Lincoln Center in July of 2017), the Pan American Symphony Orchestra (Kennedy Center, Washington, DC), and the Astoria Tango Orchestra led by Daniel Binelli (11-piece orquesta típica). In August 2016, he won First Prize at the prestigious Che Bandoneon International Competition judged by bandoneón legend, Victor Lavallén. In 2018, Sanchez became Musical Director of Che Tangazo orchestra based in Montreal, Canada, making its debut in July at Tango BA Festival and World Cup. In the past five years, Sanchez has also performed with many renowned tango musicians such as Emilio Solla, Oscar Feldman, Héctor del Curto, and Sverre Indris Joner. In 2019, Mr. Sanchez completed arranging a repertoire of tangos specifically for social dancing and put together a tango quartet called Mala Junta that has performed in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut.

Heyni Solera, Bandoneón

Praised for her "soulful bandoneón" (*Washington Classical Review*), Washington, DC-based **Heyni Solera** has enjoyed a career in the US and abroad playing in performances in Argentina, Canada, and Australia collaborating with prominent musicians in the tango music scene. She regularly performs with the Da Capo Tango Orchestra, which focuses on playing danceable tangos and is part of the cello-bandoneon duo, Arco & Aire, with cellist Maxfield Wollam-Fisher. She is also the bandoneon player with Solidaridad Tango Orquesta which focuses on female tango musicians in a typically male dominated genre. As a scholar, she received her master of music degree in ethnomusicology at the University of Maryland, College Park. She has developed the lectures *A GPS for Tango Listening: What Makes Tango a Tango?* and *Today's Woman in Tango: Carving Out Spaces*. Past projects include playing in the orchestra of the highly praised IN Series production of *Le Cabaret de Carmen* at Source Theatre in Washington, DC and at Baltimore Theatre Project in Baltimore, Maryland. Solera's current and future projects include "*Today's Tango with Heyni*," a mini-series that features today's contemporary tango musicians throughout the world, the EP album *Overture*, an original contemporary tango recording project with Arco & Aire, and a bandoneón duo album, *El Bandoneón en Bach*, dedicated to J.S. Bach that was released in March 2022.

Pablo Jaurena, Bandoneón

Pablo Jaurena is a native of Córdoba, Argentina and he holds a degree in music composition from the National University of Argentina in Córdoba. In 2007, he graduated from the School Orchestra of Tango Emilio Balcarce (directed by Emilio Balcarce and Néstor Marconi) in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He is the soloist for the Provincial Orchestra of Córdoba (Orquesta Provincial de Música Ciudadana de Córdoba) and has also been its guest conductor on various occasions. From 2011 to 2015, Jaurena was the Artistic Director of the Tango Orchestra of the System of Music Schools of Medellín, Colombia. Since 2013, he has been the director of the Ciriaco Typical Orchestra (Orquesta Típica Ciriaco) and the School Orchestra of Tango in Córdoba, Argentina. In 2020, Jaurena was named Artistic and Teaching Director of the School Orchestra of Tango at the National University of Villa María in Córdoba, Argentina. He has also been a member of the

Tango MJC Trio, and winner of the 2006 Pre-Cosquin and 2013 Cosquin. Cosquin is a town in Córdoba, Argentina where every year the National Festival of Folklore has been celebrated since 1963. In 2015, he formed the Pablo Jaurena Sextet. With the Tango MJC Trio, Jaurena recorded four albums and toured North and South America, Europe, and Asia. At the same time, he performed with pianist Andrés Linetzky and developed his career as a soloist, with tours to China in 2016 that included master classes in bandoneón in ten Chinese cities. He has participated in more than 40 recordings as bandoneon player, arranger, or artistic director. His works and arrangements have been performed by ensembles and orchestras from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, China, the United States, Canada, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, and others. This is Pablo's second performance with the Pan American Symphony Orchestra. His first visit was in 2022 when he performed with PASO and the Colombian tango quintet, F-31 in Washington, DC.

Adriana Salgado and Orlando Reyes, Tango Dancers

Adriana Salgado and Orlando Reyes have been professional dancers and teachers of Argentine Tango for over 25 years. With backgrounds in classical ballet, they studied tango in Buenos Aires with some of the best tango masters. Their international performances include the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Aruba, Argentina, Canada, Indonesia, and their native Colombia. Since 2007, they have been based in New York City. In 2010 they received a nomination in the Latin ACE Award for Best Choreography for their performance in *Tango por Ellos* in New York City. In 2018, they placed second in the competition *Pelando Variacion* held in New York City. In 2012 and 2013, Salgado and Reyes were guest instructors and performers at Dancing at Sea, a dance cruise company for Holland America, Norwegian, and Royal Princess. From 2012 to 2014, they performed at Tango Malbec House in New York City. They are recognized for their smooth, romantic, and elegant style. Their teaching focuses on the subtleties of the connection, posture and overall technique fundamentals. Their passion and love for, and their constant dedication to Argentine tango has won them awards in their native Colombia and more recently in the United States where they have become the Argentina Tango-USA Official 2019 Stage Tango champions and the 2021 Tango de Pista/Salon champions. They have been dancing for the Pan American Symphony Orchestra since 2016.

Guillermina Quiroga and Mariano Logiudice, Tango Dancers

Guillermina Quiroga, originally from Buenos Aires, Argentina, is a tango dancer and choreographer. She studied classical dance and later joined the renowned ballet of the Teatro Argentino de La Plata. Several years later she settled in Buenos Aires where she studied tango dancing. She became known worldwide from her time with the show *Compañía TangoX2* and, later, *Tango Argentino*, which had great success on Broadway in the 1980s. She then joined the cast of *Forever Tango* directed by Luis Bravo and created the dramatic-choreographic-musical multimedia show *Tango, historias breves* in 2003 which took her to the US for two tours. She danced at Carnegie Hall in a homage to Astor Piazzolla with the pianist, Pablo Ziegler; at the opening ceremony of the 1994 World Cup; with Jon Secada at Soldiers Field in Chicago; and with Julio Iglesias in 1997 during his three-year world tour, promoting his album, *Tango*. She worked with Argentine pianist, Mariano Mores for 20 years. She has appeared in several motion pictures, such as Luis Puenzo's *La peste* (1991), in which she is showcased in a dancing tango scene; Robert Duvall's *Assassination Tango* (2002); and in *Valentina's Tango* (2007) directed by Rogelio Lobato, in which she played Valentina. She has been a judge for the World Tango Competition in Moscow, Tokyo, San Francisco, and Buenos Aires. She danced in the rock-opera *Evita* at New York City Center in 2019, and most recently appeared in *Tango Argentino* at the World Tango championships in Buenos Aires.

Mariano Logiudice is a multi-talented dancer, having been a world champion in martial arts, a psychologist, and physical education teacher. He has performed in tango festivals in Naples, Italy, France, Tunisia, China, Hong Kong, San Francisco (Argentine Tango USA), and in Buenos Aires (World Tango Championship). In 2018, he performed with the Rochester

Philharmonic Orchestra at the Eastman Kodak Theater and at Carnegie Hall in New York City. In 2019, he danced in Andrew Lloyd Weber's production of *Evita*, at New York City Center. Most recently, he danced *Tango Argentino* at the closing ceremony of the World Tango championship in Buenos Aires.

Carolina Jaurena and Andres Bravo, Tango Dancers

With 20 years of experience teaching and performing, **Carolina Jaurena** has become a multifaceted talent, excelling not only as a dancer but also as a certified RYT yoga instructor and Mandala Dot Artist. Juarena graced the screen as a primary dancer in the feature film *Random Hearts*, directed by the legendary Sidney Pollack. Her performances have spanned a wide range of productions, including "Eternal Tango" alongside Hector del Curto, the show "Tanguero," and "Tango! Soul and Heart" at the Kennedy Center with the Choral Arts Society of Washington. Her artistry extended to the acclaimed off-Broadway production "Tango House," produced by Juan Fabbri. She showcased her talents in several seasons at the esteemed Thalia Spanish Theater in New York. Juarena has danced and conducted workshops across the globe, including special tango workshops at the Canarias Tango Festival in Spain and Landesakademie in Ochsenhausen, Germany; a performance at the Solis Theater in Uruguay for "100 Años de Tango;" and performances in Germany at venues such as the Theaterhaus in Stuttgart and the Alte Synagoge in Hechingen. Juarena has also been an integral part of the Camarada Tango Quartet from San Diego for the past four years and most recently performed with the Symphony of Solidarity at Carnegie Hall. She has a deep appreciation for beauty, balance, and self-expression. Juarena has been dancing with the Pan American Symphony Orchestra for over 10 years.

Andres Bravo is a talented dancer, instructor and choreographer who began dancing Argentine tango at 11 years old. He studied with world-renowned tango masters such as Miguel Angel Zotto, Martin Ojeda, Roberto Herrera, Julio Balmaceda and Gabriel Misse. In 1999, his career launched when he became part of the Tango Festival "Colombo Argentina" in a tour throughout Colombia produced by Impresario Walter Davis. Following the end of his tour, in 2000, he became part of the Tango Company "Una cita con el Tango" directed by Alexander Giraldo in the city of Pereira, Colombia. In 2002, he became part of the cast of "Argentine Tango Show" touring the United Emirates and performing for six consecutive months at the prestigious Jumeirath Beach Hotel in Dubai. He has been part of several well-recognized World Tango Competitions and Festivals. In 2006, he was National Stage Tango Champion in "Tangovia" a Tango Competition held in Manizales, Colombia and in 2009 he won the National Stage Tango Competition in Bogotá, after which he represented Colombia at the eighth World Tango Summit held in San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina. He has dedicated a great part of his professional life to teaching tango. As a choreographer, he is in high demand for his innovative and unique style of tango dancing. In 2011 he choreographed the show "Por amor al Tango" directed and produced by musician Erskine Maytorena in Albuquerque, New Mexico. In 2019 Andres became the official US Tango Salon Champion and won first place in the SoCal and the ATUSA Official Mundial Tango Championship. Most recently, he performed with the Symphony of Solidarity at Carnegie Hall and the Camarada Tango Quartet in New York City. Bravo is currently based in New York City where he teaches, choreographs, and performs. He is a frequent dancer with the Pan American Symphony Orchestra.

Sean Mahon, Piano

Sean Mahon is a seasoned pianist, composer, and music teacher based in Northern Virginia. He has decades of experience playing several styles, including classical, jazz, tango, rock, and contemporary music. He received his bachelor of music degree in piano performance from the University of Maryland, where he studied with Dr. Cleveland Page, Santiago Rodriguez, and Andre Watts. During his time there, he won the Homer Ulrich Piano Competition, was a finalist for the University of Maryland Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition, and the recipient of the Music Director's Scholarship Award. He performs around the country both as a solo and ensemble artist, including at the White House, for Madison Square Garden events, and various orchestral and jazz ensembles at the Kennedy Center. He has performed with the Pan American Symphony Orchestra for five years.

About Tango

What is it about tango that it has held its popularity across the globe for more than a century? Jorge Luis Borges, the famous Argentine writer, described tango as "feeling that is danced." It is this feeling that transcends national boundaries and different languages to make tango the world's most popular dance. Before tango was considered a "classy" dance with its music played by the best symphonic orchestras in the world, tango music was heard only in the immigrant neighborhoods of Argentina and Uruguay, in bars as well as brothels. At that time, in the 1880s, it was not romantic music. The tone was often dark and bitter with lyrics of political dissent. Where tango originated is often disputed but we do know that in its earliest forms in the 1890's, it was a derivation of the Cuban dance, the *Habanera*. However, it was the people of the Rio de la Plata, with their distinctive speech cadences, that gave the music its pronounced patterns and rhythms—a double beat, with a syncopated accent on the second. The bandoneón was introduced to the tango in the early 1900s, by the European immigrants from Italy and Spain. It made the music, up until then played with piano, harp, flute, and guitars, more portable, as the musicians performed primarily in bordellos.

By the end of World War I, the tango was the hit of Europe's finest salons. Conservative upper class European women wore padded bumpers around their waists to prevent dangerously close contact with male partners! Tango singer Carlos Gardel popularized the tango worldwide, having appeared in American movies before he died in 1935, and today he maintains a cult stature in Argentina equal to that of Elvis Presley in the United States. Tango's widespread and longstanding popularity has led to its recognition by UNESCO as a significant "cultural heritage of humanity" to be treasured and protected. Tango has its devotees in every part of the world, including a loyal, committed following in the United States. Some major US cities host annual tango competitions and new tango groups are continually being formed.

Washington, DC also has an active tango community, and the Pan American Symphony Orchestra has been at the forefront of that community, promoting tango music since 1994. PASO has performed tango not only in the metropolitan DC area, Baltimore, and Easton, Maryland, but also in Honduras, Ecuador, Lebanon, Colombia, and Peru. Since 2006, PASO has produced an annual tango festival in Washington, DC, providing a month of tango-related events, such as dance lessons, tango-themed films, dance parties, and tango ensemble recitals—all culminating in a grand tango show with 30 musicians, an international cast of dancers, and special guest artists from Argentina at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

PAN AMERICAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

TODO TANGO

Sergio Alessandro Buslje, Artistic Director & Conductor

PROGRAM

Oswaldo Pugliese (1905–1995)
“Negracha”

Lorenzo Logatti (1872–1961)
“El irresistible”
Carolina & Andrés

Enrique Saborido (1878–1941)
“Felicia”
Adriana & Orlando

Agustín Bardi (1884–1941)
“La racha”
Guillermina & Mariano

Astor Piazzolla (1921–1992)
“Melancólico Bs As”
Holly Nelson, violin

Rosendo Mendizábal (1868–1913)
“El Entrerriano”
Adriana & Orlando

Julián Plaza (1928–2003)
“Melancólico”
Guillermina & Mariano

Astor Piazzolla (1921–1992)
“Los Mareados”

Julián Plaza (1928–2003)
“Morena”
Carolina & Andrés

INTERMISSION

Astor Piazzolla (1921–1992)
“Marrón y Azul”

Agustín Bardi (1884–1941)
“Gallo Ciego”
Carolina & Andrés

Eduardo Pereyra (1900–1973)
“El africano”
Guillermina & Mariano

Rosita Melo (1897–1981)
“Desde el alma”
Adriana & Orlando

Agustín Bardi (1884–1941)
“Tierrita”

Julián Plaza (1928–2003)
“Color tango”
Carolina & Andrés

Agustín Bardi (1884–1941)
“Derecho Viejo”
Guillermina & Mariano

Ernesto Baffa (1932–2016) / Oswaldo Berlingieri (1928–2015)
“B.B.”
Adriana & Orlando

Gerardo Matos Rodriguez (1897–1948)
“La Cumparsita”

**Subject to change.*

ARTISTS

Dancers

Guillermina Quiroga & Mariano Logudice

Carolina Jaurena & Andrés Bravo

Adriana Salgado & Orlando Reyes

Violin I

Holly Nelson, concertmaster

Valerie Heller

Christina Wan

Carrie Esko

Tetyana Royzman

Alyssa Centanni

Violin II

Mary Thulson*

Alex Fisher

Teresa Eder

Wayman McCoy

Susan Worrell

Nico Ahumada

Viola

Kristin Gomez*

Susan Russo

June Hahm

Cello

Alan Saucedo*

Emily Doveala

Tim Thulson

Michael Hermann

Bass

Pete Ostle

Bandoneón

Javier Sanchez

Heyni Solera

Piano

Sean Mahon