



The Tango Project

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Daniel Szasz-BIOGRAPHY

Active as a concert soloist, chamber musician, and recitalist, Daniel Szasz has been the concertmaster of the **Alabama Symphony Orchestra** since 1997. A versatile musician, interested in performing both standard and less familiar repertoire, Mr. Szasz has been consistently praised for his “**expressive, rich and warm sound**” as well as for his “**strong, confident, and assertive playing.**” His performances have been described as “**breathhtaking**” and “**exquisite**” and have generated great enthusiasm among his audiences and in the press.

Born in Romania, in the Transylvanian city of Sibiu, Mr. Szasz began playing the violin at age six under the supervision of his father, a former principal trumpet player with the Sibiu State Philharmonic Orchestra. At the age of eight he played his first solo recital, and at thirteen he performed his first concerto with a professional orchestra. His teachers in Romania included Mihai Wunderlich, Victoria Nicolae, and his mentor, violinist Andras Agoston. While a student at the Gheorghe Dima Music Academy in Cluj, at only nineteen, Mr. Szasz landed a position with one of the top orchestras in Romania, the Cluj State Philharmonic Orchestra, with which he toured Europe extensively, recorded, and performed as a soloist on many occasions. Following studies with Alberto Lysy at the International Menuhin Music Academy in Gstaad, Switzerland, Szasz moved to the USA and continued his violin studies with Vasile Beluska, Yair Kless, Gerald Jarvis, and Patrick Rafferty. He also studied chamber music with members of the Franz Schubert Quartet, Audubon Quartet, and Fine Arts Quartet.

Mr. Szasz has won numerous awards in national competitions in Romania as well as international competitions in Italy and the USA, including the “Public Prize” at the prestigious **Vittorio Gui International Chamber Music Competition** in Florence, Italy, playing with his wife, pianist Alina Voicu. Over the years, Mr. Szasz participated in several music festivals, including the **Graz Music Festival** in Austria, the Sopron Music Festival in Hungary, and the Blossom, Chautauqua, and New Hampshire Music Festivals in the U.S. In 2004, in collaboration with the Sibiu Philharmonic Orchestra, Mr. Szasz initiated the establishment of the “Romanian-American Music Days” in Sibiu, Romania, an annual summer music festival that promotes American music and supports active professional interactions between Romanian and American musicians. In the summer of 2006, Mr. Szasz won the position of concertmaster for the **Lake Placid Sinfonietta**, an annual summer music festival orchestra in Lake Placid, New York.

Some of Mr. Szasz's most notable collaborations over the years included solo appearances and chamber concerts with violinists Jaime Laredo, Andras Agoston; pianists Jerome Rose, **Yakov Kasman**; cellist Alban Gerhardt; mandolinist Chris Thile; **bandoneonist Raul Jaurena**, and conductors Emil Simon, Horia Andreescu, Petre Sbarcea, Ilarion Ionescu-Galati, Justin Brown, **Stefan Sanderling**, Christopher Confessore, Scott Speck, Daniel Hege, and Jaime Laredo, among others.

Mr. Szasz's 2011 summer performances included solo engagements with the **Cluj State Philharmonic** and the **Sibiu State Philharmonic** in Romania, the Lake Placid Sinfonietta in Lake Placid, New York, as well as chamber music performances in Romania, Moldova, and the USA with the newly formed **Arrhythmia Quartet** and renowned bandoneon player and Latin Grammy award-winner **Raul Jaurena**. Upcoming 2011-2012 appearances include solo and chamber music concerts in Europe, as well as performances with the Alabama Symphony Orchestra in the Masterworks and Concertmaster and Friends series, and with the Lake Placid Sinfonietta.

Raul Jaurena-Biography

Raul Jaurena, **master of the Tango**, is among today's most prominent bandoneon players. His music plays a very personal tribute to the influences of his native South America and his adopted hometown of New York. It combines the traditional roots of the tango and the style of the "Tango Nuevo" influenced by Astor Piazzolla.

The bandoneon has influenced Jaurena's life right from the cradle. He was raised in Uruguay and his father taught him how to play the bandoneon - at the age of eight he already joined a tango orchestra. The fascination for this highly emotional music grabbed him and has not let go of him ever since. As a member of and adaptor for various renowned tango-ensembles in the 1960s and 1970s in Uruguay, Argentina, Brasil, Chile, Ecuador and Venezuela, Raul Jaurena lays the tracks for his career. A performance together with **Astor Piazzolla at the Montreal Jazz Festival** turns out to be guiding for his musical development. The conservation of the musical spirit of Astor Piazzolla becomes his personal vocation: Jaurena's tango interpretations which are enriched by influences of jazz, his own arrangements and spontaneous improvisations fascinate a new generation of listeners and dancers.

His activities remain as many-faceted as the artist himself. His arrangements and his skills as a composer and a solo player make him equally popular both in the USA and in Europe. The ballet suite he composes in 1995 for the **Irene Hultman Dance Company** debuts in New York and is shortly after awarded the "**Bessie**". During the same year he was invited to the White House and received a **Grammy nomination** for his CD Tango Bar. In 2007 he won a **LATIN GRAMMY** for best Tango Album "Te amo Tango".

Over the years he has taken charge of the musical direction of many other stage projects and among other things he plays guest performances at the **Thalia Spanish Theatre** in New York. He has played with Cuban Jazz saxophone player Paquito D'Rivera, **Yo Yo Ma**, Giora Feidman, Tango Five and others. As a soloist he plays with prominent ensembles and orchestras throughout Europe and he has performed regularly a series of programs including Klezmer and Tango Music. He has performed at different universities and schools with Tango Music Symposium in Hannover, Halle Kassel, Hamburg, Lubeck, Munster, Lingen, Landshut, Muhigorf, Heidelberg, Bonn, Kiel, Celle, Wurzburg, and Bremen. He was invited as a special guest to the **International Accordeon Festival** in San Antonio, Texas and his show Tango & Tango had great success at the **Ravinia Festival** in Chicago.

He has toured Europe with TANGO FIVE and singer Marga Mitchell with the program **AMANDO A BUENOS AIRES** in 2001. He has been invited to perform at the **Merkin Concert Hall** in New York with Russian violinist Nina Bellina, the **Cleveland Museum of Art en World Music and Dance Series**, the Orchestra Concertante of Chicago conducted by Hilel Kagan, and at the Fiedrichsbau Theatre in Stuttgart, Germany along with TANGO FIVE and Marga Mitchell.

In 2003 he performed a series of concerts with the Pan American Symphony Orquesta Opera Maria De Buenos Aires, Sudwestdeutsche Philharmonie Konstanz with Marga Mitchell and Tango Five, The North/South Chamber Orchestra at the Merkin Hall (New York) with Conductor Max Lifchitz, and Tango Mundo at Montclair State University. He has appeared in a series of concerts with Giora Feidman (Boblingen, Balingen, Russelsheim Theatre, Wurzburg, Ludwigsburg, Bonn, Tuttlinge, Stadthalle, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Switzerland and Germany). During the same year he performed with The Little Orchestra Society at Lincoln Center along with conductor Dino Anagnost, and also performs with LET'S TANGO at East Carolina University. In Israel he has performed with the Israel Kibbutz Orchestra, and in Finland at the Kuhmo Chamber Music Festival. He was presented an **ACE Award** (Asocacion de cronistas de espectaculos de la ciudad de New York) for his professional trajectory.

As the result of a continuing search for new experiences, Jaurena's music has turned into something truly unique. It reflects the influences of different cultures as well as one hundred years of tango history with all its contradicting emotions. Raul Jaurena - the man that Astor Piazzolla once called one of the **greatest bandoneon players** ever - has established a unique connection to his instrument: Genuine, open, touching, with stunning technical brilliance his play has enriched and added an important facet to modern tango interpretation.

The Tango Project-Orchestra Programs

DUO Repertoire

R. Jaurena

Duo Concertante for violin, bandoneon and orchestra

New York Gotan for violin, bandoneon and orchestra

A. Piazzolla/arr. Jaurena

Oblivion for violin, bandoneon and orchestra

Libertango for violin, bandoneon and orchestra

Adios Nonino for violin, bandoneon and orchestra

La Cumparsita for violin, bandoneon and orchestra

SOLO Repertoire

A. Piazzolla

Concerto for bandoneon and orchestra

Four Seasons of Buenos Aires for violin and string orchestra

C. Gardel/arr. J. Williams

Tango Por Una Cabeza for violin and orchestra

The Tango Project- Sample Programs

*DUO Recital Repertoire for bandoneon
and violin*

R. Jaurena

Para vos y para mi
Bebe
Preludio y Tango
To my friends

*QUARTET RECITAL Repertoire for
bandoneon, violin, piano, and bass*

R. Jaurena

Michelangelo 70

A. Piazzolla/arr. Jaurena

Fracanapa

A. Piazzolla

Milonga del angel

A. Piazzolla/arr. Jaurena

Adios Nonino

R. Jaurena

New York Gotan

A. Piazzolla

Milonga en Re (violin and piano)
Le Grand Tango (violin and piano)

A. Piazzolla/arr. Jaurena

Nightclub 1960
Decarissimo
Libertango
Oblivion

Rodriguez/arr. Jaurena

La Cumparsita

*STRING QUARTET WITH
BANDONEON Recital Repertoire*

A. Piazzolla/arr. Jaurena

Anxiety

A. Piazzolla/arr. Jaurena

Fear

J. Gade

Jealousy (string quartet)

A. Piazzolla/arr. Branici

Extasis (violin, bandoneon and cello)

R. Jaurena

Montevideo night

A. Piazzolla/arr. Jaurena

Verano Porteno

A. Villoldo:

El Choclo (string quartet)

R. Jaurena Espera

Musical Dream

R. Jaurena

La Soleda y el Angel

C. Gardel

Por una cabeza (string quartet)

A. Piazzolla/arr. Jaurena

Oblivion

Libertango

Rodriguez/arr. Jaurena

La Cumparsita