

Héctor Del Curto

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Eternal Tango Quintet Ensemble Members' Biographies

Héctor Del Curto (Bandoneónist/Artistic Director/Composer)

Praised by the *New York Times* as a "splendid player", Argentinean bandoneónist Héctor Del Curto has captivated the audiences around the world as a soloist and chamber musician, sharing the stage with the world-renowned tango legends Astor Piazzolla and Osvaldo Pugliese, pianist Pablo Ziegler, clarinetist Paquito D'Rivera, ballet dancer Julio Bocca, National Symphony Orchestra (Washington D.C.), Buenos Aires Symphony Orchestra and Teatro Colón Ballet among many others.

After a Carnegie Hall concert in April 1999 with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and outstanding artists such as Gary Burton, Joe Lovano, Pablo Ziegler, José Angel Trelles and Maria Graña, the *New York Times* highlighted Mr. Del Curto's artistry, making special mention of his "wistful, piercing solos on the bandoneón."

Mr. Del Curto had won the title of "Best Bandoneón Player under 25" when he was only 17 years of age. This award led, Osvaldo Pugliese to invite him to play in his legendary orchestra, which made him the youngest bandoneonist in the history of Pugliese's Orchestra.

In 1999, Héctor Del Curto received the Golden Note Award from the Italian-American Network in recognition of his artistic achievements. As conductor, he directed the spectacular show "Forever Tango" on Broadway and founded the "Eternal Tango Orchestra" a ten piece ensemble. Mr. Del Curto has produced a critically acclaimed CD, *Eternal Tango* and the album was successfully released at Jazz Standard in New York City on June 18, 2007.

Héctor Del Curto's recordings include performances with Osvaldo Pugliese and Astor Piazzolla on "Finally Together" (Lucho Records), Pablo Ziegler on the albums "Asphalt" and "Quintet for the New Tango" (BMG), "Tango Magic" (Sony Music-USA) on video and DVD and "Tango and All That Jazz" (Kind of Blue Records), and Luis Borda Cuarteto on "Linea de Tango" (Jazz and Fusion Records). Also he appears as guest artist in recordings such as Tito Puente's "Masterpiece", Paquito D'Rivera's "Funk Tango", Ricardo Arjona's "Santo Pecado" (Sony International), and Shakira's "Laundry Services" (BMG).

Gustavo Casenave (Pianist)

Hailed by Jazz Times for playing "with distinct straight-ahead jazz feeling at times and melds into the elaborate voicings of the tango", pianist Gustavo Casenave performed and recorded with numerous acclaimed artists in New York City since 1997. He has been touring throughout Europe, Asia, South America, Central America and United States, performing in the prestigious festivals and concert halls such as Lincoln Center (New York), Kodak Theatre (Los Angeles), Hypo Jazz Festival

(Austria), Jazz Festival Seeon (Germany) and International Jazz Festival at Kempten (Germany) to name a few.

Deeply committed to the music of tango, Gustavo Casenave works exclusively with tango masters such as Victor Lavellen, Carlos Niesi and Hector Del Curto. Since 1997, he regularly performed with "Eternal Tango", "New York–Buenos Aires Connection", "New York Tango Trio" and "Avantango" in New York City. He also toured worldwide with the Broadway hit "Forever Tango". As a composer, Mr. Casenave composed and arranged over 200 works which includes original music for featured movies "The Rind" directed by Cali Amerglio and "The Aliens" directed by Maxim Darshkin. Some of his compositions are recorded on Fula Record label.

Mr. Casenave has performed and collaborated with renowned singer Bette Midler and Neil Sedaca also with jazz musicians such as John Benitez, Mark Egan, Jorge Trasante, Manolo Badrena, Roland Gebhardt, Rob Blumenthal, Charlie Persip, Satoshi Takeishi, Avishai Cohen, Curtis Lundy and Miguel Zenon among others.

Pedro Giraudo (Bassist)

Originally from Cordoba Argentina, Pedro Giraudo moved to New York City in 1996. Since then he has become an in-demand bass player playing in a great variety of musical projects. He currently leads three ensembles – Pedro Giraudo Jazz Orchestra, Mr Vivo Big Band and Mr Vivo, captivating listeners around the world with their unique blend of South American grooves, Argentine folk songs, the passion of tango and jazz improvisation.

Mr. Giraudo has performed professionally with Pablo Ziegler, Kenny Garret, Marco Granados, William Cepeda, Chris Washburn, and Bobby Sanabria. He has recorded critically acclaimed CDs – "Desconsuelo" and "Mr Vivo" with his ensembles as well as with Eternal Tango, Fernando Otero's X-tango, Marta Topferova, Lucia Pulido, Mo'Guajiro and Jess Jurkovic. He has participated in various Jazz and Music Festivals throughout the United States, Europe, South America, the Caribbean and Asia and performed in venues such as The Blue Note (Japan), Birdland (Vienna), Kennedy Center (Washington DC), Blue Note (NYC), Iridium, Jazz Standard, Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall.

Mr. Giraudo holds a Bachelor's degree in Performance from Manhattan School of Music where he was a scholarship recipient and a Master's degree in Performance from City University of New York where he studied with Professor Ron Carter.

Nick Danielson (Violinist)

Violinist, Nick Danielson is the Assistant Concertmaster at New York City Ballet, a member of Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, and a highly regarded musician in the Argentine tango scene. He has performed extensively as a soloist and chamber musician in the North America, Latin America, Europe, Asia and Australia.

In addition to his activities in the classical music world, Mr. Danielson is an avid performer of tango music. Nick has closely collaborated with renowned tango musicians such as Pablo Ziegler, Fernando Otero and Hector Del Curto. With these musicians he has recorded "The Lost Days" (RCA) with Denyce Graves and Pablo Ziegler and two recordings with Fernando Otero, "Plan" and

"Revision". He has also performed on Broadway show "Tango Argentino". As a member of Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Nick Danielson has appeared on numerous recordings such as Stravinsky's "Concertino" and the Grammy winning CD "Shadow Dances". He has also recorded with the celebrated singer Kathleen Battle on her CD "Grace" (Sony).

Mr. Danielson started his violin studies at a young age in Hartford, Connecticut. His early influence on tango music came from his mother who is a native of Cordoba, Argentina. Prior to moving to New York City, he was the first violinist of Chester String Quartet which had faculty position in Indiana University at South Bend. Mr. Danielson is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music, where he studied with the legendary violin teacher, Ivan Galamian.

Jisoo Ok (Cellist)

A versatile 25-years-old cellist, Jisoo Ok has performed throughout North America, Europe, Argentina, Korea and New Zealand as a soloist, recitalist and chamber musician. Ms. Ok has appeared in venues and festivals such as Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall, Weill Recital Hall of Carnegie Hall, J.F. Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., the FOCUS! Festival, Spoleto Festival "Festival dei Due Mondi" in Spoleto, Italy, the Town Halls of Auckland and Wellington in New Zealand, and Kumho Arts Hall in Seoul, Korea.

Since graduating from The Juilliard School in 2006, Ms. Ok has been deeply committed to the music of tango. Recent highlights include performances with renowned pianist Pablo Ziegler and Hector Del Curto in Buenos Aires, Lincoln Center Summer Festival and Jazz Standard in New York City, Festival Iberoamericano de las Artes in Puerto Rico and Le Carrefour Mondial de l'accordion in Quebec. With her husband, Hector Del Curto, she has produced a critically acclaimed CD, *Eternal Tango*, in June, 2007.

In 2003, Ms. Ok was the winner of the New Juilliard Ensemble's Concerto Competition which led to the performance of Jonathan Keren's Concerto for Cello and Chamber Orchestra in Alice Tully Hall. She also premiered Matthew Kajcienski's Concerto for Cello and Orchestra with the Manhattan Virtuosi Orchestra (now Ensemble du Monde) at the Great Hall of Cooper Union.

Ms. Ok received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from The Juilliard School, studying with Bonnie Hampton and Fred Sherry, where she received the Irene Diamond Graduate Fellowship and the Heward Memorial Scholarship.