

TANGO MOMENTS

TANGO SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA

DEDICATED TO FOSTERING AND SUPPORTING ARGENTINE TANGO IN MINNESOTA

SPRING 2017

Desktop edition. [Download](#) the MOBILE version to read on your device.



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And more!

A DREAM COME TRUE

Bringing Buenos Aires' tango passion to the Twin Cities: Memorable nights of dancing and musical delight.

By Tamara Demarco

I have followed Sexteto Milonguero for many years. As one of the most sought-after tango groups in Buenos Aires' milongas, they keep busy. After asking the leader, **Javier Di Ciriaco**, the same question for years: "Any plans to visit the U.S.?", on May 12, 2016 I finally got the answer I was hoping for: "In celebration of our 10 years as a band, we are considering performing and touring the United States for the first time" in 2017.



The Bataclanas of Minneapolis (members of Bataclan Tango) couldn't let this opportunity slip by. We had to make it happen! We wanted our tango community to enjoy their music, passion and talent as much as we have.

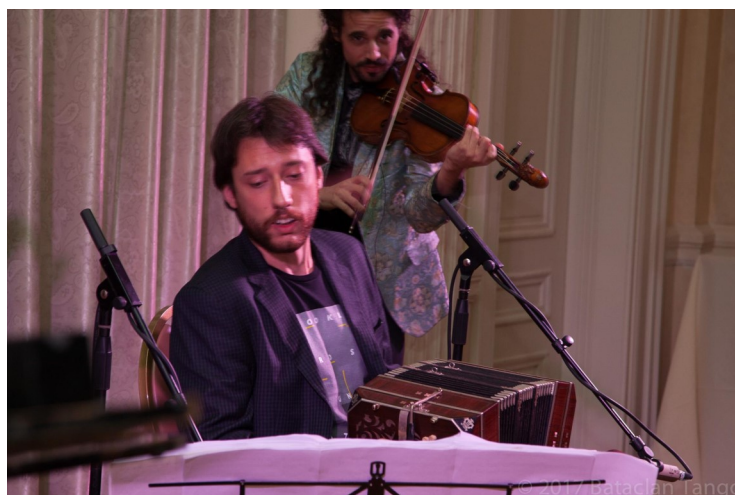
The work, commitment and risks involved pointed to an unsurmountable project with too many unknowns. Would our small tango community be able to support such a musical event? Will we be able to pay for all this? We said, YES! Then I went through the numbers: visas, international and domestic airfare, lodging, musician fees... Two months later I was sad to tell Javier that we would not be able to afford them.



Usually music groups of this caliber perform in large cities with sizeable tango communities such as Los Angeles, Chicago and Miami. Yet how could we miss this opportunity?



By the end of November 2016 other cities seemed to be coming on board, reducing the expense for us, so we decided to take the risk. We needed to find a way to make it financially attractive for both parties, a win-win cultural exchange. In the end, their 2017 USA tour included LA, Minneapolis, Miami, Chicago, Austin, Seattle and DC.





Here in Minnesota our plan was to organize a Tango Marathon, attracting dancers from nearby cities and states, in a beautiful historic Minneapolis venue: The Woman's Club. By mid-January we were set to have Sexteto Milonguero perform two nights in Minneapolis!



The **2017 Twin Cities Tango Marathon**, held over the weekend of February 24th & 25th, was an absolute success! The **130+ dancers** in attendance (over 20% of them from outside the Twin Cities) exuded a contagious enthusiasm and energy. On both nights, many danced into the wee hours of the morning. The icing on the cake was the great number of kind and positive testimonials that we received.

There are many people who contributed to the success of this tango event. We thank all of you for trusting us. It truly wouldn't have been possible without you! Thank you so much for your en-

ergy and enthusiasm during the Marathon, and for your understanding when things were less than perfect.



Big thanks to:

Sandra Uri for her tremendous help in coordinating lodging, setting up the beautiful Bollywood decorations, and for providing marketing support and ideas,

Marquis Childs for his great attitude, generosity, talent and love of tango,

Juan Garcia for the beautiful pictures and encouragement,

Jean and **Don** for helping set up the all-nighter milongas at the Four Seasons,

Bruce and **Rebecca** for their flexibility, and

TSoM for their great support.

Also, special thanks to the generosity of Scott Chase, Mike & Suzanne Doyle, Christopher Everett, Ursula Mayr, David Rost, Greta Larson, Maria Acel Thompson, Dan Conley, Paul Lohman, Ray Shudy, Tomas Craig Bischoff, Michael Kane, Steve Lee, James Baker (Tucson Tango Festival) and Practica Desperados.

Thanks to all the organizers and instructors who helped promote the event and encouraged their

students to come! And to many others who supported us in different ways.



Some days, feeling overwhelmed and stressed, I really wanted to dance but was too tired to do it. Thoughts of “I’m never doing this again” would give way to taking note of what to do better next time. Now I feel SO HAPPY because of your response and support! This was SO **worth it!**

¡Muchísimas gracias, from all of us Bataclanas!

Liliana, Maria & Tamara

www.bataclantango.org



A NOTA FROM THE PRESIDENTE

By Paul Lohman

Greetings Minnesota Tango dancers. The TSoM board and I are very excited about the revival of TANGO MOMENTS and offer hearty thanks to the Malena.lnk team (Tessa Gail, Paul, Don) for their efforts as editors of this and upcoming issues.



WHAT A YEAR!

This past year has been an exciting one for tango in the Twin Cities. With events like the TTC Tango Camp, Midwest Tango Festival, the Bicentennial Celebration, and the Sexteto Milonguero Marathon; it has been a fun year.

TSOM STRONGER AND MORE ACTIVE THAN EVER

The wonderful folks who comprise the TSoM Board are a hardworking group – working for you to make tango even better in the Twin Cities. Some of the highlights of their work over the past year.

Membership is up more than 25% over recent years.

A **new web site** is nearly finished and may be live by the time you read this.

Our **Holiday Milonga** was one of the largest in recent years with nearly 100 people braving a dusting of snow to dance to live music at the Theodore Wirth Chalet.

TSOM structure: a lot of work has been done this past year to define, solidify and streamline the work of TSoM. Renewed Bylaws, process documents, online Google repository, and much more.

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THANKS TO OUR MEMBERS!

Those of you who are members are making this all happen – Thanks! Your membership in TSoM is vitally important to enriching tango.

You support:

- Teachers and our free monthly tango lesson
- Web site (soon to be completely refreshed)
- The comprehensive online events calendar
- TSoM Announce email list
- Outreach events
- And so much more

Thanks!

Paul

A NOTA FROM THE EDITORA

By Tessa (Gail) Wagner

Call me nostalgic, but I still have a pile of old Tango Moments from TSoM's past. I so appreciated the excellent work done by past editors, writers, de-



signers and other contributors. I truly missed Tango Moments. So it is with great joy that, as I start my new little company ([Malena Ink](http://MalenaInk.com)) and find myself surrounded by an eclectic collection of competent, talented and experienced communications professionals, we have the opportunity to contribute to our tango community in this way. Having served on the TSoM board for



several terms, it brings me great personal satisfaction to again be actively engaged in tango service on a regular basis.

As the new Tango Moments team, we express our deep appreciation to the TSoM Board of Directors for their feedback and contributions to the content of Tango Moments – their great insights and suggestions helped make this a better publication. The new Tango Moments is a digital quarterly publication, emailed to the TSoM membership and available on the TSoM web-site.

In this Spring 2017 issue we remember the wonderful tango events of the recent past, the highlight of which is the historic Tango Marathon, a spectacular experience for our community. We also enjoy Don's narrative on the Tuscon Tango Festival in March, and list local, regional, national and international events for the coming months to tempt you to take advantage of these opportunities. Finally, a few words of wisdom and tips for those going to Buenos Aires anytime soon.

These will be regular Tango Moments topics, in addition to others such as personal experiences with tango, dancer health and safety, tango history and lyrics, and much more. We would love to hear from you and to include your contributions in future editions of Tango Moments. See the note at the end of this issue about contributions, and email us your comments, suggestions, critiques (and especially high praise) anytime at tango-moments@mntango.org.

Joyfully in tango,

Tessa



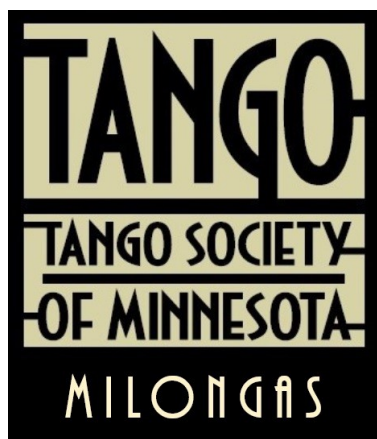
REMEMBER FEBRUARY?

by Tessa Wagner

No, we don't always want to remember that season of the year in Minnesota. However, the TSoM milonga on February 11th was a fabulous



party, held at Virginia Street Church in St. Paul. Terri Cox Davis and Ray Shudy organized a wonderfully festive event, which included red roses for attending dancers. Why red roses? Valentine's Day of course, and you'll notice that wearing something red was a popular choice. As our fearless leader Señor Lohman put it, the experience of taking the group photo was akin to "herding cats." Other photos taken throughout the evening show the dance floor filled with couples dancing to lovely tandas played by DJ Jennifer Wang.



TANGO IN THE SONORAN DESERT

by Donald “Donito” Rowe

Nine Minnesota tango dancers took a chance on the Tucson Tango Festival this year (March 2-5) and were not disappointed.



Two things draw any of us to these festivals: the venue and the teaching talent presented to feed our tango dreams.



Tango and Temptation

This year's festival moved from the Marriott Hotel on the north side to Casino del Sol on the southwest fringe. Happy for us, the Casino is pretty self-contained with a half-dozen restaurants, four or five bars, a large pool-courtyard, and other amenities. The best of Tucson, otherwise, is a half-hour away—available only if you have a car.

The Casino is a spacious, delightfully pretentious facility, self-consciously inspired by Mediterranean architecture. The Hotel proper (a 10-story tower) is a 4-star rated experience in hospitality. My roomies and I delighted in the better-than-Hilton luxury—all for around \$100/nt.



The only downside was the casino itself. We had to walk through it on the way to the ballrooms that hosted the festival. The gaming room is a large, labyrinthine gauntlet of stimuli-overload permeated with cigarette smoke and populated by people who looked like they might be unloading their meager pensions into those noisy, hungry machines.



I don't think a single tango dancer was lured by the mesmerizing machines. We dancers have our own obsession.

Festival Highlights

The festival was competently organized by Jim Baker (one of the sponsors of Bataclan's marathon tango weekend in the Twin Cities, February 2017). The classroom and milonga schedule was a typical Thursday-evening-through-Monday-morning march through afternoon classwork, late-night milongas, and late-morning sleep-ins. My fellow travelers and I spent the late morning hours, before classes start, with yogurt and fresh fruit breakfasts, musing on the milonga experience the night before. We entertained ourselves with light gossip and dreamy descriptions of



dances with our favs—or wondering why they didn't ask us to dance in the first place. It's always a highlight of our festival trips.

Unique to the Tucson festival were the “progressive series” workshops; one concentrated on milonga (Adam and Tilly from the US) and the other on musicality (Melina and Detlef from Germany). Registering for either was a seven-hour commitment over four days. The musicality class, for instance, was an all-levels class that dove



deep into the study of musical phrasing, rhythmic structure, its relationship to harmony, and what to do with it all in the dance. I don't know how the milonga intensive went, but, with Melina and Detlef's extensive knowledge of tango music



structure, we students—experienced or not—gained a great deal from them. By Sunday night's milonga, I could feel it in my dancing already.

And Melina's DJing Sunday night was genuinely appreciated: she got a rousing, standing ovation.



(Friday night's milonga theme was Cool Country Western.)

Another festival highlight was the Saturday night performances. These can often drag on, sucking up our own time on the floor. But Baker

handled this like a pro, dispatching each couple (five or six) one after the other. Adam and Tilly, of course, did an exuberant milonga (their specialty), Alex and Patricia glided through a tango sprinkled with some show-style delights, Melina and Detlef demonstrated their deft handling of rhythm, Alicia Pons and Daniel Arias showcased the simple grace of "milonguero style" dancing. All were such a delight to watch that I lost track of time, and my impatience with a fawning audience.

Our own Betsy Henderson trekked to Tucson to sell her exquisitely designed skirts and dresses plus a line of fanciful shoes from Argentina. I think everyone in the Twin Cities is familiar with her work. If not, check it out at www.betsyhendersondesigns.com.

If You Go

Next year's festival will also be at Casino del Sol. If you go, I highly recommend taking an afternoon off from tango to visit the Saguaro Desert Museum, about a half-hour drive north into the mountains. You might also consider flying into PHX (as we did), rent a car, and drive to Tucson. It saved us enough money that it pretty much paid for the rest of the trip.



For more information (and a complete listing of the teaching talent), visit the TTF website: www.tucsontangofestival.com. They already have their 2018 site up.



TANGO AROUND TOWN - SPRING 2017 (APRIL-MAY)

(See details and updates on these and additional tango events on the TSoM website:

www.mntango.org/calendar)



Chicho Frumboli and Juana Sepulveda in Rochester!

March 31 – April 2, 2017

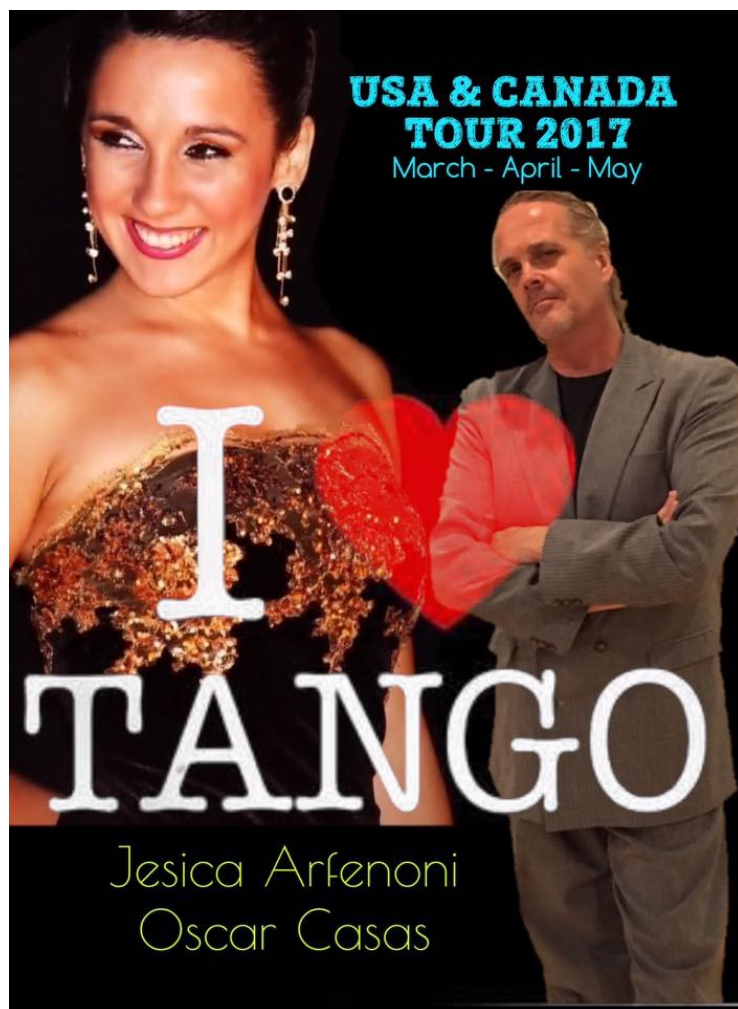
Dahl Dance Center, Rochester, MN

Register: www2.tangofestrs.com

Oscar Casas in Minnesota: 8-14 June 2017

We're fortunate to have him in Minneapolis as part of his USA & Canada 2017 Tour. Recognized for his connection and musicality, Oscar embodies the joy of tango. Admired by milongueros and young tangueros in Buenos Aires, he teaches with energy and humor, imparting practical concepts that students can apply to crowded milongas.

Oscar will offer workshops, group and pri-



vate classes. Special packages available, early registration discount through March 21.

Details:

Lois Donnay Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/mndance

Website: <http://mndance.com/Workshops.html>

LOOKING AHEAD

The Summer 2017 edition of **Tango Moments** will include details on June, July and August 2017 events, including the **Fabián Salas & Lola Díaz** workshops in Rochester and the Twin Cities on July 5-10, as well as info on events later in the year such as the **Tomas Howlin** workshops on September 1-4 and the **Maxi Guzman** workshops October 21-22 and 28-29.

NEW TO TANGO?Check out our **Learn Tango** page:www.mntango.org/learn-tango**ONGOING LOCAL EVENTS**

(Tango daily! Visit www.mntango.org/calendar for hours, locations and updates.)

Sunday afternoons: Practica at Historic Triune Masonic Temple.

Sunday evenings: Milonga (tango dance) at Loring Pasta Bar. Three hours of live music by Rogue Tango, then tango DJ.

Monday evenings: Tango Desperados Practica at The Eagles.

Tuesday evenings: tango classes at the Four Seasons Dance Studio, lessons and milonga at Dance with Lois Donnay.

Wednesday evenings: tango classes at the DanceLife Ballroom and at the Dancers Studio.

Thursday evenings: tango classes at the Historic Triune Masonic Temple, at the Dancers Studio and at Dance with Lois Donnay.

Friday evenings: See Recurring Milongas below.

Saturday mornings: tango classes at Dance with Lois Donnay, classes and practica at the DanceLife Ballroom.

Sat. evenings: See Recurring Milongas below.

Recurring Milongas (tango dance parties) for April and May 2017

April 14 and May 12 (**2nd Fridays**): Milonga Flor de Luna at the Four Seasons Dance Studio.

April 21 and May 19 (**3rd Fridays**): Puro Tango Milonga at the Four Seasons Dance Studio.

April 28 and May 26 (**4th Fridays**): Mala Yunta Milonga at the Four Seasons Dance Studio.

April 1 and May 6 (**1st Saturdays**): Milonga en el Alma at the Four Seasons Dance Studio.

April 8 and May 13 (**2nd Saturdays**): TSoM Milonga (April 8 at the Four Seasons Dance Studio, May 13 at Virginia Street Church).

April 15 and May 20 (**3rd Saturdays**): Alternative Tango-Tango 5400's Dance at Twin Cities T'ai-Chi Ch'uan Studio.

April 22 and May 27 (**4th Saturdays**): Tango con Fusion mini-lesson and milonga at the DanceLife Ballroom.

April 29 (**5th Saturdays**): GOOODtime Milonga at Fallout Art Co-Op Studio.

TANGO EVENTS AROUND THE USA

**2017 OFFICIAL
Argentine Tango
USA Championship & Festival**

San Francisco Airport Marriott Hotel
April 13-16, 2017

www.TangoUSACHampionship.com

Next Milonga?

Easy.



www.mntango.org/next-milonga

Chicago Mini Tango Festival

20-24 April 2017

www.ChicagoTangoFestival.com**Natural Tango Festival**www.naturaltangofestival.com**Colorado Tango Festival**www.coloradotangofestival.com**Toronto Tango Festival**www.torontotangofestival.com**TORONTO TANGO FESTIVAL****ARGENTINE TANGO IMMERSION
FOR BEGINNERS****TANGO WORLDWIDE**

**We congratulate the tangueros of Bangkok,
Thailand, for celebrating their
very first tango festival!**

1st Thailand Tango Festival: Bangkok.www.thailandtangofestival.com**Where's a tango class or party tonight?****Tomorrow morning? This weekend?****Check out the TANGO CALENDAR: www.mntango.org/calendar**

TANGO
TANGO SOCIETY
OF MINNESOTA

QUÉ PASA IN BA

News and updates relevant to tangueros who travel to Buenos Aires.

MILONGAS DE BA

While lately we've seen too many outdated BA-based web sites, there's one that seems to keep current with Milongas and Practicas: www.hoy-milonga.com/buenos-aires/en/milongas. Check it out, and do get the HOY MILONGA app! (Available on the Apple App Store and on Google Play for Buenos Aires and other world cities and it includes milonga times and maps.) They keep the site updated with most of the cool milonga venues such as Celia Tango Club, Club



Gricel, Asoc. Armenia, Salón Canning, La Glorietta, El Beso. (Please let us know at tango-moments@mntango.org if you know of other helpful and current sites. Thanks!)



Tango Moments is a publication of The Tango Society of Minnesota ([TSoM](http://www.mntango.org)), a non-profit corporation established in 1999 as a 501(c)(7) (non-profit social) organization. TSoM exists to promote Argentine Tango in Minnesota and to support other organizations that do the same.

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Contributors

We welcome submissions from the TSoM community. To comment, suggest content or contribute stories, please email tango-moments@mntango.org. The editorial team will contact you if it feels that your story may be improved in any way, and will work with you on any edits that this may involve -- your story will be published only with your final approval. You retain intellectual property of your content, granting TSoM the right to publish it. See the editorial guidelines on the TSoM website: www.mntango.org.

One more thought...

AVOID "PALERMO BRONX"

No, no need to panic... Many of us from tango communities around the world go to Buenos Aires (BA) often and find it quite safe. Yet these days we need to know about "Palermo Bronx" as we book accommodations and walk the city. If you're familiar with the nice BA neighborhoods, Palermo is one of them, and home to some cool milongas such as Salon Canning and La Viruta. Since Palermo is a rather large neighborhood, locals have come up with names for parts of it, such as Palermo Viejo, Palermo SOHO, Palermo Hollywood, Palermo Botánico, Alto

Palermo, Palermo Polo... And now Palermo Bronx, an area best avoided (think 1970s Bronx). The area between Juan B. Justo Av, Soler, Godoy Cruz and Honduras (see map) is an abandoned warehouse space and railroad tracks where "criminal elements" seem to operate freely thanks to police/city bureaucracy. The area is surrounded by nice restaurants, bars, cafes, hotels and apartment buildings. What we'd do: stay away from there and keep this map in mind when booking accommodations and walking the city. BA truly is a very walkable city, quite safe, with very few exceptions such as this.

