

SOLO TANGO LIVE.

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SHOWS RITA & VASCO, ÖZGÜR & SONJA

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A THANK YOU FROM DANCERS, at Tango Industrial Chemnitz- May 17, 2014

On behalf of the dancers here, who have taken up the beautiful invitation to come to this event put on by the Saxon Mozart Society and the Freie Presse, in cooperation with the City of Chemnitz and the local dancers and tangueros who have welcomed us so warmly, we want to thank you for this heartfelt offering, this beautiful embrace, that allows us to celebrate the legacy of tango right here with you in the cradle of the bandoneon.

This event in Chemnitz, like tango itself, is about Connection.

It is the connection of one beautiful tanguero to his family and his home city, that family's connection to classical music and to tango, tango's connection to Chemnitz and Carlsfeld, and our connection to the music, the dance, to one another and now to all of you.

-It is about Mr. Uhlig and his Chemnitzer concertina.

-It is about Mr. Zimmerman, his connection to Mr. Band, and to his enhanced concertina which became the bandoneon.

-It is about Zimmerman's connection to his devoted top worker E.L. Arnold, to whom he gave his bandoneon factory.

-It is much about E.L. Arnold and his dedication and skill that expanded bandoneon production greatly, and his deep connection to his sons- one he inspired to take over the business and the other two to open a second.

-It is about his sons Alfred and Herman Arnold and their deep connection and commitment to continuing to produce their non-tremolo 142 tone tango-bandoneon which they exported to Argentina and Uruguay.

-It is thanks to their connection to the purity of sound, and demand for the instrument in South America that they resisted the push to standardize it into the happier, offset tremolo accordion-like toned instruments common at the time.

Tango is the sound that immigrants and their hand-carried instruments make at night after long work at the docks on a faraway continent, in a faraway world. It is the sound of cultures mixing, finding connection to one another in music. It is the sound of missing home. It is the sound of all the potency, the potential, and the promise of a new life.

It is Heimweh. The longing for connection. The search for connection, and the elation of finding it.

It is as if the accordion conveys the happiness of being home, being well, being whole, while the bandoneon conveys the longing for home, for belonging, for life at its most fulfilled.

It is the sound of desire. Desire for what is longed for, what is lost, and for the promise of what is to come.

In this way the story of tango is a very German story,
which became a European story,
which became a South American story,
which is now a World story, in our time.

This may be why tango is exploding, becoming so popular, also among the very young, from New York to Nuremberg, from Shanghai to San Miguel, from Jerusalem to Jakarta. It may be the longing for 'home', a type of long-ago home which may no longer exist in our time, no matter where one lives.

It is a longing-- but a beautiful and goodly longing.

It is the desire for connection itself, to what has been, what is to come, and above all to this present moment--
that which resonates as we connect to each other in the dance, through the music, through the pulsing rhythm of the bandoneon.

It is a sound born in Chemnitz, refined in Carlsfeld, and thanks to the custodians of music and culture in those cities, is emanating throughout the world in an ever stronger, more poignant and global way today.

We are here in the deepest thanks to all of you who have made this event possible, who have welcomed us, and to all who have come before, in the great lineage that connects Chemnitz, Carlsfeld, music, dance, and the musical language of connection itself- Tango

~ Jenne Magno, Tango Alchemie Prague
on behalf of the musicians, performers, social dancers, organizers and volunteers
in the tango community here together this night.