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Global Arts Live presents  
the Boston debut of  
**Quinteto Astor Piazzolla**

Celebrating 100 Years of Piazzolla

**November 20, 8pm**  
**Berklee Performance Center**

Global Arts Live: 617.876.4275  
[globalartslive.org](http://globalartslive.org)

**Boston, MA — Global Arts Live** presents the Boston debut of [Quinteto Astor Piazzolla](http://globalartslive.org), celebrating 100 Years of Piazzolla on Saturday, November 20 at 8pm at [Berklee Performance Center](http://globalartslive.org), 136 Massachusetts Ave., Boston. Tickets are \$28-\$42 reserved seating. For tickets and information call Global Arts Live at 617.876.4275 or buy online at [globalartslive.org](http://globalartslive.org).

In celebration of Astor Piazzolla's 100th birthday, the Latin GRAMMY®-winning Quinteto Astor Piazzolla pays tributes to the man who revolutionized tango music forever and remains one of the world's most admired composers and musicians. To this day his towering compositions still transport listeners on sublime musical journeys of emotional crescendos, ecstatic climaxes, and melancholic descents. Quinteto Astor Piazzolla, founded by Laura Escalada Piazzolla, is composed of world-class musicians who perform Piazzolla's original arrangements with an unmatched degree of virtuosic skill and rich artistic interpretation.

Composer, player, and bandleader Astor Piazzolla (1921-1992) left an enduring legacy. His New Tango attracted admirers and collaborators from across the music universe, including classical luminaries such as Yo-Yo Ma, Mstislav Rostropovich, Gidon Kremer, and the Kronos Quartet; jazz masters such as Gerry Mulligan, Phil Woods, Gil Evans, Al DiMeola, and Gary Burton, and even dance music diva Grace Jones, who turned one of his pieces into a club hit. To play this music, instrumental virtuosity is essential but not enough. Piazzolla's New Tango also demands a certain attitude, commitment, fearlessness, and an undefinable quality that he called *roña*, or grime with the perfection of the imperfect.

Quinteto Astor Piazzolla, named in tribute to the original group, was organized in 1998. It was a request to Julián Vat from Laura Escalada Piazzolla, the composer's widow and president of The Astor Piazzolla Foundation. The group comprises tangueros and academics, classical and jazz musicians, who revitalize Piazzolla's legacy by conjuring the whole spirit of his music. They are Pablo Mainetti, bandoneón; Bárbara Varassi Pega, piano; Serdar

Geldymuradov, violin; Armando de La Vega, guitar; Daniel Falasca, double bass; and Julián Vat, musical director.

The Quinteto has released four albums (including *Revolucionario*, winner of the 2019 Latin GRAMMY® for Best Tango Recording) and has toured the United States, Latin America, Europe, and Asia. *Operation Tango*, the new album being released on November 5, via E54 Music, marks a departure from the group's previous efforts. The repertoire comprises pieces not written originally by Piazzolla for a quintet now arranged for this ensemble. The titles include "Tango Ballet," an early Piazzolla piece for a film; "Tocata Rea," and "Fuga y Misterio" from Piazzolla's "little opera" *Maria de Buenos Aires*; and "Los Sueños," from the soundtrack of the film *Sur*, and the choices stay true to one of Quinteto's goals. The idea is not just to focus on Piazzolla's classics, says Vat. "Part of our mission is putting the spotlight on lesser-known pieces that we believe deserve to be heard."

"I am still amazed by Piazzolla's music, and the more I hear it, the more I marvel at the genius of his synthesis," says Vat, who has performed, arranged, and directed many performances of Piazzolla's music in a variety of settings. "What he does with a small group of notes are great works of engineering and wisdom and talent. And it's music with a big heart."

Mainetti is one of his generation's top players of the bandoneon, the expressive, melancholy-sounding button squeezebox that embodies the sound of tango. But he is also a composer, arranger, and bandleader in his own right. From the beginning, he says, the idea was to find the right balance to their interpretations: being exactly true to the music without turning them into museum artifacts. "I had some versions of these pieces as a reference, but I quickly stopped listening to them so as not to end up parroting them." Besides, he realized long ago, after spending time transcribing Piazzolla's music, that "the notes on the paper and what he played on the records were two very different things." He calls Piazzolla "a brilliant improviser," and points out that he left much room in the music for interpretation. "When you mention 'improvisation,' most people think of jazz, but there are many ways of improvising," says Mainetti. "You can improvise in this music – but in Piazzolla's language."

For more information: [quintetoastorpiazzolla.com](http://quintetoastorpiazzolla.com)  
High resolution images [here](#).

Please note: Masks will be required indoors for all patrons, and staff. All must present either [proof of vaccination or negative COVID test](#) in order to enter the venue. For details see [globalartslive.org/covid-safety-protocols](http://globalartslive.org/covid-safety-protocols).

Global Arts Live is a nonprofit organization that brings inspiring music and dance from all corners of the world to stages across greater Boston. By putting the spotlight on exceptional artists and reflecting the diverse and vibrant community that is Boston, we aspire to transcend borders, cultivate community, and enrich lives. A trusted curator for almost 30 years, Global Arts Live has made live, international music, and dance a vital part of Boston's cultural scene by featuring more than 800 artists from 70+ countries in over 1,500 performances attended by more than one million people. To be as inclusive as possible, foster experimentation, and support a diverse community of artists, Global Arts Live is not bound by walls. Instead, it brings outstanding artists to the most appropriate setting—from intimate 200-seat clubs to 2,500-seat theaters and everything in between. Each year, it presents over 60 concerts in more than 15 different venues across the city.

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