



## **Marcela Arroyo & Julio Azcano** **New Tango Songbook**

The rhythmic and harmonic richness Julio Azcano is the perfect complement to the powerful voice of Marcela Arroyo to give the timeless dialogue between voice and guitar a new light. They turn-hearted interplay wanders the jazz edges of the tango music with a rare and warm complicity.

**Marcela Arroyo** acts internationally with renowned new tango musicians, highlighted by her stage presence and vocal technique. Her records are celebrated by critics and her projects have been, repeatedly starring «María de Buenos Aires», and presenting at important festivals and theaters worldwide.

**Julio Azcano** occupies a privileged place within the guitarists of the new generation. Building musicals bridges between Argentina guitar tradition, classical music and jazz. He is constantly present in concert halls and festivals of international prestige.

After their tour in duo as **Dino Saluzzi's opening act** at the Jazz Festivals of Basel, Bern, Zurich and Geneva - and with excellent reviews to their last duo album «New Tango Songbook» for the Munich based label «Solo Musica» (Sony) – Marcela and Julio make a little break in their European concert agenda to come back to their homeland and play at the trendy «Café Vinilo» in Buenos Aires.



Marcela Arroyo / Julio Azcano  
New Tango Songbook

MUSICA

Astor Piazzolla found in the guitar a source of inspiration for his music: with his Octeto Buenos Aires in 1955, he revolutionized the sound of his compositions by incorporating improvisations on electric guitar. Twenty five years later, he discovered new sounds with the classical guitar for his mature musical language. The reinvention of Piazzolla's compositions on guitar and a new openness to improvisation inspired me to accompany Marcela Arroyo on this musical journey. Through this familiar collaboration between voice and guitar that shook the very soul of Argentinian music, we were able to rediscover these songs – some almost forgotten – and be inspired once again by Astor Piazzolla's relentless spirit of renewal. *Julio Azcano*

The great argentine composer changed forever the sound of Buenos Aires and brought a contemporary tango with jazz's elements to the world.

The songs he wrote, mostly inspired by literary luminaries like Jorge Luis Borges, Pablo Neruda or Julio Cortázar; represent a genuine treasure of the XX Century song writing.

The argntines Marcela Arroyo (voice) and Julio Azcano (guitar) pick up these hidden jewels and give the timeless dialogue between voice and guitar a new light. Fine and precise arrangements meet a sensual repertoire.

Marcela Arroyo, voc  
Julio Azcano, git

[www.newtangosongbook.com](http://www.newtangosongbook.com)



## Marcela Arroyo

Buenos Aires-born tango singer Marcela Arroyo's unique voice – sensuous and warm – is utterly captivating. A student of the Manuel de Falla Conservatory and Julio Bocca School of Musical Theater, she went on to perfect her skills under greats such as Anibal Arias, Leda Valladares, Hilda Herrera and Juan Manuel Miró.

Based in Switzerland since 2000, Marcela has enthralled audiences throughout Argentina and Europe, working with distinguished Tango Nuevo composers, musicians and groups, including Dino Saluzzi, Juan Falu, Quique Sinesi (Latin Grammy Winner), Marcelo Nisinman, Juan Pablo Navarro and Gilberto Pereyra. Between 2004 and 2006, she mesmerized audiences in Zurich and Darmstadt as lead singer in the operita «María de Buenos Aires». Produced by Swiss National Radio and released in 2009, Marcela's album «Puerta Sur», with bassist Daniel Schläppi and violinist Andreas Engler, received rave reviews. Her most recent collections are «Pasión poética», released in 2012 with Solo Musica, features composer Marcelo Nisinman; «New Tango Songbook», released in 2014 together with the guitarist Julio Azcano and «Tres mil Uno» her last album, released in 2016 with Engler and Schläppi.

Last year she was chosen to tour with Dino Saluzzi Group, organised by AllBlues and Migros-Kultur-Jazz.

**[www.marcela-arroyo.com](http://www.marcela-arroyo.com)**

«An electrifying Voice...»

*Musikmagazin, Radio SRF2 Kultur, Switzerland*

«The voice of the Argentine singer passes through us, floating over the melody and enchanted to the listener...And her stage presence impresses.» *Badische Zeitung, Germany*

«Una cantante más que valiosa...hay un estilo y una personalidad que a mí me han provocado un especial goce de esta intérprete...tan personal.» *Victor Hugo Morales, Radio Nacional, Argentine*

«...each tone, each cadence, each second of her interpretation touch...» *Folkworld, Germany*

«High praise is due vocalist Marcela Arroyo...Her throaty, smoky night club mezzo voice is very enjoyable and perfect for this kind of music.» *Audiophile Audition, USA*

«Marcela Arroyo seeks and finds the tango's essence in the reduction... an emotional intensity, that moves.» *Jazzthetik, Germany*

«...stridently post-Astor Piazzolla... Arroyo brings to the tango songbook a hint of Marlene Dietrich-esque drama... If this is the future of tango, it is dark, dreamladen and delectable.» *Songlines UK*



## Julio Azcano

Different paths converge in the acoustic palette of Julio Azcano: the refining of his classic technique at his homeland Argentina, an intense activity in improvisation and composition projects in Europe and a nourished performing activity that includes concerts through Argentina, Europa and the USA.

Julio's playing was registered in several opportunities on Radio and TV broadcastings and CDs recordings, including the album from South America renowned Guitar Festival "Guitarras del Mundo" and the international broadcasting of an acclaimed concert by "Guitar City 2008" in Poland. His cross-border dialogue with diverse styles on the classical Guitar allows him to a constant improvement of his musical expressions solo and with several ensemble projects: present activities include his trio with the austrian jazz flutist Günter Wehinger and the percussionist Claudio Spieler, the "Ayres" duo with the anatolian baglama player Taylan Arikan and collaborations with the latin-grammy awarded guitarist Quique Sinesi, the double bass virtuoso Juan Pablo Navarro, the Jazzguitarist and GIT Instructor Sid Jacobs, the saxophonist Javier Giroto, the tango singer Marcela Arryo and Yehudi Menuhin's disciple Volker Biesenbender.

Since April 2013 he is member of Eos Guitar Quartet - praised by Leo Brouwer as „One of the world's best guitar quartets“ - playing music that guitar luminaries such as John McLaughlin, Paco de Lucia, Ralph Towner or Fred Frith have dedicated to the Eos.

Immersed since his early days in the strong guitar tradition of Argentina, Julio completed his Diploma in Classical Guitar in Mar del Plata and took private lessons with guitar virtuoso Eduardo Isaac. Later he continued his studies in Buenos Aires, under the guidance and support from Pino Marrone, and began to integrate elements from Jazz and Improvisation in his repertoire. In 2000 he won the first price in Jazz and also in Classical Music of the National Biennale for Young Art, with which he obtained the possibility to make a first record and began to play concerts through his country, and soon after in USA and Europe. At the Zurich University of the Arts he completed a second Diploma in Jazz and Improvisation, where he polished his improvisational approach to Jazz with Kurt Rosenwinkel.

He lives since 2004 in Luzern (Switzerland).

**[www.julioazcano.com](http://www.julioazcano.com)**

## Press

«Cet album est une véritable découverte pour tous ceux qui associent le tango uniquement au bandonéon et qui ne connaissent Astor Piazzolla, le grand innovateur argentin du tango, que par ses mélodies aux accents d'improvisations jouées sur cet instrument. Piazzolla a en effet mis en musique de nombreux poèmes d'artistes contemporains tels que Jorge Luis Borges ou Horacio Ferrer, et s'est beaucoup inspiré de la guitare pour composer.

Sur la base de ce recueil de chansons, le guitariste Julio Azcano et la chanteuse Marcela Arroyo ont créé leur New Tango Songbook. Dansant d'une harmonie à l'autre, leur interprétation est à la fois concentrée et spontanée. Parfois la voix entraîne la guitare, à d'autres moments elle s'oppose aux arpèges insistants, et puis mélodie et accompagnement s'entrelacent à nouveau telle une robe de soie sur le corps d'une danseuse. Des percussions utilisées avec parcimonie et quelques touches de bandonéon viennent mettre de la couleur aux arrangements. L'expressivité est ce qui fait vivre le tango. Les deux interprètes l'ont bien compris. Entre force et douceur, ils savent équilibrer leur jeu et utiliser l'énergie émotionnelle des chansons, sans jamais en faire trop.»

*Artlink, Südkulturfonds, Switzerland*

**«An extraordinary disc referred to Astor Piazzolla»**

*Victor Hugo Morales. Radio Nacional, Argentina*

**«A piazzollian wonder...»**

*Radio Continental La Mañana, Argentina*

**«...a remarkable Album...»**

«Milonga, made in Switzerland: Der argentinische Komponist Astor Piazzolla war der Begründer des «Nuevo Tango», der den traditionellen Tango mit Elementen des Jazz verband und das musikalische Vokabular des traditionellen Tanzes somit entscheidend erweiterte. Piazzolla arbeitete dabei oft mit Autoren wie Jorge Luis Borges, Julio Cortázar und Pablo Neruda zusammen. Seine besten Lieder dürfen deshalb als Gesamtkunstwerke gelten. Oft sind sie interpretiert worden. Nun legen die Sängerin Marcela Arroyo und der Gitarrist Julio Azcano ein bemerkenswertes Album mit elf Kompositionen des Meisters vor. Beide Musiker stammen aus Argentinien, beide leben in der Schweiz. Ihre in Eich am Sempachersee realisierten Einspielungen überzeugen durch Stilsicherheit, Dringlichkeit und Exaktheit. Julio Azcano, als Gitarrist mit hoher technischer Fertigkeit ausgestattet, hat die Stücke zurückhaltend und intelligent arrangiert. Als Gastmusiker hat er den Bandoneon-Spieler Marcelo Nisinman und den Perkussionisten Claudio Spieler eingeladen. Vor überinstrumentierter Üppigkeit, wie sie im Tango leider oft vorkommt, muss man sich hier nicht fürchten. Höhepunkte des sorgsam produzierten albums sind die beiden Milongas aus der Operita «María de Buenos Aires». Mit ihrer kehligen, kernigen Stimme gestaltet die Sängerin Piazzollas Kompositionen temperamentvoll und klug.»

*Manfred Papst, NZZ am Sonntag, Switzerland*

**«...that is a really play together. Much experience stands behind this way to play.»**

*Annelis Berger, «Klangfenster» Radio SRF2 Kultur, Switzerland*

**«...Very emotive interpretations...»**

«Es war nicht nur der Instrumentaltango, den Astor Piazzolla ab 1955 neu entwarf, er konzipierte ab Mitte der 1960er-Jahre auch das Tangolied neu, und er ließ sich dabei nicht auf die leichtverständlichen Textschreibungen der Tangotradition beschränken. Um seine avantgardistische Musik mit ebenso kühner Lyrik zu verbinden, kooperierte er mit namhaften Autoren der argentinischen Literaturszene: Ernesto Sabato, Jose Luis Borges und vor allem Horacio Ferrer. Die Sängerin Arroyo und der Gitarrist Azcano widmen sich hier Piazzollas Tango-Canción, und es ist zuvörderst die kluge und unprätentiöse Titelauswahl hervorzuheben, die sich nicht auf die innigst geliebten, aber tausendfach interpretierten Piazzolla/Ferrer-Hits stürzt, sondern auf etwas abseitigeres Material, dessen melodische Qualität sich zumeist erst auf den wiederholten ‚Blick‘ erschließt. Es ist die Schlichtheit und Sachlichkeit, die hier gefällt: keine Effekt-Schnörkel, keine theatralischen Überzeichnungen. Arroyos Gesang ist mit Sentiment und Ausdruck, hinreichend variabel im mittleren und unteren Spektrum ihrer leicht angerauten Altstimme.»

*Gerhard Litterst. Tango Danza, Germany*

**«An impressive dialog between voice and guitar, that gets deep under the skin.»**

«Tango, Buenos Aires und Astor Piazzolla – eine Verbindung, die kaum zu trennen ist. Die beiden argentinischen Musiker Julio Azcano (Gitarre) und Marcela Arroyo (Gesang) verschmelzen zeitgenössischen Tango mit Elementen aus dem Jazz. Ein beeindruckender Dialog zwischen Stimme und Gitarre entsteht, der tief unter die Haut geht.»

*Brigitte, Switzerland*





### **Concerts (selection)**

Bâtiment des Forces Motrices, Genève, Switzerland  
Neumünster, Zürich, Switzerland  
Kulturcasino Bern, Bejazz, Switzerland  
Stadtcasino Basel, Basel Jazz Festival, Switzerland  
Kellertheater Lindenhof, Switzerland  
Bird's eye jazz club, Basel, Switzerland  
KUK, Aarau, Switzerland  
Neubad, Luzern, Switzerland  
Villa Sträuli, Winterthur, Switzerland  
La Cappella, Bern, Switzerland  
Obere Mühle, Dübendorf, Switzerland  
Café Vinilo, Buenos Aires, Argentine  
Haus der Religionen, Bern, Switzerland  
Kulturkreis Windisch, Switzerland  
Schloss Beuggen, Germany  
Illzach, France  
Kulturhof Schloss, Köniz, Switzerland