TANGO QUARTET

JUNE 2-4

NEIGHBORHOOD SERIES
PROGRAM

TANGO QUARTET

DENIS PLANTE, BANDONEON
DAVID JACQUES, GUITAR
JONATHAN GODFREY, VIOLIN
ANTOINE PLANTE, BASS

Libertango – Astor Piazzolla
El Choclo – Ángel Villoldo
Nueve De Julio – Juan D’arienzo
La Yumba – Osvaldo Pugliese
Tango Romance – Denis Plante
Poncho Negro – Denis Plante
Ménage À Trois – Denis Plante
Los Mareados – Juan Carlos Cobián
Youkali – Kurt Weill
Escualo – Astor Piazzolla
Milonga Del Ángel – Astor Piazzolla
Muerte Del Ángel – Astor Piazzolla

BEND Productions/Ben Doyle, Videography
DENIS PLANTE, BANDONEON

The creator of last season’s multi-media event Bach and Piazzolla and Mercury’s 2014-2015 season audience-favorite The Crimson Prince, Denis Plante has long been a partner in Mercury’s creative endeavors. His unusual career as a performer and composer has made him the bandoneón artist in Canada, and an exceptional figure in contemporary tango on the world scene. Denis is frequently invited to perform as a soloist with symphony orchestras or chamber-music ensembles. A spiritual son of Astor Piazzolla, he has enriched the bandoneón repertoire with dozens of works capturing the essential pulse of the tango. He has recorded seven CDs of his work, composed two operas and a ballet, and has been awarded the title of Creator of the Year by Quebec’s Art Council and an Opus prize for best Global album.

DAVID JACQUES, GUITAR

Born in Saint-Georges de Beauce (Québec), David Jacques holds a Doctor’s degree in early music performance from the Université de Montréal. He began his classical guitar studies at the Cégep de Sainte-Foy, and continued at the Université Laval and the Conservatoire de musique de Québec.

He has recorded more than 50 CDs on the XXI-21, ATMA, d’Oz and Analekta labels. His Pièces de guitarre de Mr Rémy Médard (Productions XX-21), Tango Boreal and Pampa Blues won the Conseil Québécois de la Musique’s 2008, 2012 and 2014 Prix Opus Disc of the Year award. David has also published several arrangements for guitar for Les Productions d’OZ. Active in Canada as well as abroad, he has given more than 3500 concerts in 35 countries on five continents.

David Jacques is currently professor of classical Guitar at the Université Laval and Cégep de Sainte-Foy. From 2008 to 2011, he has been the artistic director of the Quebec Sacred Music Festival, in Quebec City. He also completed a bachelor in Business Management (B.A.A.), a bachelor in music teaching (B.A.) and is now finishing another bachelor in law at Laval University (LL.B.).
JONATHAN GODFREY, VIOLIN
Sponsored by Randy & Cathy Crath

A founding member of Mercury Chamber Orchestra, violinist Jonathan Godfrey has served as Concertmaster and violin soloist since the orchestra’s inception. A graduate of Rice University, Mr. Godfrey has performed with many ensembles including the Houston Symphony, the Houston Bach Society, the IRIS Chamber Orchestra, and the River Oaks Chamber Orchestra.

He has also served as Concertmaster of the Sinfonietta Cracovia, The Houston Grand Opera Orchestra, The American Radio Chamber Orchestra, Orchestra X, and the Pacific Music Festival Orchestra. He has concertized in the US and abroad, performing solo and chamber music recitals in Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Houston, Interlochen, and Kansas City, as well as Guanajuato, León, Monterrey, and Santiago, Mexico; Yokohama, Kyoto, Matsumoto, Sapporo, Date, and Tokyo, Japan; and Quito and Ambato, Ecuador.

A music educator as well, Mr. Godfrey has taught for twenty-five years, including positions on the violin faculty of both the Interlochen Arts Camp and the Rocky Mountain Summer Conservatory. Mr. Godfrey is also the co-director of Prelude Music Classes for Children, a school of music for young children and their families that teaches the research-based music and movement program Music Together® and a co-founder of the Prelude Music Foundation.
ARTIST PROFILES

ANTOINE PLANTE, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
Artistic Director, Lynn Wyatt Chair

Praised by audiences and musicians alike for his conducting verve and innovative programming, Antoine Plante has garnered praise for bringing music to life. “Plante led his orchestra, the choir and the soloists in an impressive account of the Requiem: authoritative, vigorous, emotionally intense, at times utterly gripping,” writes Charles Ward of the Houston Chronicle.

Plante is a founder of Mercury Chamber Orchestra, a Houston, Texas-based orchestra that has experienced remarkable audience growth over its twenty-year history. In that capacity, Plante has become known for his deftness in balancing a great works repertoire with lesser-known and unknown pieces. His exciting musicality has made him an audience favorite, as evidenced by Mercury’s fast-growing audience.

He is also a passionate supporter of classical music education and has led Mercury’s educational outreach program, a significant effort that includes classroom music education in underserved schools, master classes for school orchestras, and performances for school children.

Plante is extremely versatile. At ease with the great romantic and modern composers, he also loves to perform Classical and Baroque music with period instrument orchestras. Experienced in directing orchestral pieces as well as staged works, he has conducted several operas and ballets. He collaborated with noted French director Pascal Rambert to produce a modern staged version of Lully’s Armide, which was performed to critical acclaim in Paris and Houston. He worked with Dominic Walsh Dance Theater to create a score for Dominic Walsh’s ballet Romeo and Juliet. An innovative artist, he has premiered new works such as The Crimson Prince with Director Denis Plante, and Loving Clara Schumann with Director Tara Faircloth.

Under his leadership, Mercury has grown to be an important arts organization in Houston, offering over 50 concerts per season in many different venues, making great music accessible to the whole community.

Plante has been invited to perform as guest conductor for the San Antonio Symphony, Oregon Bach Festival Orchestra, Chanticleer, Ecuador National Symphony Orchestra and Atlanta Baroque.
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