

Hypnotic grooves of Argentina come to Del Norte

April 18, 2022



Del Norte Association for Cultural Awareness continues its Performance Series with Los Tangueros del Oeste (the tango players of the west), on April 21, at 7 p.m., at Crescent Elk Auditorium in Crescent City.

Founded by bassist/composer Sascha Jacobsen (last seen in Del Norte County with the band Barrio Manouche in February 2020), Los Tangueros play many traditional styles of tango. But it's their skill at spicing up their arrangements with flamenco, hip-hop, and electronic music that makes them unique.

Hailing from an illustrious musical family dating back as least five generations to a bassist for the Moscow Opera, Jacobsen is a bassist who loves expanding on traditional tango forms.

"This is our contribution to the evolution of the music. I think we are the only electro-tango band based in the U.S.," she said.

Tango developed in Argentina at the beginning of the 20th Century. The sound is a combination of music from European and African immigrants that came to Argentina, mixed with the influence of indigenous people and the folk songs of the gauchos (Argentine cowboys).

“There’s a strong feeling of nostalgia in the presentation of tango, and there’s a sensual energy in the music and the dance,” explained Jacobsen. “In Argentina, the lyrics, dance, music, and poetry are part of a complete art form.”

Los Tangueros came together four years ago. They honed their sound playing clubs, concert halls and milongas—tango dance parties. Focusing on Jacobsen’s original compositions which are inspired by classic Tango forms, the group strives for a singular Nuevo Tango sound that is cool and impassioned, while being downright dance-inducing.

While Los Tangueros have created a unique and compelling sound for modern audiences, they also take inspiration from early tango recordings.

“The idea is to create modern tangos,” Jacobsen explained. “Some of the great tango standards were written in the early 1900s, including ‘La Cumparsita,’ the most famous tango of all time. It includes the riff synonymous with tango for people who don’t know the music. It’s still played every night at the end of almost every milonga around the world.”

Jacobsen summarizes: “Tango is an all-encompassing lifestyle you can immerse yourself in.”

The Los Tangueros concert will feature appearances from world champion Tango dancers and songs from the group’s debut album, *Alma Vieja*, which showcases the band’s excellent musicianship and the adventurous arrangements they’ve created.

Tickets for the concert are available at Del Norte Office Supply in Crescent City and online at dnaca.eventbrite.com. Remaining tickets will be available at the door, which opens at 6:15 p.m. the night of the concert. General tickets are \$20, senior (65+) are \$18, and students (K - full-time college) are \$15.

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