



# 74TH SEASON OF CONCERTS

OCTOBER 4, 2015 • NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART



# PROGRAM



**3:30 • West Building, West Garden Court**

Pablo Ziegler Quartet for New Tango

Pablo Ziegler, piano

Héctor del Curto, bandoneon

Jisoo Ok, cello

Pedro Giraud, bass

*The program will be announced from the stage.*

## The Musicians

### Pablo Ziegler

For decades, Buenos Aires-born, pianist, composer, and arranger Pablo Ziegler has been one of the most important figures in Argentine New Tango, the vibrant musical hybrid of classical tango and American jazz. Mark Swed of *The Los Angeles Times* writes, "He is cool, understated, and makes everything look easy and natural. . . . Just as a really suave tango dancer seems not to move with feet but on wheels, Ziegler skates the keyboard."

After performing in Astor Piazzolla's legendary quintet for over a decade, and appearing on iconic Piazzolla recordings, including *Tango: Zero Hour*, *La Camorra*, and *Central Park Concert*, Ziegler has led his own groups for more than twenty years, refining and reimagining the bounds of the tango tradition. Touring throughout the world with his trio, quartet, and quintet, recent seasons have seen Ziegler performing at venues such as Carnegie Hall, the Chautauqua Institution, the San Francisco Jazz Festival, and the Laguna Beach Music Festival. He has been featured as guest soloist with major orchestras around the world, playing his own compositions as well as the music of Piazzolla with the Presidential Orchestra of Turkey, the Tokyo Chamber Orchestra, and Symphonic Jazz Orchestra of São Paulo, Brazil.

Ziegler's most recent and critically acclaimed recording, *Amsterdam Meets New Tango* (2013), sees his quartet paired with the Netherlands' Metropole Orkest. In 2011, Ziegler's work as music director, arranger, and pianist for bass-baritone opera star Erwin Schrott earned an ECHO Klassik Award for the album *Rojotango*. Ziegler's 2005 release, *Bajo Cero*, won the Latin Grammy Award for Best Tango Album, and in 2008, his album *Buenos Aires Report* made the final list of nominees for the same honor.

### Héctor del Curto

Praised by the *New York Times* as a "splendid player," Argentinean bandoneonist Héctor del Curto's career, spanning more than twenty-five years, has encompassed the traditional tango, new tango, jazz, classical, and world music. He has performed with the world-renowned tango composer Astor Piazzolla, pianist Pablo Ziegler, clarinetist Paquito D'Rivera, saxophonist Joe Lovano, and violinist Cho-Liang Lin, as well as with the Metropolitan Opera, National Symphony, Orpheus Chamber, and Buenos Aires orchestras, to name a few.

Born into a family of bandoneon players, Del Curto was introduced to the world of tango and bandoneon by his grandfather. By the age of seventeen, he had won Argentina's "Best Bandoneon Player Under 25" award and was invited to join the orchestra of the legendary Osvaldo Pugliese, the "Last Giant of Tango."

In 1999, Del Curto received the Golden Note Award from the Italian-American Network in recognition of his artistic achievements. As conductor, he directed the spectacular show *Forever Tango* on Broadway and founded the *Eternal Tango Orchestra*, a ten-piece ensemble. He recently produced and released his second album *Eternal Piazzolla* with a sold-out concert at (Le) Poisson Rouge in New York City. His first recording *Eternal Tango* was featured on BBC News and Public Radio International's *The World*. He also appears in numerous recordings with artists such as Osvaldo Pugliese, Astor Piazzolla, Pablo Ziegler, Paquito D'Rivera, Denyce Graves, Tito Puente, Eddie Palmieri, Elvis Costello, The Manhattan Transfer, Shakira, and Plácido Domingo.

Del Curto is the founding artistic director of Stowe Tango Music Festival, the premier tango music festival in the United States. Every August, the festival brings together world-class artists and talented students to present a unique series of performances throughout the Stowe, Vermont, region.

### Jisoo Ok

Cellist Jisoo Ok is a multifaceted musician who has distinguished herself as an interpreter of classical, tango, jazz, and contemporary music. She has closely collaborated with eminent musicians such as pianist Pablo Ziegler, bandoneonist Héctor del Curto, and clarinetist, Paquito D'Rivera, and performed with jazz violinist Regina Carter, bassist Ron Carter, and vibraphonist Stefon Harris.

Ok has performed worldwide in venues and festivals, including the Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center, Birdland, La Jolla Music Society SummerFest, Laguna Beach Music Festival, Chautauqua Institution, Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts, Miami International Piano Festival, Concerti di Mezzogiorno at the Spoleto Festival dei Due Mondi, in Italy, Copa Fest in Brazil, Houston International Festival, and SummerStage at Central Park, among others.

She has released two critically acclaimed albums, *Eternal Tango* and *Eternal Piazzolla*, which she coproduced with her husband, Héctor del Curto, and *Rojotango* with Erwin Schrott, released in 2011 on Sony Classical. She appears as a guest artist on several albums: *Horizon: Piano and Chamber Works by Gareth Farr*, with pianist Henry Wong Doe, *Django Festival Allstars*, with Dorado Schmitt, and *Introducing Letizia Gambi*, with Lenny White, Chick Corea, Ron Carter, Gil Goldstein, and Patrice Rushen. Ok is also the founding executive director of Stowe Tango Music Festival.

Born in Seoul, Korea, but raised in New Zealand, Ok began cello studies at age eleven to avoid studying violin. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees from the Juilliard School, where she studied cello with Bonnie Hampton and Fred Sherry, and also chamber music with Itzhak Perlman and Robert Mann.

## Pedro Giraudo

Originally from Córdoba, Argentina, Pedro Giraudo moved to New York City in 1996. Since then, he has become a highly versatile bassist, composer, and arranger, performing in a wide variety of musical projects, both his own award-winning Pedro Giraudo Jazz Orchestra and as a member of several prominent ensembles, ranging from tango to jazz.

Giraudo has collaborated with Paquito D'Rivera, Latin American icon Rubén Blades, Grammy award-winner Pablo Ziegler, and Dizzy Gillespie's protégé William Cepeda. He has participated in numerous jazz and music festivals throughout North America, Europe, Latin America, the Caribbean, and Asia, and performed in venues such as the Blue Note (Japan and the United States), Austria's Birdland, London's Queen Elizabeth Hall, the Jazz Royale Festival in Thailand, the Kennedy Center, and in New York: Iridium, Jazz Standard, Lincoln Center, and Carnegie Hall.

As a composer and arranger, Giraudo leads his thirteen-piece ensemble, the Pedro Giraudo Jazz Orchestra, and has been hailed by critics as one of the most creative and daring bandleaders on the scene today. The group, which includes some of New York's finest jazz musicians, has performed regularly in the most prestigious jazz clubs in the New York City area, as well as abroad. John Murph of *DownBeat* described Giraudo's music as "an opulent listening experience of modern, orchestral jazz, brimming with passionate improvisations, deliberate contrapuntal melodies, and plush harmonies."

In 2008, Giraudo was awarded a composer's commission through the Jazz Gallery in New York. The resulting suite was the centerpiece of his 2011 album. In 2010, he was commissioned by the JazzReach initiative to compose a new work for their Big Drum/Small World main-stage program. Giraudo has played bass on dozens of recordings for the world's leading labels, as well as for independent projects, including Oliver Stone's *Wall Street II*. He is the principal bassist of the Hudson Symphony Orchestra.

## The Seventy-Fourth Season of The William Nelson Cromwell and F. Lamot Belin Upcoming Concerts

Hermès String Quartet  
Music by Mozart, Schubert, and Webern  
October 11, Sunday, 3:30  
West Building, West Garden Court

Poulenc Trio  
Music by Copland, Prokofiev,  
Stravinsky, and Weinberg  
October 18, Sunday, 3:30  
West Building, West Garden Court

Nordic Weekend Celebrating  
150th Birthdays of Jean Sibelius  
and Carl Nielsen

National Gallery of Art String Quartet  
October 23, Friday, 12:00  
West Building, West Garden Court

National Gallery of Art Piano Trio  
October 24, Saturday, 12:00  
West Building, West Garden Court

National Gallery of Art Orchestra  
Peter Wilson, guest conductor  
October 25, Sunday, 3:30  
West Building, West Garden Court

Music by Sibelius and Nielson

## General Information

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