

**ENSEMBLE PIACEVOLE, ARAM
VAN BALLAERT & ALFREDO
MARCUCCI**

“BUENOS AIRES”

Programma of the concert

Astor Piazzolla	Melodia en la menor
Astor Piazzolla	Tres Tangos nr1 Balada para un loco Buenos Aires hora 0
Koen Dejonghe	Russian Tango
Maximo Diego Pujol	Suite Buenos Aires Pompeya Palermo San Telmo Microcentro
Astor Piazzolla	Lo que vendra
Dirk Brossé	Tango tout court
Vicento Greco Astor Piazzolla	Ojos Negros Chiquilin de Bachin La muerte del angel Fear
Astor Piazzolla	Concerto Guitar Bandoneon « Hommage à Liège » Introduction Milonga Tango
Bis Libertango en Taquito Militar	

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GENERAL

In this set-up, Belgium's most remarkable string quintet **Piacevole** combines the wild approach of the gifted young guitar player **Aram Van Ballaert** with the long-established musicality of senior bandoneon player Alfredo Marcucci.

In this brand new program, they explore the possibilities of Latin American music within the classical environment of a string quintet. Following a path of musical innovation, they wander off the beaten musical track. The absolute highlight will be the **Concerto for bandoneon, guitar and strings** of **Astor Piazzolla**, a musical composition especially written for the Belgian city of **Liege**. This masterpiece is Piazzolla's homage to Belgium's 5th biggest city. Another remarkable fact is that, when this masterpiece was performed by Piazzolla in Liege in the eighties, it was **Piacevole's** double bass player **Ludo Joly** who played the double-bass.

Alongside these Latin American pieces, the ensemble will also bring genuine **Belgian** compositions of some Belgium's most talented composers like **Dirk Brossé**.

Ensemble **PIACEVOLE**:

Nico Baltussen, violin
Gudrun Vercampt, violin
Yves Cortvrint, alto
Luc Dewez, cello
Ludo Joly, double bass

Guitar:

«GreetingLine»

Bandoneon:

Alfredo Marcucci

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BIO ENSEMBLE PIACEVOLE

Piacevole was founded in 1990 by double-bass player **Ludo Joly**.

Piacevole is also an Italian musical term meaning 'agreeably, pleasantly, easily', applying both to the music the group is making and to the attitude with which they approach their art.

A German critic rightly wrote: 'Alle Musiker von Piacevole musizierten mit einer bewunderenswerten Leichtigkeit und Fröhlichkeit, die man wirklich 'piacevole' nennen konte'. The joy and lightness in their playing indeed is really catching.

The core of the ensemble is the string quintet which can be extended in various ways. They can create an intimate chamber music atmosphere, at times they sound like a full orchestra, and they accompany solo pieces. Indeed, a considerable part of their repertoire in the past used to be played by piacevole-like ensembles.

Original and very enriching for the group is their collaboration with the magnificent bandoneon player **Alfredo Marcucci**.

Their repertoire is wide-ranging, from baroque via the classical and romantic masters to 20th century music including contemporary composers.

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BIO ARAM VAN BALLAERT

After being involved in several international co-productions as a guest musician with orchestras like the Royal Philharmonic and the Flemish Radio Orchestra, Aram Van Ballaert decided to start building on a solo career.

In 2002 he released his first solo album '**Dana**', which was a big success. The repertoire, which consists of South American and Spanish guitar music, was very well received by the press as well as the audience. This was followed by many concerts and the CD got nominated for the Klara music awards 2003. In the same year, Aram created the guitar concerto "Fantasia para un Marqués" by Piet Swerts, supported by the 'I Fiamminghi' orchestra.

In the season 2003-2004, his main focus was on chamber music: Aram was requested to play in many small as well as larger ensembles. Together with the renowned Ictus Ensemble he played concerts in famous venues in Utrecht (NL), Paris (F) and Brussels (B).

At the beginning of 2005, Van Ballaert released his second solo recording '**Tri**': a triptych for classical guitar with music from Russia, Argentina and Eastern Europe. The press gave very good critics and this was followed by a series of concerts in Belgium, The Netherlands and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Additionally he is about to start a co-operation with **Jeroen D'hoë**: this young talented composer studied in New York at Juilliard School and composed the obliged piece for the semi-final of the Queen Elisabeth Competition 2004. Jeroen D'hoë and Aram Van Ballaert will co-operate in creating a unique guitar concerto.

Besides his musical career Aram Van Ballaert lectures at the famous Lemmens Institute (University for Science and Arts) in Louvain.

'Versatility' is an understatement when we talk about Aram Van Ballaert.'
Chantal Pattyn, -co-director Belgian National Classical Radio Klara

ARAM VAN BALLAERT, ALFREDO MARCUCCI & ENSEMBLE PIACEVOLE: "BUENOS AIRES"

BIO ALFREDO MARCUCCI

Alfredo Marcucci was born in 1930 in **Buenos Aires**, the beating heart of the Tango. As a child he learned to play the bandoneon and, when at the age of 15 his father died, his uncle let him join his tango orchestra to earn a living.

What followed was a live full of concerts and travelling all over the world. He finally ended up in Belgium with the famous folklore band **Los Paraguayos** and started a family. He chose to stop his musical carrier to take care of his family and became a worker in a fabrics factory in Brussels. But his tango heart kept beating on so after 10 years Alfredo started playing and performing again. During the day he worked in the factory and at night he performed with his **Trio Al Sur**. That is how he met **Ensemble Piacevole**, the quintet he now performs with regularly.