# **Argentine Tango Instrumental Music: Currents in Latin American and Iberian Music**

The Argentine tango is a captivating musical genre that has captivated audiences worldwide. While its origins lie in the late 19th century, tango has undergone significant transformations over the decades, evolving into a diverse and vibrant art form that encompasses both traditional and contemporary expressions.

Argentine tango instrumental music, in particular, has played a pivotal role in shaping the genre's evolution. This article delves into the history, influences, and contemporary currents of Argentine tango instrumental music, exploring its impact on Latin American and Iberian music.



### Tracing Tangueros: Argentine Tango Instrumental Music (Currents in Latin American and Iberian Music)

by John Broven

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The Birth of Tango

The roots of Argentine tango can be traced back to the late 19th century, when European immigrants, primarily from Italy and Spain, arrived in Buenos Aires. These immigrants brought with them their own musical traditions, which blended with local rhythms and melodies to create a new and distinctive sound.

Initially, tango was performed by small ensembles consisting of violins, guitars, and bandoneons. The bandoneon, a type of concertina, became synonymous with tango music and played a central role in defining its unique sound.

#### The Golden Age of Tango

The early 20th century marked the "Golden Age" of tango, as the genre gained immense popularity both in Argentina and abroad. This period saw the rise of legendary tango musicians such as Carlos Gardel, Julio de Caro, and Osvaldo Pugliese.

During this time, tango instrumental music flourished, with composers and performers experimenting with new arrangements and compositions. The tango orchestra expanded to include a wider range of instruments, such as the piano, bass, and drums, creating a more sophisticated and dynamic sound.

#### **The Tango Nuevo Movement**

In the mid-20th century, a new generation of tango musicians emerged, known as the "Tango Nuevo" movement. These musicians sought to break away from the traditional conventions of tango and incorporate elements from jazz, classical music, and other genres.

Tango Nuevo pioneers such as Astor Piazzolla transformed the genre by experimenting with polyrhythms, extended harmonies, and unconventional instrumentation. This movement breathed new life into tango, attracting a wider audience and establishing its place as a legitimate art form.

#### **Contemporary Argentine Tango Instrumental Music**

Today, Argentine tango instrumental music continues to evolve and thrive. While traditional styles remain popular, contemporary musicians are pushing the boundaries of the genre, incorporating elements from electronic music, world music, and improvisation.

New technologies have also played a significant role in the resurgence of tango instrumental music. Digital recording and distribution have made it easier for musicians to share their work with a global audience, leading to increased exposure and appreciation for the genre.

#### Influence on Latin American and Iberian Music

Argentine tango instrumental music has had a profound impact on Latin American and Iberian music. Its unique rhythms, melodies, and instrumentation have influenced countless musicians across the region.

In Latin America, tango has inspired musicians in countries such as Uruguay, Colombia, and Mexico to create their own distinctive tango styles. In Spain, tango has found a receptive audience, with Spanish musicians incorporating tango elements into flamenco and other traditional forms.

Argentine tango instrumental music is a vibrant and ever-evolving art form that has captivated audiences worldwide. From its humble beginnings in the late 19th century to its contemporary resurgence, tango has undergone

significant transformations, showcasing the genre's adaptability and enduring appeal.

Through its influence on Latin American and Iberian music, Argentine tango instrumental music has played a crucial role in shaping the cultural landscape of the region. As the genre continues to evolve, it is sure to captivate and inspire generations of musicians and listeners alike.



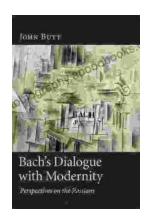
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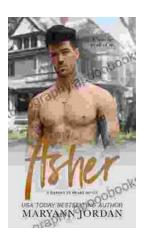
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