Carlos Gardel: The King of Tango, “El Zorzal Criollo”

Carlos Gardel (born Charles Romuald Gardes, December 11, 1890–June 24, 1935) was a French-Argentine singer, songwriter, composer, and actor and the most prominent figure in the history of tango. Gardel’s baritone voice and the dramatic phrasing of his lyrics made miniature masterpieces of his hundreds of three-minute tango recordings. Together with lyricist and long-time collaborator Alfredo Le Pera, Gardel wrote several classic tangos.

Gardel died in an airplane crash at the height of his career, becoming an archetypal tragic hero mourned throughout Latin America. For many, Gardel embodies the soul of the tango style. He is commonly referred to as “Carlitos,” “El Zorzal” (The [Song] Thrush), “The King of Tango,” “El Mago” (The Wizard), “El Morocho del Abasto” (the brunette boy from Abasto), and, ironically, “El Mudo” (The Mute).
**Part I**

**GARDEL DELINCUENTE** *(Delinquent Gardel)*

**MISTERIOSO PASADO** *(Mysterious Past)*  
Fernando Marzan

**AMORES DE ESTUDIANTE** *(Loves of a Student)*  
Gardel/Le Pera/Mario Batistella

Romantic waltz; Gardel is a young teen.

**ZORRO GRIS** *(Grey Fox)*  
Rafael Tuegols/F. García

One couple dances.

**ORCHESTRA SOLO**

**GARDEL Y SUS PASIONES** *(Gardel and His Passions)*

**FUTBOL** *(Soccer)*  
Fernando Marzan

**A LA CANCHA** *(At the Arena)*  
José Dames

The dancers enter the stage as if entering a futbol stadium. Orchestral percussion mimics shouts and applause of the fans.

**LA LUCIÉRNAGA** *(The Firefly)*  
Vicente Greco

**RACING CLUB**

**BOXEO Y TURF** *(Boxing and Turf)*

**MARCHA DEPORTIVA** *(Sports Gear)*  
Fernando Marzan

Gardel watches one of his friends boxing.

**POR UNA CABEZA** *(By a Head)*  
Gardel/Le Pera

Group dance in the style of American tango

**TIERRA QUERIDA** *(Land Wanted)*  
Julio de Caro

One couple dances.

**GAUCHO** *(Cowboy)*

**MILONGA TRISTE** *(Sad Milonga)*  
Homero Manzi

Gardel, dressed in Cowboy attire, is at a Milonga, a place where tango is traditionally danced. He prepares for the boleadoras.

**BOLEADORAS**

**ORCHESTRA SOLO**

**SOL TROPICAL** *(Tropical Sun)*  
Terig Tucci/Le Pera

Rumba with the full company; very colorful and rhythmic

**INTERMISSION**
Part II

GARDEL IN PARIS

MIMÍ PINZÓN
Elegant Parisian cabaret

EL DIA QUE ME QUIERAS (The Day That I Want)
One couple dances in this romantic scene with minimal accompaniment

EL MARNE (The Marne)
Four couples dances.

LA CUMPARSITA
One couple dances.

GARDEL ON BROADWAY

RUBIAS DE NEW YORK (Blondes in New York)
Gardel and four blondes

IDOLOS (Idols)
Arrangement that includes fragments from Candilejas (Limelight)

BALADA PARA UN LOCO (Ballad for a Madman)
Gardel meets Piazzolla.

TANGO DE GARDEL (Tango of Gardel)
Full company; Astor Piazzolla receives inspiration from Carlos Gardel.

ORCHESTRA SOLO

PIAZZOLLA

LIBERTANGO
One couple dances.

DÚO DE AMOR (Duet of Love)
One couple dances.

LA MUERTE DEL ANGEL (The Death of an Angel)
Gardel dies tragically in a plane crash in Medellin, Colombia.

FINALE
Full company
Engagement Events

Friday, September 22, 2017, following the performance
TANGO IN THE CUBE
Led by Sapphire Ballroom and Dance Center

Following the performance by Tango Buenos Aires, learn to tango and dance the night away. No experience necessary. Free; admission first-come, first-served, but to guarantee your spot, register through the box office.

Special thanks to Sapphire Ballroom and Dance Center, Lane Mattox, and Debbi Sheldon Richey

For Students

TO BE REPLACED ONCE GET TEXT ABOUT DSA PROGRAM: Alique et ped qui verum que eos voluptasit vel moluptat quatusam videl inienis verovit, suntoru ntiam, sam, volupta idebit, acid quisciustio. Mos aliquatisqui officaboresent nem inihitio volo dolum fugit acias conet qui tectaturibus verernam quiam, explicil estis et dis sererchilic totata issuntureped mintinc iatqui officid essequi deribusam aut praeperum vent la doluptiae endeliq uiberuptae exernatio. Dant, init fugia doluptate verem. Et ape inciatur re sere, nosti dolorum etur re nonserrorae et, sunt.

ASPIRATIONS FOR STUDENT LEARNING

Curiosity
Self-Understanding and Integrity
Courageous Leadership

QUESTION FOR REFLECTION

In what ways were the cross-cultural and social roots of tango evident in the performance? Be specific in describing what you saw and heard.

For more resources for educators, students, and lifelong learners to help you dig deeper and engage with this performance and our other season performances, view our Learning Guide at artscenter.vt.edu/experiences.
In the Galleries

RADCLIFFE BAILEY
September 14-December 9, 2017
Miles C. Horton Jr. Gallery and Sherwood Payne Quillen '71 Reception Gallery
Painter, sculptor, and mixed media artist Radcliffe Bailey (American, based in Atlanta, Georgia) layers found objects, materials, and potent imagery to explore connections between past and present, personal experience and collective memory. In this installation, Bailey references historical and ancestral communities and migrations, including enslaved African peoples escaping through Virginia’s Great Dismal Swamp, while examining concepts of identity race, culture, and the mnemonic power of objects. For more information on this artist, please visit jackshainman.com/artists.

GALLERY HOURS
Monday-Friday, 10 AM-5:30 PM
Saturday, 10 AM-4 PM
To arrange a group tour or class visit, please contact Meggin Hicklin, exhibitions program manager, at megh79@vt.edu.

Pictured:
Windward Coast—West Coast Slave Trade, 2009-2011 (detail)
Piano keys, plaster bust, and glitter
Dimensions variable, shown here in black and white
©Radcliffe Bailey
Courtesy of the artist and Jack Shainman Gallery, New York