



Malmgren Concert Series

presents

Pedro Giraudo Tango Quartet

Sunday, September 14, 2025
4 p.m.

We acknowledge with respect the Onondaga Nation,
Firekeepers of the Haudenosaunee,
the Indigenous people on whose ancestral lands
Syracuse University now stands.

PROGRAM

Welcome: Rev. Brian Konkol, Vice President and Dean of Hendricks Chapel

Today's program will feature the following pieces:

Lo que vendrá	Astor Piazzolla
Chicharrita	Pedro Giraudo
Con un nudo en la garganta	Giraudo
Gallo Ciego	Agustin Bardi
Milonga Infausta	Giraudo
Dartmouth	Giraudo
Verano Porteño	Piazzolla, arr. Oscar Escalada

*Featuring the Hendricks Chapel Choir,
José "Peppie" Calvar, director*

Destrezas	Giraudo
Romance del Diablo	Piazzolla
La muerte de Ángel	Piazzolla
Resurrección del Ángel	Piazzolla
Con Creces	Giraudo

Pedro Giraudo Tango Quartet

Sami Merdinian, violin
Shinjoo Cho, bandoneón
Jun Cho, piano
Pedro Giraudo, bass

Malmgren concerts are presented with support from the Malmgren Fund.

About the band

Latin GRAMMY Award winner Pedro Giraudo Tango Quartet represents the evolution of tango, from its roots in the traditional Orquesta típica, then to tango nuevo as epitomized by Astor Piazzolla, and now to a contemporary sound that respects the past and looks to the future. Pedro Giraudo, who has become an active cultural ambassador of this beautiful and passionate music of his native Argentina, brings something new and exciting to the form while retaining all the lushness and beauty of tango.

After two decades performing with the most important interpreters of tango, Pedro Giraudo debuted his own Tango Orchestra at Lincoln Center's Midsummer Night Swing and since then has become one of the most compelling tango artists worldwide. Among the many noteworthy events in Pedro Giraudo's career, in 2014 Pedro recorded bass on Ruben Blades' CD "Tangos", which won a Grammy and a Latin Grammy. He is also the musical director of Tango for All's "Blind", Mariela Franganillo Company's "Tango Connection" and "Tango Recuerdo," and performed with U.S.'s most prominent tango artists including Pablo Ziegler, Hector Del Curto, and Luis Bravo's "Forever Tango."

For more information, please visit pedrogiraudo.com

About the musicians

Pedro Giraudo

Latin GRAMMY Award winner bassist and composer Pedro Giraudo is among the most compelling tango artists today. After two decades performing with the most important interpreters of tango, Pedro Giraudo debuted his own Tango Orchestra at Lincoln Center's Midsummer Night Swing in July 2015 and since then has become an active cultural ambassador of this beautiful and passionate music of his native Argentina.

In 2018 his album 'Vigor Tanguero' won a Latin GRAMMY award for 'Best Tango Album'. In 2014 Ruben Blades' CD "Tangos" on which he recorded bass won two Grammys Awards (Best Tango Album & Best Latin Pop). Pedro Giraudo has collaborated with Pablo Ziegler, Paquito D'Rivera, and Dizzy Gillespie's protégé William Cepeda, as well as 'Tango meets Jazz' guests: Branford Marsalis, Kenny Garrett, Regina Carter, Nestor Torres, Miguel Zenon among many others. Pedro Giraudo has also collaborated as a performer and arranger for one of New York's most respected institutions: The New York Philharmonic and has played the bass for the magnificent New York City Ballet Orchestra. He has also been the musical director of Tango for All's 'Blind', Mariela Franganillo Company's "Tango Connection" and "Tango Recuerdo" and performed with U.S.'s most prominent tango ensembles including 'Forever Tango', Hector Del Curto's 'Eternal Tango' and Daniel Binelli's 'Tango Metropolis'. He has participated in numerous jazz and music festivals throughout the North America, Europe, Latin America, the Caribbean and Asia, and performed in venues such as The Blue Note (Japan & USA), Birdland (Austria), London's Queen Elizabeth Hall, Jazz Festival Royale in Thailand, Kennedy Center (Washington DC), Iridium, Jazz Standard, Blue Note, Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall (NYC).

Sami Merdinian

Sami Merdinian is an internationally recognized Argentine violinist celebrated for his exceptional work as a soloist, chamber musician, and tango specialist. He has performed with renowned orchestras including the Montevideo Philharmonic, Argentine National Symphony, Charlemagne Orchestre, Buenos Aires Philharmonic, Duluth Symphony, Rochester Philharmonic, and Richmond Symphony.

As a member of the acclaimed string quintet Sybarite5, Mr. Merdinian has graced stages at Carnegie Hall, the Library of Congress, and Lincoln Center, in addition to extensive tours across the United States, Canada, Asia, and South America. Sybarite5's latest album, Collective Wisdom, debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard Classical Music chart, underscoring the ensemble's artistic excellence.

Mr. Merdinian also maintains active roles with several distinguished ensembles. He regularly performs with the Orchestra of St. Lukes and Novus NYC, has served as principal with the Experiential Orchestra and The Orchestra of San Antonio, and held the position of assistant concertmaster with the American Ballet Theatre Orchestra. He also serves as the concertmaster of the Greenwich Symphony Orchestra. His expertise as a tango violinist has led to collaborations with leading figures in the genre, earning him a Grammy nomination for Best Tango Album. His recordings span respected labels such as Universal Records, Canary Classics, CAG Records, Bright Shiny Things, and Green Parrot Records.

Throughout his career, Mr. Merdinian has garnered numerous accolades. He is a prize winner of several international competitions including a Gold Medal at the XII International Young Solo Instrumentalists Competition in Argentina and special recognition at the New Talent Competition in Slovakia. He has been honored with the Rising Star Award by Tiffany & Co. and named Outstanding Artist of the Year by the Argentinian press. His artistry has been showcased on prominent platforms such as WQXR in New York, live broadcasts from the Concertgebouw's Spiegelsaal, the Argentinian Classical National Station, NPR, South Korea's KBS, and the BBC.

In addition to his performance career, Mr. Merdinian is dedicated to music education and cultural leadership. He is the Co-Founder and Artistic Director of the New Docta Festival in Argentina, has conducted masterclasses worldwide, and has delivered lectures on music and entrepreneurship at esteemed institutions including Penn State, Curtis Institute, New England Conservatory, and The New School.

Shinjoo Cho

Bandoneonist, composer, and pianist Shinjoo Cho began her music studies at age five in Korea and continued her music development in tango, chamber, and improvised music in the US and Argentina. Shinjoo collaborated with music, dance, and film makers in multi-disciplinary projects and performed on notable stages and festivals in the US, Canada, Latin America, Europe, and Korea. Shinjoo participated in the Marlboro Music Festival under the baton of Leon Fleisher, appeared as a guest soloist with the Cleveland Orchestra at Severance Hall and NY Master Chorale, and performed with tango orchestras at the Lincoln Center summer concert series. During her 2014-2016 residency in Argentina, some of Shinjoo's notable performances included appearing as a solo pianist for the president of Argentina at the inauguration of Centro Cultural Kirchner, a Teatro Colón debut with Branford Marsalis Quartet, and participation in Diego Schissi's Música Maestra ensemble at Centro Cultural Kirchner Symphonic Hall. She studied bandoneon with Santiago Segret, Luís Caruana, Matias Gobbo, and Hector del Curto and tango piano with Hernán Possetti and Cristian Zárate.

Her recent projects include creating and producing *Lo que vendrá*, a retrospective and marathon concert of Astor Piazzolla's music presented by Esperanza Arts Center, and composition for film and radio, such as the *Lewis Latimer* documentary and WHYY's *Route 47: Historias Along a Bus Route*. Currently, she is a member of Oscuro Quintet, El Sesenta dúo, Abaddon Sextet, and Orquesta Solidaridad and teaches bandoneón and tango ensemble at Swarthmore College and Central High School.

Shinjoo is a recipient of Philadelphia Cultural Treasures, Leeway Foundation, and Independence Foundation grants. Her first solo bandoneon album *Abriendo y Cerrando* was released in February 2025 on Innova Recordings.

Jun Cho

Pianist Jun Cho is a multifaceted artist known for his versatility as a soloist, chamber musician, and educator. His performances have captivated audiences in major venues such as Carnegie Hall, Merkin Hall, 92nd Street Y, Conrad Prebys Performing Arts Center, Benaroya Hall, Kennedy Center, Barclay Theater, Salle Bourgie, Sala Sinfonia Pablo Casals, and Seoul Arts Center, among others. Cho has appeared as a guest artist at Texas Wesleyan University, Gijón International Piano Festival, La Jolla Music Society, Cabrillo Festival, Harriman-Jewell Series, North Shore Chamber Music Festival, and Buffalo Chamber Music Society, Pro Arte Musical Puerto Rico, among others. He has given lectures and masterclasses in Arizona State University and Sungshin Women's University, and Korea International School of Arts (KISA).

A passionate collaborator, Cho frequently performs with esteemed musicians such as Itzhak Perlman, Joshua Bell, Philippe Quint, Stefan Jackiw, Ray Chen, Clive Greensmith, Steven Banks, and Randall Goosby, among others. As a featured pianist with the Pedro Giraudo Tango Quartet, a winner of the Latin GRAMMY Award, Cho brings the rich tradition of tango to life in renowned New York City venues such as The Iridium, Joe's Pub, and Barbès.

Concurrent with his position at Syracuse University as Assistant Professor of Piano, Cho is an artist-faculty member at the Perlman Music Program and serves as the studio pianist for violinist Itzhak Perlman at the Juilliard School. At Juilliard, he also assists piano faculty member Julian Martin. In the past, he served as a faculty member at the Heifetz Institute and taught at the Michael P. Hammond Preparatory Division at Rice University.

Cho holds a Bachelor of Music and Master of Music in piano performance from the Juilliard School and a Doctor of Musical Arts from the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University. His teachers include Julian Martin and Jon Kimura Parker.

The Malmgren Concert Series of Hendricks Chapel

Sundays at 4:00 p.m. in Hendricks Chapel

Join us for music to stir the soul and ignite the spirit as we welcome renowned musicians to the stage of Hendricks Chapel in the heart of Syracuse University! Sundays at 4 PM – free and open to the public.

October 5 - Boston Public Quartet

This acclaimed piano and strings chamber ensemble presents an exciting and eclectic program of music by women composers from Mel Bonis to Jessie Montgomery.

October 19 - Remembrance and Resilience

University Singers perform Herbert Howells' Requiem and Syracuse University Symphony Orchestra presents Thea Musgrave's Phoenix Rising in a concert commemorating victims of violence and terrorism, including those who perished in the Pan Am 103 Air Disaster.

November 16 - Fall Choral Concert with the Setnor School of Music Choirs

Choirs from the Setnor School of Music perform an inspiring program featuring a diverse array of composers and styles to celebrate the close of the fall semester.

For more information, visit chapel.syracuse.edu.