



# QuinTango

The lights dim . . .  
The pulse quickens . . .  
The tango begins . . .

## QuinTango Fact Sheet

PERFORMER: **QuinTango** – 2 violins, cello, double bass, piano

GENRE: **Concert tango music (with narrative commentary)**

PROGRAMS: **Concerts, Educational Programs, Pops Concert with Symphony Orchestra**

REQUIREMENT: **Tuned grand piano, 2 speaking microphones**

CONCERTS: **The White House, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center (U.MD), Kravis Center (W. Palm Beach), Embassy of Argentina, Organization of American States, U.S. Department of State, The Smithsonian Institution, The National Building Museum, The Corcoran Gallery (Armand Hammer Auditorium), Strathmore Hall Mansion, Avalon and Barter Theaters**

FESTIVALS AND RESIDENCIES: **9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> International Festivals of Costa Rica, Piccolo Spoleto Festival - 4 seasons (Charleston, S.C.), Virginia Highlands Festival - 2 seasons, John F. Kennedy Center Open House Arts Festival; Festival of Arts in Southwest Virginia; Pro-Art Residency, Southwest Virginia**

### AFFILIATIONS:

- MidAtlantic Arts Touring Artist, Virginia Commission for the Arts Touring Artist
- Washington Performing Arts Society Concerts in Schools Artist; Arts for Every Student In-School Artist (Washington, D.C.); WPAS Embassy Adoption Program Artist
- Chamber Music America Residency Partnership Grant Recipient, 2003-4

### PERFORMANCE COLLABORATIONS:

- actors/dancers Robert Duvall and Pablo Veron (star of *The Tango Lesson* and *Tango Argentino*)
- grammy-nominated master bandoneonist Raul Jaurena (NY Tango Trio), bandoneonists Hector Del Curto (music director of *Forever Tango*) and Tito Castro, guitarist Pancho Navarro
- The National Building Museum - Tango Festival 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002

### SOLOS WITH SYMPHONY:

- Charleston Symphony 2001-2 pops season; Augusta Symphony, Ars Flores Orchestra '03; Wichita Symphony '04

### PRESS QUOTES:

- "The night was cold, windy and wet, but the music was definitely hot,"* **Richmond Times Dispatch**
- "Refined and elegant . . . exceptional mastery . . . impressive sonority . . . sensuality and tenderness . . . brilliant . . . admirable precision,"* **La Nación, San Jose, Costa Rica**
- "For haunting melody, rhythm that makes every part of your anatomy move, and a feeling of warmth and enthusiasm, QuinTango is downright wonderful. Talk about a great evening!"* **Robert Jones, Spoleto Critic for Post and Courier**, Charleston SC
- "Dramatic power, sublime lyricism . . . rousing . . . brooding . . . plenty of passion . . . a certain playfulness and vitality . . . deeply soulful tone."* **The Washington Post**
- "One of the world's best tango orchestras"* **The Hagerstown Exponent**
- "One of Washington's finest instrumental ensembles."* **The Washington Post**

DISCOGRAPHY: **QuinTango** ( 1998); **Secret Places** ( 2000), **To Buenos Aires with Love** (2003)

FEES: **\$1000 - \$15,000 - please contact us to talk about specific concert fees**

CONTACT: **Joan Singer - 703-548-9148 or e-mail: [joan@quintango.com](mailto:joan@quintango.com) URL: [www.quintango.com](http://www.quintango.com)**



The lights dim . . .  
The pulse quickens . . .  
The tango begins . . .

## QuinTango - Bio

**QuinTango**, a touring quintet of two violins, cello, bass and piano, brings a century's worth of tango repertoire to the concert stage with sizzling musicality and captivating narrative style. Winner of two consecutive WAMMIES, **QuinTango** is the only tango music group to have given a Command Performance at The White House. **QuinTango** has been heard on NPR's Morning Edition, CNN, and network television in both the USA and Costa Rica.

When **QuinTango** made their debut at Charleston's Piccolo Spoleto Festival, Spoleto critic Robert Jones wrote exuberantly that "...their concerts packed the place and sent the customers home tango crazy." This year's review read, "The real news about this splendid group is that they're getting better all the time." **QuinTango** has also performed at both the 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> International Music Festivals in Costa Rica. Recent festival performances in this country include the Kennedy Center Open House Festival, Wolf Trap's Theatre-in-the-Woods Children's Festival and the Virginia Highlands Festival. **QuinTango** made its European debut in 2002 with five performances in Normandy, France.

Last year the group joined Maestro Donald Portnoy and the Augusta Symphony as soloists in their Valentine Pops at the Bell concert. They were featured soloists for the Ars Nova Orchestra's Gala Fundraiser under the baton of Lynn Luce at Miniaci Hall in Davies, FL. In 2001, QuinTango joined Maestro David Stahl and the Charleston Symphony as soloists for the opening concert of their pops season. Extending their tango reach to Kansas, the group will make three appearances in 2004 with the Wichita Symphony.

With sizzling energy and contagious passion, **QuinTango** gave sixty concerts last year in venues ranging from an elementary school in eastern North Carolina to the 1000-seat 19<sup>th</sup> century Teatro Nacional in San Jose, Costa Rica. It is this devotion to bringing the music of tango to new audiences that prompted the Washington Post to proclaim **QuinTango** "one of Washington's musical treasures." # # #



# QuinTango

The lights dim ...  
The pulse quickens ...  
The tango begins ...

The “Meet the Artists” section below includes the musicians who have performed in multiple formal concerts, tours, or educational programming. They are the heart and soul of QuinTango’s extended family. The list is alphabetical.

## Meet the Artists:

**Paula Akbar**, *violin*, made her debut with QuinTango at the 2002 Piccolo Spoleto Festival and has since toured with the group in Florida and Costa Rica. She can be heard on the group’s new release, “*To Buenos Aires with Love*” and at selected concerts in the 2003-4 season. She has played in the Oregon, New Haven and Baltimore Symphonies and the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra. She is currently a member of the Eclipse Chamber Orchestra and a first violinist in the National Symphony Orchestra.

**Libby Blatt**, *double bass*, is a **founding and current member** of QuinTango, with whom she has toured Costa Rica and France. She can be heard on all of QuinTango’s albums. She has performed in Washington, Miami, Chicago and New York with Hungarian orchestras, chamber groups, string quartets and dance bands. She has concertized in France, Italy, Germany and Holland with the Capital Chamber Ensemble.

**Eva Cappelletti-Chao**, *violin*, made her Piccolo Spoleto debut with QuinTango in 2001. As a youngster she studied Suzuki violin and loved bluegrass. She went on to concertize throughout the Americas, Europe and Asia with chamber groups and The New World Symphony. She served as concertmaster of Washington Chamber Orchestra and is a frequent performer with the Washington Opera.

**Luisa Casanovas**, *violin*, has performed with QuinTango in the Washington, D.C., metro area and on tour during the 2002-3 and 2003-4 seasons. She began her studies at the National Conservatory of Music in the Dominican Republic and completed her graduate studies at Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore. She is a winner of the prestigious Marbury Competition for Violin and has performed as soloist with the National Symphony of Santo Domingo. She has served as a principal player for both the Annapolis Symphony and Concert Artists of Baltimore and has served as concertmaster for the Salisbury and Goucher Symphonies, the Mechanic and the National Theatre Orchestras, the Columbia Pro Cantare and the Annapolis Chamber Orchestra.

**Ronald M. Chiles**, *piano*, made his QuinTango debut in 2003. He has been featured soloist on three separate occasions with the Boston Pops Orchestra, and has recently performed as soloist with the National Symphony Orchestra under Leonard Slatkin. He is an active accompanist and theater musician who has been heard in twenty-seven national touring shows in the past six years at the Kennedy Center, National Theater, Warner Theater, Arena Stage, Lisner Auditorium and Mechanic Theater. He is a former piano soloist/Chief-in-Charge of the U.S. Navy Concert Band and former leader and musical director of the U.S. Navy Band Sea Chanters. He holds degrees from the University of Arkansas and Catholic University of America.

**Irma Field Cripe**, *cello*, is a **founding member** of QuinTango. Her cello and speaking performances can be heard on QuinTango's first two albums. An enthusiastic music teacher, she has organized courses and festivals in both her native Costa Rica and the United States. She currently maintains a thriving cello studio in Bowie, Maryland. She has performed with the National Symphony of Costa Rica, the Wichita Symphony, and currently is a member of the Alexandria Symphony. She has appeared in concert at the Embassy of Costa Rica, Corcoran Gallery of Art, the National Museum of Women and the Arts, and the Inter-American Development Bank. A Fullbright Scholar, she received her M.M. from Wichita State University.

**Karen Davis**, *piano*, made her debut with QuinTango in the Winter of 2003 and toured with the group to Indiana, Georgia, and North Carolina. She made her debut with the National Symphony Orchestra playing a Mozart Concerto at age twelve. A graduate of the NC School of the Arts, she won first prize in the National Society of Arts and Letters Competition, as well as the Bartok, Baldwin and Inter-American Festival Competitions. She studied at Juilliard and at Peabody with Leon Fleisher. She has appeared as soloist throughout the USA, Europe, Asia and South America. The London Times described her performance as "unique and assured . . . played with sparkling brilliance and technical accuracy."

**Jorge Espinoza**, *cello*, has been QuinTango's principal cellist since the summer of 2002. He made both his European and Piccolo Spoleto debuts in 2001 with QuinTango. He can be heard on the group's new release, "*To Buenos Aires with Love*." He is the 2001 winner of the Doctor Luis Sigall International Cello Competition in Viña del Mar, Chile. He received the Gregor Piatigorsky Scholarship at Peabody Institute in Baltimore, where he served as teaching assistant to Stephen Kates. He holds an undergraduate degree from the Catholic University of Santiago, a master's degree from Carnegie Mellon University, and an artist's diploma from Peabody.

**Aron Rider**, *cello*, made her concert debut with QuinTango in 2002 and has been a regular member of QuinTango's Concerts-in-Schools group during the 2002-3 season. A featured soloist with the Anderson Symphony Orchestra, Pam-American Symphony, and the Chesapeake Chamber Orchestra, she has given solo cello recitals throughout the Midwest, South and in the Washington metro area. She currently is on the faculty of St. Mary's College and has an extensive private teaching studio in Northern Virginia. She performs with numerous groups in the Washington metro area, including the National Chamber Orchestra.

**Rachel Schenker**, *violin*, is a **founding member** of QuinTango. She can be heard on the first two QuinTango albums. She holds degrees in music performance from Indiana University, where she studied with the legendary Josef Gingold, and Yale University, where she studied with Oscar Shumsky. An active freelancer in Washington, D.C., she has performed with the Washington Bach Consort, the Kennedy Center Opera, and Virginia Beach Pops. She is a member of the National Gallery Orchestra and the Harrisburg Symphony. A devoted teacher, she teaches students of all ages throughout the

Washington metropolitan area.

**Joan Singer**, *violin*, is the **founder and current director** of QuinTango. She first fell in love with Latin music while living in Mexico. She is a member of the Baltimore Opera Orchestra and Capitol Chamber Ensemble. She holds degrees from Earlham College and DePauw University. Since founding QuinTango, she has found little time for anything else.

**Bruce Steeg**, *piano*, is a **founding member** of QuinTango and a graduate of the Juilliard School of Music. His brilliant piano work can be heard on all of QuinTango's albums. He served as soloist with the U.S. Military Academy Band at West Point as well as appearing as soloist with the National Symphony, the New York Philharmonic, and the Cleveland Orchestra. He toured with Paul Whiteman, Guy Lombardo, and Yul Brynner before coming to Washington, D.C., as conductor of the National Ballet. He has performed in concert with Marilyn Horne, Robert Merrill, Beverley Sills, and Michel Legrand. In addition to his current work with QuinTango, he is the pianist with the National Symphony Pops under the direction of Marvin Hamlisch.

**Jeffery Watson**, *piano*, made his Piccolo Spoleto debut with QuinTango in 2003. He has appeared as soloist with the Honduran National Symphony, Pan-American Symphony, and Chautauqua Festival Orchestra. In 2002, he performed as associate conductor for the Kennedy Center's award-winning production of Stephen Sondheim's "Sunday in the Park with George." He holds degrees from DePauw University, Eastman School of Music, and the University of Maryland. He is a regular performer with the Contemporary Forum in Washington, D.C. When not performing tango, Dr. Watson is the Executive Director of the Capitol Hill Arts Workshop (CHAW).

July 2003.



The lights dim ...  
The pulse quickens ...  
The tango begins ...

## Recent Performance History

### A Sampling of 2002-3 Concerts:

- Kravis Center, W. Palm Beach, FL
- Take 5!, Clarice Smith Center, U of MD
- Wolf Trap: Children's Theater-in-the -Woods
- Thalian Hall, Wilmington, ND
- Flagler Auditorium, Key West, FL
- Miniaci Performing Arts Center, Davies, FL
- Bell Auditorium, Augusta, GA
- Footlight Players Theatre, Piccolo Spoleto Festival, Charleston, SC
- Earlham Artist Series, Goddard Auditorium, Richmond, IN
- Georgia Southern Performing Arts Center, Statesboro, GA
- Teatro Nacional, San Jose, COSTA RICA
- l' Amphiteatre Dauré, Université de Caen, Normandie, FRANCE
- Sunrise Theatre, Southern Pines, NC
- Flora Macdonald Academy, Red Springs, NC
- Court House Square Arts al Fresco, Arlington, VA
- Barter Theatre, Abingdon, VA
- Holloway Hall Auditorium, Salisbury University, Salisbury, MD
- Glenview Mansion, Rockville, MD
- Jettie Baker Center, Clintwood, VA

(See "Concerts" on home page for complete list)