



Tangomania!

with

Payadora

**Saturday, March 9, 2024
7:30 p.m.**

Almonte Old Town Hall



**Mississippi
Mills**

PROGRAMME

<i>Nostálgico</i>	Julián Plaza (1928–2003)
<i>Volando</i>	Rebekah Wolkstein
<i>Señor que no me Mira</i>	Orlando Tripodi (1927–1995) / Mario Benedetti (1920–2009)
<i>Zamba para Olvidar</i>	Daniel Toro (1941–2023)
<i>Gaicho de Las Pampas</i>	Rebekah Wolkstein
<i>Retrato de Milton</i>	Astor Piazzolla (1921–1992)
<i>Tachero</i>	Drew Jurecka
<i>Cuando tú no estás</i>	Carlos Gardel (1890–1935), Marcel Lattes (1886–1943) / Alfredo Le Pera (1900–1935), Mario Battistella (1893–1968)
<i>Silk and Lace</i>	Rebekah Wolkstein
---Intermission---	
<i>Yo no sé Que me Han hecho tus Ojos</i>	Francisco Canaro (1888–1964)
<i>Invierno</i>	Horacio Pettorossi (1896–1960) / Enrique Cadícamo (1900–1999)
<i>Locura</i>	Rebekah Wolkstein
<i>Canción de Las simples Cosas</i>	Julio César Isella (1938–2021) / Armando Tejada Gómez (1929–1992)
<i>Por Una Cabeza</i>	Carlos Gardel / Alfredo Le Pera

Desencuentro

Aníbal Troilo (1914–1975) /
Cátulo Castillo (1906–1975)

Ondas

Drew Jurecka

Skeedaddle

Drew Jurecka

La Cumparsita

Gerardo Matos Rodríguez (1897–1948) /
Pascual Contursi (1888–1932),
Enrique Maroni (1887–1957)

All arrangements by Payadora

ABOUT PAYADORA

Payadora is an award-winning ensemble that performs its own arrangements of a core repertoire drawing from Argentinian/Uruguayan traditions (tangos, milongas, waltzes, and folk music such as the Zamba and chacarera), as well as original songs inspired by that tradition. Comprised of musicians who are each musical powerhouses in their own right, this “superstar group” has combined their profound love of tango with their classical, jazz and world music backgrounds to create something entirely new. Payadora is officially endorsed by the Argentinian Consulate in Toronto for its adherence to the spirit of tango, and audiences flock to performances that convey joy, virtuosity, humour, and intense passion.

Since 2013, Payadora has presented concerts and sold-out shows at the National Arts Centre, Ottawa Chamberfest, St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts, Toronto’s Harbourfront Centre, Stratford Summer Music, Toronto Summer Music, Festival of the Sound, Vancouver Island MusicFest, Toronto Jazzfest, the COC’s World Music Series at the Four Seasons Centre, and the World Accordion & Tango Festival in Victoria. Payadora has also collaborated with the London Symphonia, the Cathedral Bluffs Symphony, and the Hannaford Street Silver Band, as well as with PointeTango Dance Company, which explores the intersection between classical dance and earthy tango. Their sold-out 2023 European tour (Madrid, Copenhagen, Budapest, and London) included a live-to-air BBC performance.

In the spring of 2023, Payadora’s third and latest CD, the critically acclaimed *Silent Tears: The Last Yiddish Tango*, reached #1 on the World Music Charts in Europe, accompanied by rave reviews, airtime, and press coverage around the globe, including the BBC, CTV, CBC television and radio, the Bangkok Post, NPR, and RTE Irish Public Radio. “...The most memorable release I have ever had the privilege to listen to and review” (*WholeNote Magazine*). They have been named on “Best of” lists on NPR’s Rhythm Atlas, Finnish National Radio, and CBC Classical.

Rebekah Wolkstein – violin, vocals

Celebrated for her stunning virtuosity, nuance and broad musical versatility, Wisconsin-born violinist, Rebekah Wolkstein has established a strong

presence on the Toronto music scene. Rebekah has worked as an orchestral musician since winning an audition at the age of 16. She has performed and toured extensively with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, National Ballet of Canada, and the Canadian Opera Company.

An active studio musician, Rebekah is also at home playing in the styles of folk, klezmer, pop, Latin, and jazz and can be heard on numerous recordings including new releases by Donovan Woods, Laila Biali, Royal Wood, and Justin Gray.

Rebekah is the first violinist of the Venuti String Quartet. She has performed as a violin soloist with Esmerelda Enrique Spanish Dance Company, Kaeja Dance, live to air with Simon Spiro on classical 96.3 FM, and with Russell Braun.

Aside from her active performing career, Rebekah holds a Doctorate in Violin Performance from the University of Toronto as well as degrees in violin from the Cleveland Institute of Music. A dedicated educator, Rebekah teaches private lessons and ensembles out of her own studio and at Humber College.

Drew Jurecka – bandoneon, violin

Drew Jurecka began his relationship with Payadora as record producer for both of their albums. He is an accomplished jazz and session violinist but also an arranger, producer, composer, and multi-instrumentalist. Trained classically, he studied with Lorand Fenyves and has a degree from the prestigious Cleveland Institute of Music. Drew has spent the last twelve years playing jazz, pop, rock, and other contemporary styles in Toronto. Though violin is his primary instrument, he also works frequently as a performer and recording sideman on viola, saxophone, clarinet, and mandolin. For five years, Drew played with Jeff Healey as part of his Jazz Wizards band, which toured extensively across Canada. Drew can be heard on three of Jeff Healey's CDs, including the Juno Nominated *Last Call*. Drew has also toured nationally and internationally with The Polyjesters, Jesse Cook, Stuart McLean and the Vinyl Cafe, Alex Pangman, the Bebop Cowboys, and Jill Barber.

Drew's arrangements have been used on countless records for artists across Canada, the United States and Europe. Drew has written original scores for

eight stage plays, including seven for Vancouver-based Monster Theatre and one for Tracey Erin Smith's play *The Burning Bush*, which has been performed extensively in Toronto and New York City. He has also written and produced music for film, including the award-winning documentary *Cuba Libre* and the recent shorts *An Insignificant Man* and *Sidestep Goosestep*.

Drew currently teaches violin at Humber College, where he has helped to create the only specialized jazz strings post-secondary program in Canada. In seven years, the program has quadrupled in size and now includes ensembles, technique, and master classes in addition to private lessons. His students have gone on to win international jazz awards and to perform and record in Canada, the US and France. From 2002–2011, Drew was the director of the Jazz series at the Northern Lights Music Festival in Guadalajara, Mexico. During that time, he sold out nearly every show, performing with renowned Canadian artists such as Richard Underhill, Daniel Barnes, Terra Hazelton, Sophia Perlman, and Jill Barber. He is also a member of the Venuti String Quartet, a crossover quartet with violinist Rebekah Wolkstein.

Joseph Phillips – double bass, guitar

Born and raised in Toronto close to the rolling green hills of Christie Pits, Joe Phillips started studying classical guitar at age 9, at the University Settlement House Music School. He attended Oakwood Collegiate, and after some time playing the clarinet, he discovered the double bass. Time spent playing in various blues bars, Irish pubs, and booze cans and four years studying with renowned classical virtuoso Joel Quarrington have led to a busy and diverse career. When not playing principal bass in Orchestra London Canada, Joe can be found making music with artists as varied as The Art of Time Ensemble, Via Salzburg Chamber Orchestra, Group of 27 Chamber Orchestra, cabaret siren Patricia O'Callaghan, songwriters Jenny Whiteley, Sarah Slean, Ruth Moody, the Wailin' Jennys, Corin Raymond and Rita Chiarelli, jazz bassist/cellist/composer Andrew Downing, banjoist Jayme Stone, Canadian fiddlers Pierre Schryer and Shane Cook, and Irish flute and whistle virtuoso Nuala Kennedy. Joe has performed with the National Arts Centre Orchestra, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Les Violons du Roy, I Musici de Montréal, Tafelmusik, and the Festival of the Sound and is an annual participant in the Sweetwater Music weekend in Owen Sound.

Clark Schaufele – piano

Alberta-born pianist Clark Schaufele received his Doctorate in Music (Piano Performance) degree at the Université de Montréal under the guidance of Canadian pianist and educator, Paul Stewart. Clark enjoys a multi-faceted career, spanning genres beyond classical piano – on both the keyboards and the double bass, he has been involved in many performances, tours, and studio recordings, ranging from classical to jazz to country and folk. Across the years, he has served as pianist for dozens of musical theatre productions. As a classical piano educator, he was previously the Head of Piano and Accompaniment at the Regina Conservatory for the Performing Arts and has adjudicated local and provincial music festivals across Canada. Dedicated to his local communities, he regularly performs across the prairies in series such as Gustin House, Ranva House, Regina Musical Club, Concerts in Care, and the Hands Across series. Between academic seasons, he has also performed at the Stratford Music Festival, Regina Chamber Music Festival, Banff Centre, and the Orlando Festival in the Netherlands.

Elbio Fernandez – vocals

Elbio Fernandez, known as “El pequeño gigante del tango” (the little giant of tango), was born in Uruguay. It was in Uruguay where he learned to love music and tango. In 1989 he moved to Canada, and in the decades since, he has been performing concerts across North and South America. He has recorded two albums, his own *Elbio Fernandez Tangos* and another one with the Toronto Tango Orchestra. Since 2017, Elbio has been collaborating with superstar group Payadora Tango Ensemble, joining them in different performances and lending his vocals for their latest album *Volando*.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS AND AUDIENCES!

We extend our sincere thanks to the following donors
and to our audiences for their continued support.

Anonymous

Penny and Keith Blades

Margaret Campbell

Barbara Carroll

Diana and Robert Davison

Jan and Brad Johns

Alan and Glenda Jones

Mary Lou Levisky

Betty McCubbin

Bob and Barb Mingie

Anita Nevins

Penny Skelton

Rose Tekel

Arlene and Peter Trussler

L. Eric Wilson

MANY THANKS TO THE BUSINESSES THAT GENEROUSLY SUPPORT ALMONTE IN CONCERT!

Alliance Coin & Banknote

Almonte Hearing Aid Clinic

Almonte Pharmacy and Health
Centre

Almonte Print Shop and Picture
Framing

Barb Goodwin Wellness

BMO, Almonte

Brenda's New To You

Co-operators Insurance Group
Inc. – Wes Zacharuk

Dandelion Foods

Don's Meat Market

Engel & Völkers – Alexi

Johnston, Almonte

88 Keys / Troy Scharf

eXp Realty – Patrick Ashby

General Fine Craft

Joe's Italian Kitchen

L. G. Lee & Sons

Levi Home Hardware

McConville Piano Moving Specialists

Menzies House 1850 B&B

Mill Street Books

Mill Street Crepe Company

Ottawa's Finest

Peter Mansfield, Architect

RBC, Almonte

Ryno Motors

Silvarulrasa Gallery

Swarbrick Law

The Sterling

THRIVE Almonte Chiropractic

Tickets Please

Tom Barker – Royal LePage Team

Realty Almonte

Vamos Outdoors

Vodkrow