

News Release

FORD THEATRE FOUNDATION

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Artist biographies:

Quartet San Francisco http://www.quartet-sanfrancisco.com/qsfo_meet.html

Sandor <http://www.sandorparissa.com/sandor.htm>

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For Immediate Release

“TANGOS AND JAZZ” OPENS CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES AT THE FORD AMPHITHEATRE JULY 21



Quartet San Francisco and dancers **Sandor & Parissa** present sizzling evening

Hollywood – The award-winning **Quartet San Francisco** brings the sensuality of Argentine tango and the compelling rhythms of jazz to the Ford Amphitheatre on Friday, **July 21 at 8:30 p.m.** The concert kicks off the Ford Theatre Foundation’s chamber music series, “Vintage Evenings at the Ford” with a night of music and dance under the stars.

Quartet San Francisco’s “**Tangos and Jazz**” includes the quartet’s interpretation of works from legendary tango composers such as Carlos Gardel (1890– 1935), a tango singer/songwriter whose baritone voice and songs, including *El Día Que Me Quieras*, helped to propel tango into the mainstream. The program also features works from the composer Astor Piazzolla (1921–1992), one of tango music’s most influential composers, who revolutionized the traditional tango sound by incorporating jazz with classical music, resulting in the *nuevo tango* style.

Winners of the 2004 New York City International Tango Competition, the classically trained members of the quartet believe in performing each composition in a manner true to the style in which it was originally written. Jeremy Cohen, who was the solo violinist in the original cast of the Tony Award-nominated show “Forever Tango,” founded the quartet in 2001. Jeremy is the lead violin of the quartet which also includes his brother Joel Cohen (cello), Kayo Miki (violin) and Emily Onderdonk (viola).

Acclaimed tango dancers **Sandor and Parissa** join the quartet for tangos such as Piazzolla’s *Verano y Primavera*, and *Libertango*, Enrique Saborido’s *Felicia* and the most wellknown tango in the world, G.H. Rodriguez’ *La Cumparsita*. Married since 2000, Sandor and Parissa have choreographed and danced in a long list of theatrical productions and films. Along with Cohen, Sandor performed in “Forever Tango” as a principal dancer. Parissa’s latest film credit involved working as tango and ballroom coach for Antonio Banderas *Take the Lead*.

“Tangos and Jazz” also features performances of works by some of the most renowned jazz composers, including Henry Mancini’s *Pink Panther*, Dave Brubeck’s *Blue Rondo a la Turk* and Leonard’s Bernstein’s *Cool*.

Ticketholders for ‘Tangos and Jazz’ are invited to enjoy a glass of Geysir Peak Sauvignon Blanc in the Ford’s entryway garden before the concert. Each concert in the “Vintage Evenings series features a different complimentary wine. “Vintage” also refers to the Ford’s distinguished chamber music history: the theatre has played host to among others, cellist Gregor Piatigorsky and violinist Jascha Heifetz.

“Tangos and Jazz” is the first of three events at the Ford this summer highlighting Argentinean culture. Fiesta Argentina on August 12 features tango singer Esther Segovia as well as folk music of the pampas. Latin American Cinemateca of L.A. screens *Últimos días de la víctima (Last Days of the Victim)*, a masterful 1982 thriller from Argentina starring the country’s top actor, Federico Luppi, on September 19.

The Ford Theatre Foundation presents two subsequent “Vintage Evenings at the Ford” concerts: pianist **Christopher O’Riley** in a recital including Schumann, Shostakovich and Rachmaninoff (August 20); and **Trio Voronezh**, masters of Russian folk instruments playing a wide-ranging program embracing their trademark arrangements of classical and folk selections (September 15).

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