

Tom Montgomery

MonTango

MonTango was founded by Tom Montgomery to perform the music, dance and songs of Argentine Tango. Tom has been a Bay Area pianist for many years and his roots are in jazz. Although his degrees are in classical music, his most important early training came in his hometown of Kansas City, where in his teens and early twenties he played gigs throughout the Midwest with former members of the Duke Ellington and Count Basie Bands. Along with his wife, vocalist Georgia Montgomery, Tom has performed tours in Asia and Europe and for six years performed at the Top of the Mark in San Francisco. For ten years Tom and Georgia were featured performers each year at the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo. The two Marin County residents also appeared in and performed music for an NBC Prime Time TV series, "The Devlin Connection." In 1996 Tom became intrigued by the works of the great Argentine composer, Astor Piazzolla. Tango has since become a serious focus for both musicians.

Tom's passion for Tango led him to the study of the Argentine Bandoneon, the quintessential Tango instrument, which he plays on recordings and in live performances. When Tom first began exploring this music in 1996, none of the music was available in published form. So, left only with the recordings available, he set about painstakingly transcribing the music by ear, note by note. Although some of the music is now published, most of what is performed by **MonTango** has been obtained through these transcriptions. The group is now comprised of the classic Tango Quintet (Bandoneon, Violin, Piano, Guitar and Double Bass), vocalist and internationally acclaimed tango dancers.

In 2001, rock legend Steve Miller heard a performance of MonTango, and was so taken with it that he flew MonTango to his state-of-the-art recording studio in Sun Valley, to produce their first CD for them. Please with the product, Miller invited them back to produce their newly released second CD.

They enjoy the support of enthusiasts such as Joel Selvin of the S.F. Chronicle, Grammy-winner Gene Puerling and Marin County residents Huey Lewis and Mickey Hart. **MonTango** has been featured in the SF Chronicle Datebook's Critic Picks and their first CD was favorably reviewed in the San Francisco Bay Guardian. **MonTango** plans to perform at world music festivals internationally and to continue to commission original works and to perform traditional and contemporary Argentine Tango music.