

ARIEL RAMÍREZ BEYOND TIME AND HISTORY



Ariel Ramírez. Photo Credit: Ministry of Culture.

"There could not be a Ramírez who was not a teacher in Santa Fe", once said Ariel Ramírez, the musician who opened the doors of Argentine folklore and launched it into the world. His parents were educators, and he followed the family tradition along with his nine siblings and received his teaching degree at the Escuela Normal General San Martín. But the piano and the music were part of those childhood discoveries. One day, at the museum of the school where his father was principal, he discovered for the first time a piano and the "enchantment" took place, as he always used to say.

When he was 16 years old his father bought him the first piano, a Fredrich, and he felt his heart exploded. That day he was playing non-stop. However, beyond his piano teachers, the key to

his career was his meeting with Atahualpa Yupanqui. "You have good hands," Yupanqui told him, "but you would have to go North to learn to play zamba and chacarera." The next day he sent a ticket to Jujuy, ten pesos and letters of recommendation.

After that beginning, Ariel Ramírez began to write a new history of folklore in Argentina. This September 4, the day of the composer's birth, the Centro Cultural Kirchner along with the Argentine Society of Authors and Composers (SADAIC), of which he was its president for several years, organized the concert "Ariel Ramirez 100 años". Under the musical direction of Gustavo "Popi" Spatocco and the special participation of the ensemble led by the composer's son, Facundo Ramírez Grupo, the concert recreates

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emblematic works such as "Juana Azurduy", "Rosarito Vera, maestra", "Manuela la tucumana", "Alfonsina y el mar" (from "Mujeres Argentinas", which he composed with Félix Luna) and "Kyrie" and "Gloria" (from "Misa Criolla").

Guest artists such as Juan Falú, Marian Farías Gómez, Zamba Quipildor, Sergio Galleguillo, Víctor Heredia, Liliana Herrero, Ángela Irene, Los 4 de Córdoba, Luna Monti, Marcela Morelo, Ramón Navarro, Teresa Parodi, Zamba Quipildor, Patricia Sosa and Chango Spasiuk, among others, gather in this tribute that can be seen on YouTube and Facebook channels.

Composer of unforgettable classics such as "La tristecita", "Volveré siempre a San Juan", "El Paraná en una zamba", "Zamba de usted", Ramírez toured the country with his rhythms, put his own style and dug deeper into the Argentine essence. With works such as "Mujeres Argentinas" or "Cantata Sudamericana", productions that featured the incomparable poetics of the historian and writer Félix Luna, and had Mercedes Sosa as interpreter, Ramírez marked milestones in Argentine folklore.

However, beyond each of the great and small jewels of folklore, Ramírez used his audacity and his talent in "Misa Criolla", his greatest work. It was released in more than 40 countries with more than three million record labels sold, and was sung by George Dalaras, Mercedes Sosa and José Carreras, Plácido Domingo and Dominic Miller, among others.

Without question, it was one of the great milestones of Argentine popular music. Recorded for the first time in 1964 by the vocal ensemble Los Fronterizos and the choir of the Cantoria de la Basílica del Socorro, with the conduction of the Presbyter Jesús Gabriel Segade, the work synthesizes the spirit of the Catholic liturgy. The public premiere was in 1965 in Montevideo, and the first presentation tour of the work was in Germany, in 1967.

According to Ramírez, his intention in writing "Misa Criolla" was to do "something profound, religious, that honors life, and involves people beyond their beliefs, their race, their color or origin. A piece that refers to the human being, dignity, value, freedom, respect to God as the Creator."

Years after his death, on February 18, 2010, the "Misa Criolla" arrived at St. Peter's Basilica, in the Vatican, directed by Facundo Ramírez and performed by Patricia Sosa and the Roman Choir Música Nuova. The presentation, chaired by Pope Francis, was on December 12, 2014, and was organized by the Ministry of Culture of the Nation within the framework of the acts in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Ariel Ramírez and Mercedes Sosa. Photo Credit: Ministry of Culture.





Marian Fariáz Gómez. Photo Credit: Ministry of Culture.

Through each of his creations, Ariel Ramírez was weaving each and every one of the Argentine musical forms with its own sound that did not escape the autochthonous origins. But at the same time, he put his avant-garde and renovating touch that penetrated the history of the country, its people and its deepest feelings. ●

Concert video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BkfHoedIM78&t=5790s>

<https://www.facebook.com/elCCKirchner/videos/387310749426404>

THE ARGENTINE FESTIVAL RETURNS TO THE STAGE



Viviana Rettori and José Rojas dancing at Festival Argentino. Photo Credit: Festival Argentino.

It all started in the spring of 1988. May 25th. This is the date in which we celebrate our National Day. It was a Sunday at the Columbia Pike Library in Arlington, Virginia. Since then, the Argentine Festival, led by Daniel Manzoni, has become a letter of introduction to Argentine and Latin American music, dance and traditions. And at the same time, in a symbol of inclusion and diversity that brings together the community of the Washington DC area.

This year in which May was left behind, postponed by the restrictions imposed by

COVID-19, the Festival will celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. With the necessary health protocols, the 34th edition of the Argentine Festival is scheduled for Saturday, September 18 at the Thomas Jefferson Theater. And like every year, there will be live concerts, and a variety of traditional food stands and exhibitor stands.

Working in collaboration with artists and different institutions in the community has long been the cornerstone of the Argentine Festival. It is a space to celebrate our roots that has established itself as one of the most anticipated events in Arlington.



Daniel Bouchet one of the most popular singers of the Festival Argentino.
Photo Credit: Festival Argentino.

The Festival will feature tango and pop concerts, crafts, film screenings, dialogues with artists, photography, talks. Small businesses, entrepreneurs, arts and crafts, academics, technology specialists and students will have a space for the promotion of their products and works that will be coordinated with the arts, products and services.

From 4PM to 9PM this encounter with traditions will have dancers, folk singers, rock, pop, tango and music from different countries on its stage. Among the artists participating this year is Diego Iriarte leading voice of the remembered folk group Los del Suquía. Along with him, Daniel Bouchet, with his incomparable voice capable of traveling through different musical genres. MC Gedalia Vera, Gastón Cordero, Le Manch, Pedro Atencio, Salvatore, Daniel & Ramona, Gabriel

Gaumont, and Catrinel Iftode, Annabella Lapasta, Pedro Atencio with folk songs and legüero drum and Capital Tangueros will be part of the Festival.

Supported by the County of Arlington and under the sponsorship of the Argentine Embassy, the Festival proposes an annual ritual in which gastronomy; traditions and art have an inevitable appointment, even despite the pandemic. In fact, in the harshest months of 2020, the Festival presented virtually an audiovisual journey through its history and its artists. In this video, the Festival highlighted the work of more than 35 Argentine artists who participated on this event over the years. Among them, Los 4 de Córdoba, Pancho Figueroa and Facundo Saravia from the memorable group "Los Chalchaleros", as well as César Isella, Yaco Monti and Nito Mestre.

During all this time, Arlington County has been the ideal place for cultural exchange in which indigenous communities from Bolivia, Peru, Chile, Colombia, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, and Uruguay, among others, participate. With this Festival, the Argentine heritage becomes a reason for celebration in itself for those who live outside the country and also contributes to reaffirm diversity and culture. ●

Information:

Part of the ticket sales will benefit Pascuala Mugaburu school in Mar Del Plata, Argentina.

Protocol

Arlington County protocol requires that all persons wear a mask inside the theater and the building, as well as the performers during the performance. Its use in the "CourtYard" is optional.

When:

Saturday September 18. From 4:00 p.m. - 9:00 pm.

Where:

Thomas Jefferson School
125 S. Old Glebe Rd
Arlington, VA 22204