Astor Piazzolla & Argentine Tango 2019
Argentina’s Flag

“En unión y libertad”
- Motto
Demographics of Argentina

**Population:** (1921) 9.22 Million - (1992) 33.54 Million - (2017) 44,271,041

**Ethnic Groups:** More than half of the people have at least one indigenous ancestor - 90% White (European descent); 3% Mestizo (Amerindian mixed); the rest Other/Not Specified

**Geography:**
- Located in South America (2nd largest)
- **Capital:** Buenos Aires
- **Land Area:** 2,780,400 sq km (1,073,500 sq mi)
- It borders Chilé (west), Bolivia and Paraguay (north), Brazil (northeast), and Uruguay (east)
- Río de la Plata divides Argentina and Uruguay (northeast)
  - **Other major rivers:** Paraná, Paraguay, Salado, Negro, Santa Cruz, Pilcomayo, Bermejo, and Colorado
A Closer Look
The Eight Regions...
Economy: Benefits from rich natural resources, a highly literate population, a diversified industrial base, and an export-oriented agricultural sector.
- Relatively high on the GDP scale & has a considerable internal market size
- Has problems with recessions
- Experiencing problems w/poverty

Politics:
- Buenos Aires is the Capital.
- Subdivided into 23 provinces, each have their own Constitutions but exist under a federal system

Religion: Society, culture, and politics are heavily influenced by Roman Catholicism.
- 92% Roman Catholic
- 2% Protestant
- 2% Jewish
- 4% Other

Non Religious: 11% Not Religious: 4% Agnostic & 5% Atheist
Tango Of Argentina
The Tango

Origins:

- Obscure history due to little documentation
- 19th Century working-class of Buenos Aires
- Spread to Montevideo, Uruguay across Río de la Plata by immigrants
- By the early 20th Century, was the favorite music of thugs and gangsters who visited brothels; poverty
- Ages of tango: New Tango, Golden Age, Tango Nuevo, Neo Tango

Classic Tango Rhythm

Other Tango Rhythms
The Tango

Culture:

- Influenced by native Payada (Argentina) and Candombe (Uruguay)
- Complex dances emerged that reflected sexuality
Tango Dance: Libertango

(Play until 2:02)
Early Tango Instruments

Early tango was commonly played in a trio of a flute, guitar, and violin.
By the late 19th Century, the bandoneón was incorporated into a quartet by Eduardo Arolas. Soon after, Vicente Greco standardized the tango sextet consisting of piano, double bass, two violins, and two bandoneóns.
Instrument Video Clips (Tango)

- Double Bass and Piano
- Bandoneón Solo
- Guitar Duo
- Flute and Piano
- Violin and Piano
Argentine Tango
Ángel Villoldo’s *El Choclo*
Ángel Villoldo

- Born: 16 February 1861; Died: 14 October 1919
- One of the great pioneering tango-musicians of Argentina
  - Lyricist, composer, and one of the major singers of the era
  - Typographer, circus clown, and anything else in which his help was wanted
  - Wrote relatable poems that appealed to the common man and his struggles
- He performed w/ a guitar, harmonica, and singing
Astor Piazzolla
Astor Piazzolla’s *Libertango*
Biography of Astor Piazzolla
Astor Piazzolla

- Born: 11 March 1921; Died: 4 July 1992 in Mar de la Plata
- Only child of Vicente “Nonino” Piazzolla and Asunta Mainetti
- Virtuoso on the bandoneón
- Dominated the “Tango Nuevo” style of tango
- Pioneering composer for future tango music
... History

- 1925: Family moved from Mar de la Plata to New York City, US
- Started playing bandonéon at age 8
- Studies 1 yr with Ándres D'Áquila; produces 1st record
- Trains w/Bela Wild, disciple of Rachmaninov; discovers passion for Bach
- Meets Carlos Gardel; play in movie *El Dia Que Me Quieras*
- 1936: Returns to Mar de la Plata w/ his family; plays in tango orchestras
- Inspired by Elvino Vardaro (on radio)
1938: Inspired to pursue his dreams, moves to Buenos Aires, Argentina at age of 17

Aníbal Troilo Orchestra: famous “Pichuco” helps discover Piazzolla’s love for bandonéon
  ○ Invests himself in musical career

Had “Golden Opportunity” already being an arranger of Troilo Orchestra

1943: Classical music; “Suite Para Cuerdas y Arpas”

1946: Movie scores; “El Desbande”

1949: Disbands orchestra; almost gives up on bandonéon and tango
Continues studying Bartok and Stravinsky
Listen to jazz
Drops bandonéon; continues classical music
French scholarship; tries to leave tango and adopt classical
  This fails; goes back to tango; incorporates both classical music and tango
Forms Octeto Buenos Aires Orchestra to experiment with new style
  Tango Nuevo
  Met with criticism orthodox tangueros
Piazzolla’s Most Famous Pieces

- Libertango
- Adíos Nonino
- Oblivion
- Ave Maria
- Le Grand Tango
- Milonga del Angel
“Libertango” vs. “El Choclo”
“Libertango” vs. “El Choclo”

**Similarities:**
- Both share sequential repetition
- They are chromatic
- Both are performed in staccato; tango rhythm
- Have consistent and repetitive dynamic accents
- Polyrhythmic beats including a figured bass
- Timbre emphasis on the lead instrument
- Usage of many accidentals

**Differences:**
- *Libertango* has a constant allegro tempo however *El Choclo* may have rubato, also w/accelerando & ritardando
- *El Choclo* has an anacrusis whereas *Libertango* does not
- *Libertango* has different tango rhythm than *El Choclo*
- *Libertango* has chordal homophony: designed for an orchestra
“Libertango” vs. “El Choclo”

Secondary Link: Articulation and tango rhythm
“Libertango” vs. “El Choclo”

Primary Link:
Both have heavily influenced the tango music genre
The End
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