

A Tango Centennial featuring Emilio Solla

Emilio Solla, composer & pianist
with
KU Jazz Ensemble I
Dan Gailey, director
Matt Otto, tenor saxophone
Alex Frank, guitar

Program to be selected from the following Emilio Solla works:

4 (for) Miles

Allegron

Andan Luces

Buenos Aires Blues

Chacafrik

La Novena

Llegara, Llegara, Llegara

Sol la, al Sol

Emilio Solla

With a career that spans 38 years now, 2020 Latin Grammy Winner and multi-Grammy nominated Argentina born and New York based pianist and composer **Emilio Solla** got his degree in Classical Piano at the National Conservatory of Music in Buenos Aires and his MA in Jazz Composition at the Aaron Copland School of Music in New York.

Solla has released eleven albums as composer and bandleader and more than fifty as pianist/producer/arranger and is recognized by peers and press as one of the most outstanding and personal creators worldwide in the Tango-Jazz genre, a blend of Argentine tango and other Latin American rhythms with the freedom and advanced harmonies of jazz music. He has performed all around Europe, Japan, the US and Latin America to outstanding reviews in many of the most important jazz houses and Festivals.

He has composed and arranged music for and recorded and toured with Paquito D’Rivera, Arturo O’Farrill, Edmar Castañeda, Cristina Pato and many other jazz and classical greats. His music has received public praise from peers such as Astor Piazzolla, Fred Hersh, Lyle Mays, Vince Mendoza, Yo-Yo Ma and media such as the New York Times and Downbeat Magazine.

His album *Second Half* was nominated for a 2015 Grammy Award as Best Latin Jazz Album. In 2019, his eleventh and most ambitious album to date, *Puertos: Music from International Waters*, recorded with his Tango Jazz Orchestra went on to receive the Latin Grammy Award 2020 for Best Latin Jazz Album, while one of the compositions from that album, *La Novena*, was also nominated for a Grammy in 2019 as Best Instrumental Arrangement.

He continues to tour with his many projects, from solo piano concerts to being guest with symphony orchestras, and is an active freelance educator, arranger and composer in the demanding NY jazz music scene.

KU Jazz Ensemble I

Saxophones

Keegan Kaiser *Olathe, KS*
Nate Clarke *Lake Zurich, IL*
Sophia Hollman *Shawnee, KS*
Casey Artzer *Topeka, KS*
Andrea Edwards *Overland Park, KS*

Trumpets

Robert Vandivier *Orlando, FL*
Davison Smith *Fredericksburg, VA*
Rafniel Rios *Aguada, PR*
Camden Williams *Aurora, NE*
Quentin Weathers *Topeka, KS*

Trombones

Colin Wreath *Andover, KS*
Eli Lockhart *Overland Park, KS*
David Dayoub *El Paso, TX*
Aaron Reed *Lawrence, KS*

Rhythm Section

John Fraka, guitar *Shawnee, KS*
Nick Johnston, piano *Overland Park, KS*
Spencer Reeve, bass *Fresno, CA*
Paulo Zambarano, drums/percussion *Austin, TX*
Guthrie Bricker, drums/percussion *Lawrence, KS*

Additional musicians

Peder Thomas, flute *Overland Park, KS*
Petar Smilev, clarinet *Skopje, Macedonia*

KU Jazz Ensemble I

The University of Kansas Jazz Ensemble I, directed by Dan Gailey, is the flagship ensemble within the KU Jazz Studies Program. The program has received 28 *DownBeat* Student Music Awards, including Jazz Ensemble I's 2021, 2019 and 2015 awards in the Graduate Division for Best College Big Band in the United States or Canada, and their Outstanding Performance Award in the same division in 2017. In January 2022, the band will be one of 10 college jazz ensembles invited by Wynton Marsalis to compete in the Rudin Jazz Championship at Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York City.

Jazz Ensemble I performed Gailey's flamenco suite "Palos Nuevos" at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington D.C. in April 2018. In April 2016, the ensemble performed at Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York City with internationally acclaimed vocalist Deborah Brown, and the band was one of six international college finalists that performed at the 2019 and 2017 Monterey Next Generation Jazz Festival. In July 2018, Jazz Ensemble I played 10 shows in 13 days with Deborah Brown as part of a European tour that included appearances by invitation at three of the world's most prestigious jazz festivals — the Montreux Jazz Festival (where the band performed twice), Umbria Jazz, and the Jazz À Vienne Festival. The ensemble has also been featured at International Association of Jazz Educators Conferences in New York City, Boston and Atlanta.