



September 2013

**Pablo Ziegler  
& Metropole  
Orkest**  
*Amsterdam Meets  
New Tango*

ZOHO 201307

★★★★½

Tango originated in Buenos Aires as a dance that syncretized African ceremonial dancing and European ballroom dancing. Here, Pablo Ziegler and company re-syncretize the music with another Afro-European form, jazz, with often striking results.

Ziegler played in Astor Piazzolla's last quartet, so he knows about innovation and tango. The music is sumptuously orchestrated, sometimes sounding a bit like a big band, at others a more conventional orchestra backing a quartet, and Ziegler's compositions running from easy-bounding, cheerful fare to aggressively thrusting, staccato assaults. This second approach is often the best. "Buenos Aires Report"'s stabbing piano captures the frenzy of this city, "Desperate Dance" suggests a sinister procession in its fractured rhythms, and "Que Lo Pario" lurches toward thrilling overload as the orchestra and Walter Castro's bandoneon duel. Along the way, there are moments of stirring beauty, such as when the orchestra pulls back to reveal Ziegler, alone and in full melodic flower, in the middle of "Places." One needn't be a tango aficionado to appreciate what Ziegler does here.

—Joe Tangari



**Amsterdam Meets New Tango:** Buenos Aires Report; Milonga Para Hermeto; Blues Porteño; Desperate Dance; Murga del Amanecer; Places; Pajaro Angel; Buenos Aires Dark; Que Lo Pario. (55:17)

**Personnel:** Pablo Ziegler, piano; Quique Sinesi, guitar; Walter Castro, bandoneon; Quintino Cinalli, percussion, cajón; Metropole Orkest, conducted by Jules Buckley.

**Ordering info:** [zohomusic.com](http://zohomusic.com)