

Pablo Ziegler

Pianist, Composer, Arranger

For decades, Buenos Aires-born, Latin Grammy-winning pianist, composer and arranger Pablo Ziegler has been one of the most important figures in Argentine New Tango, the vibrant musical hybrid of classic tango, American jazz, and European art music. “He is cool, understated and makes everything look easy and natural,” writes Mark Swed of *The Los Angeles Times*, “just as a really suave tango dancer seems not to move with feet but on wheels, Ziegler skates the keyboard.” Dan Bilawsky of *All About Jazz* affirms: “When [Astor] Piazzolla departed this Earth in 1992, the torch was passed to his longtime pianist who’s been carrying it proudly ever since.”

After performing in tango grand-maestro Astor Piazzolla’s legendary quintet for over a decade, and appearing on iconic Piazzolla recordings including *Tango: Zero Hour*, *La Camorra* and *Central Park Concert*, Ziegler has led his own groups for over 20 years, refining and re-imagining the bounds of the modern tango tradition.

Recent season highlights include a performance at Lincoln Center Out of Doors in summer 2014 on a shared bill with the Paul Taylor Dance Company. The evening included a set by Ziegler’s quartet – described by *The New York Times* as “rapturous” – as well as a historic, first-ever collaboration: Taylor’s *Piazzolla Caldera* with live accompaniment from the Pablo Ziegler Ensemble.

In summer 2012, Ziegler joined violinist Lara St. John at the Naumberg Bandshell in Central Park to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Piazzolla’s historic Central Park Concert of 1987, in which Ziegler also played. The 2012 concert brought the largest crowd in the 107 year history of the Naumberg Orchestral Concerts series.

Touring throughout the world with his trio, quartet and mixed ensembles, Ziegler has performed in such venues as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center Out of Doors, SFJAZZ, the Ottawa International Jazz Fest, the Miami International Piano Fest, the Eastman School of Music, the Chautauqua Institution, Duke Performances, the Mondavi Center at UC Davis, the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at U of Maryland, Portland Ovation, UCLA Live, the Chan Centre in Vancouver, the Lied Center in Nebraska, the University of Colorado in Boulder, the Norton Center in Kentucky, the Soka Performing Arts Center, La Jolla SummerFest, the Laguna Beach Music Festival, the Miller Outdoor Theatre in Houston, the Herbst Theatre in San Francisco, the University of Texas-Austin, the Blue Note, and many others.

In addition to performing with his own groups, Ziegler has been a featured guest soloist with many major orchestras, playing his own compositions as well as the music of Piazzolla with the Presidential Orchestra of Turkey, the Colorado Symphony, the Tokyo Chamber Orchestra, the Charleston Symphony, the Metropole Orkest in Netherlands, and Jazz Sinfonica Orchestra in São Paulo, Brazil.

Pablo Ziegler’s *Tango Meets Jazz* project – which for over ten years saw an annual week-long residency in New York, starting at the Jazz Standard and later taking residence at Birdland Jazz – paired Ziegler’s quartet with guest artists including Branford Marsalis, Regina Carter, Stefon Harris, Paquito D’Rivera, Kenny Garrett, Joe Locke, Randy Brecker, David Sanchez, Nestor Torres, and others.

Ziegler’s most recent recording, the Latin Grammy-nominated *Amsterdam Meets New Tango* (Zoho Music 2013), sees his quartet paired with the Netherlands’ Metropole Orkest, playing his most famous works arranged for jazz orchestra. His work as music director, arranger and pianist for bass-baritone opera star Erwin Schrott earned an Echo Klassik Award in 2011 for the album *Rojotango*. Ziegler’s 2005 release, *Bajo Cero*, won the Latin Grammy Award for Best Tango Album, and in 2008, his album *Buenos Aires Report* made the final list of nominees for the same honor. Other major recordings include 1998’s *Tango Romance* with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and 1996’s *Los Tangueros* with Emanuel Ax.

Ziegler has been artist-in-residence at major institutions, such as the Latin American Music Center at Indiana University’s Jacobs School of Music, and the MusicUnitesUs Intercultural Residency Series at Brandeis University.