

## *THE JOSÉ LUIS MERLÍN QUARTET- U.S. Tour 2010*

José Luis Merlín- Guitar, Voice  
Brian Baumbusch- Guitar, Voice  
David Merlín- Violín  
Solange Merdinian- Voice  
Aaron Shafer-Haiss- Drumms

The José Luis Merlín Quartet is a group dedicated to performing Folklore Argentino, the music of the gauchos, the pampa, el asado, and el vino! It was formed as a collaboration between the family of world renowned Argentinean classical guitarist and composer José Luis Merlín and his protégé Brian Baumbusch, an ethnomusicologist specializing in Argentinean Quechuan folk music. It began as an opportunity for the Merlín family to return to their roots as Argentineans, using their distinct talents from the world of classical music, and creating musical arrangements that celebrate their artistic foundations, the folk music of their country.

The group was originally founded in Madrid, and included José Luis, David, and Sebastian Merlín, and Brian Baumbusch, a quartet for two guitars, violin, and the bombo leguero of Argentina. The group is now organizing its first tour in the United States, including New York Latin percussionist Aaron Shafer-Haiss, and Argentinean singer Solange Merdinian, a Julliard graduate and student of famous soprano Dawn Upshaw. The group has been sponsored by the Argentine Embassy in Washington, DC, and promoted through the Argentine Consulate of New York in the hopes that this will be their opportunity to continue to spread their culture throughout the U.S.

The music that is shared in Argentinean folk culture is a music inspired by humility and pride. This humility and pride is evoked by broad plains of grain and cattle, the golden tides of wheat and the jagged majestic cordilleras, the winding brooks and dried up river beds that make ravines through the ranges of spiny bushes upon which wanders a tarantula toward a small glebe where a little mud ranch rests peacefully, and where the sandy and dusty grounds which when stomped upon in dance raise a cloud of mysterious haze around the coals from the algarrobo wood roasting the baby goat and asado, hanging in a circle around the fire.

This is what evokes humility and pride in the people of Argentina, and this is what The José Luis Merlín Quartet aims to transmit.

### **2010 USA TOUR DATES**

27/3

18 hs.

John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts on the Millennium Stage

Beatty Competition winners.

World premiere Jose Luis Merlin pieces for this competition:

Un paseo a Caballo

Beso de Luna

Bailongo Campero

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C/ Estrella Polar 12, 5º Izq. 28007 - Madrid - Spain • Tel: +34 91 521 77 23 • E-mail: [info@produccioneslastra.com](mailto:info@produccioneslastra.com)

28/3  
19 hs.  
Gala Hispanic Theatre (Grupo de Artistas Latinoamericanos)  
3333 14th St. NW, Washington DC 20010  
202 234 7174

31/3  
20 hs.  
Zebulon Cafe Concert  
258 Wythe Ave. Brooklyn NY 11211  
718 218 6934

1/4  
19:30 hs  
Bard College. Bard Hall  
5000 Annandale-on-Hudson NY 12504  
845 758 6822

3/4  
Barbes  
376 9th St. Park Slope, Brooklyn NY 11215  
718 965 9177  
347 422 0248

6/4  
Inter-American Development Bank, Art Galery(Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo, Galería de arte)  
12:30 hs.  
1300 New York Ave. NW. Washington, DC. 20577  
202 623 1000

7/4  
20 hs.  
Public Assembly  
70 N 6th St. Williamsburg, Brooklyn, NY 11211  
718 384 4586

8/4  
17 hs.  
Argentine Consulate  
12 W 56th St, NY, NY 10019  
212 603 0400

8/4  
20 hs.  
Caffe Vivaldi  
32 Jones St. New York, NY 10014  
212 691 7538