

Piazzolla 100 years – part 2 – Studying with a Master

Before he turned 20, Astor and his family returned to Argentina for good. The young man made a meager living by playing his bandoneon in tango clubs, but what he really wanted to do was create and perform his own compositions. After boldly introducing himself to the famed Arthur Rubinstein, the pianist introduced Astor to musical maestro and composer Alberto Ginastera.

Astor studied with Ginastera for six years, during which time the composer not only taught Piazzolla the fundamentals of music and composition, but the importance of intertwining all of the various arts.



Alberto Ginastera

As a composition student of Ginastera's, Astor Piazzolla would frequently seek his teacher's advice. After traveling to Paris to study composition for a time with Nadia Boulanger, Piazzolla returned to Argentina and felt he was without direction.



1942 Se casa con Dedé. Se separa en 1966.

In between studying, Piazzolla spent time with his children, Diana and Daniel, and their mother, painter Dede Baralis.

Around this time, the bandoneon player had also begun playing with the best tango orchestra in Buenos Aires, Anibal Troilo's Orquesta Tipica. He played second bandoneon to Troilo for eight years.



CON TROILO Tocó en su orquesta, pero Pichuco le borraba sus arreglos.

“He asked my father, ‘What should I write?’ My father answered his question with a question. ‘What is it that makes you happy to write?’ ‘I like to write tangos,’ Piazzolla said. ‘Then go write tangos,’ my father told him. And so, Piazzolla went on to become one of Argentina’s most famous composers and pioneered what is called the new tango.”

- Georgina Ginastera, Daughter of Composer Alberto Ginastera