

Press release – for immediate release
October 1 2013

World class tango artist Martín Alvarado to perform in New Mills

Widely considered to be Argentina's finest and most significant tango vocalist, Martín Alvarado, will be performing in New Mills near Stockport as part of his 26th international tour.

The performance Spring Bank Arts on Saturday, November 9, at 7.30pm is part of Alvarado's seventh tour of Britain. It will see the award-winning troubadour returning to Spring Bank Arts after performing to a full house there last year. This time he will be with classically trained pianist and bandoneonista from Finland, Mikko Helenius.

Tickets for the concert are £14 on the door or £12 in advance from Spring Bank Arts on 01663 308202 or High Street Books, New Mills, or from www.musicglue.com/ltangopromotions/

Alvarado said: "I am very much looking forward to returning to New Mills. Spring Bank Arts is a beautiful venue and the audience were fantastic last year. It will be great having Mikko with me this time because he is a great musician and we have a lot of fun on stage together."

Helenius, with whom Martín is recording his next album in Finland, studied music at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki and learned to play the bandoneon from some of the instrument's Argentinian maestros in Paris. The button accordion, which is central to the tango sound, is renowned for being an extremely difficult instrument to play. Helenius is thought to be unique in the world for having mastered the ability to play both the piano and bandoneon simultaneously.

Lisa Cherry-Downes, Alvarado's UK and Europe manager and promoter, said: "Martín is a truly great artist and a great performer, and is invariably well received wherever he performs in the UK. He appeals to all sorts of music lovers from opera to rock. He and Mikko seem to have an intuitive relationship on stage with their magical performances often improvised and tailored to suit a particular audience. No show is ever the same."

Alvarado, from Buenos Aires, has won wide acclaim for his exceptional tenor. Increasingly, he is being recognised as one of the most significant vocalists in tango, drawing comparisons to Carlos Gardel, Argentina's tango singing superstar who died in 1935.

In March, Alvarado picked up the Latin UK Award for Concert by International Artist of the Year and in August, his last album was released globally by one of the leading world music record companies, World Music Network, on their prestigious Riverboat label. The album, Guitar Tango: Más Allá, has had rave reviews and airplay on BBC Radio 3.

As a live performer Alvarado is known for his commanding and charismatic stage presence and mesmerising emotional connection with his audiences. His acclaimed and carefully chosen repertoire features work by Argentina's most celebrated poets and composers, including rarely heard work by Astor Piazzolla.

He discovered his talent to sing at the age of 19, by chance, while studying guitar in Buenos Aires. A few years later he travelled to Spain where he was spotted singing in Barcelona and invited to perform in Finland, where tango is hugely popular. News of his talent quickly spread and within two months of arriving there, he was performing with the Tampere Philharmonic Orchestra.

Since then he has performed more than 400 times in many major classical music venues and festivals, had numerous TV performances in Finland, Russia and Argentina and collaborated and performed with some of the leading musicians in the genre.

Among the highlights of his career was performing as a soloist in a concert of tango nuevo with the Jyväskylä Sinfonia orchestra renowned tango nuevo ensemble Quinteto Otra Vez in Finland under the baton of internationally-renowned flautist Patrick Gallois in 2008.

Alvarado has also starred several times in Piazzolla's operita María de Buenos Aires including sold out performances at the renowned Kuhmo Chamber Music Festival in Finland in 2012 where he was invited to perform for the second time due to popular demand.

Notes for editors (not for publication):

Martin is available for interview by phone (he speaks excellent English and is a talkative, informed and witty interviewee) or by email, at a time to suit. He can also do live face to face interviews/performances during his tour from October 30 to November 11, schedule permitting. Contact Lisa Cherry-Downes on 07530549570 or email lisa.cherry-downes@ntlworld.com If anyone from your organisation would like to review the performance or photograph it, please contact Spring Bank Arts on 01663 308202 or email info@springbankarts@gmail.com

Links

<http://www.martinalvarado.info>

Martin singing a Gardel classic with Mikko Helenius
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cnuYGQkOY4>

Martin singing a Spanish version he wrote to a well known Finnish tango
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NF1hM3QidXE>

Reviews

"The world need to experience this extreme form of aural pleasure... totally mesmerising, a tango epiphany." Max Reinhardt, BBC Radio 3 Late Junction presenter (March 2013)

"Completely beguiling tenor" Mary Ann Kennedy, World on 3, BBC Radio 3 (Aug 2013)

"With his high ranged and sensitive voice, Martín Alvarado turns on its head the tango model created by Carlos Gardel." El Universo, Ecuador (2012)

"One of the great voices in tango today" - 2x4 Radio, Buenos Aires (2012)

"He has an extraordinarily beautiful voice..." Helsingin Sanomat (Finland) (2012)

"The Carlos Gardel of the modern age" Rainlore's World of Music www.rainloresworldofmusic.net (2013)

"... a certain Latino charisma mesmerises his audiences... the emotive phrasing was pure Argentinean seduction." - Nottingham Post (2012)

“In Martín Alvarado’s hands – and moreover, his voice – tango has found not just a curator but an innovator to carry it forward. If you get the chance to see this man, grab it with both hands, you won’t see many of his like.” - (Glyn Phillips - Worldmusic.co.uk (2011))

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