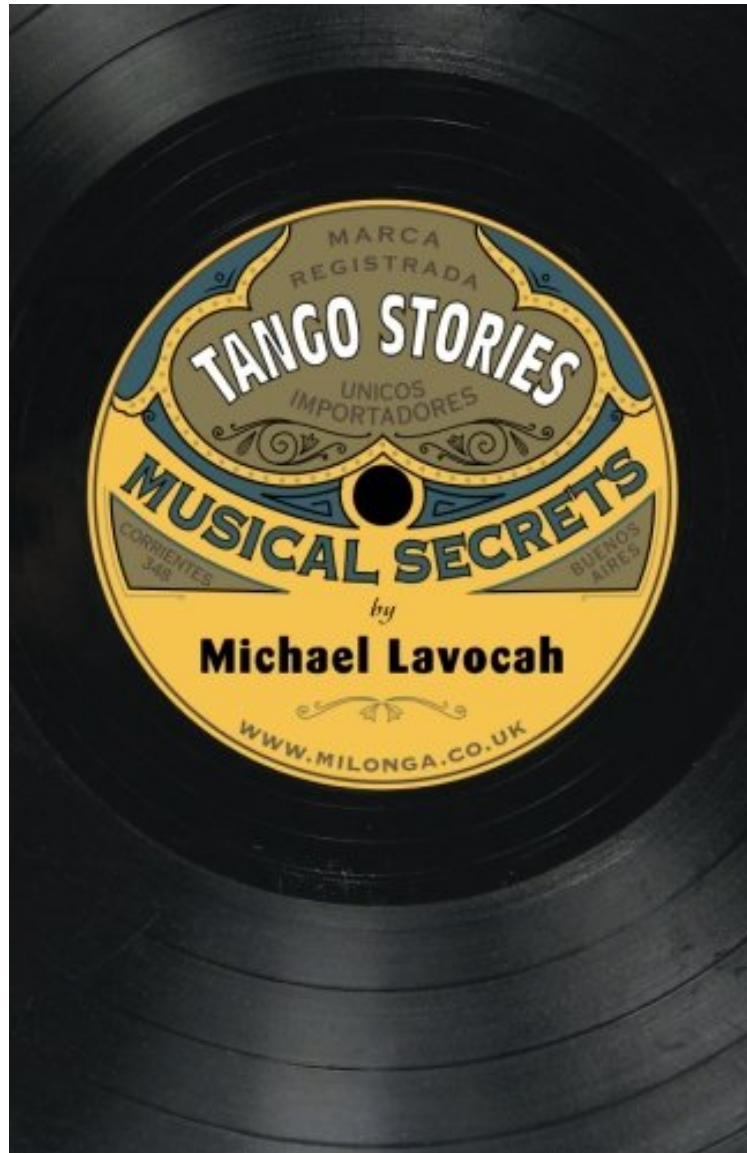


Tango Stories - Musical Secrets

Michael Lavocah

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Michael Lavocah : Tango Stories - Musical Secrets before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tango Stories - Musical Secrets:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I TOTALLY APPROVE of this very gringo take on Argentine Tango music...By E BoI've always felt the thing with tango musicality is that many people either teach it purely from the standpoint of sound structure (musician's bias) or the standpoint of a dancer (dancer's bias). The first one is a problem is because you learn to only hear sounds and don't exactly get ideas on how to interpret them in an evolved manner. Your listening will refine but most likely in a way where you become one of those dancers that try to hit

every single note (a bit too trickster in my taste). The latter is a problem because while you learn how to interpret what you're hearing, you tend to pick up the bias of the person teaching it to you. For example...the moment someone tells you to only do embellishments every time you hear the piano, you can't like NOT-hear the piano and not bias your dancing to do embellishments on those notes. Anyways...I have to share why Michael did such a great job. 1) He's not Argentinean, so he can explain from step to step. Without trying to, he's helping define what the Argentinean tango sound actually is and where the flavor is...and he's defining IN ENGLISH. If you learn musicality from the Argentineans, I feel like even they don't know what the tango sound is, and they gloss over explaining that because that's how ingrained it is in their minds. 2) Michael breaks down the story of the music and lets you know why it's important. What orchestra, what instruments were most key during which years, and WHY. He explains how to listen for the KEY instruments. It's not just about hearing sounds but hearing the IMPORTANT sounds and the DIFFERENTIATING sounds. And he explains the history and context and comparison from one orchestra to the other copycats. It's a really insightful look into why some songs were amazing and never caught on. It also explains why some songs were not all that artistically brilliant but captured the public. 3) As a dancer, you get exactly what you needed from this book. What orchestras, what years, what instruments, which sounds, which songs...and WHY. Knowing the heart and the soul and story behind the music, you can express your dance more accurately through these songs. Michael teaches you how to listen to the songs and appreciate them without biasing your ear to favor one type of sound over another or biasing your dance to favor one type of movement over another. For that reason, this book is the most ideal book on tango musicality for me. I recommend over many others. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. If you're only going to read one book about tango music...this is it...By Michael N. Krugman TANGO STORIES: MUSICAL SECRETS is the first and only book that tells the stories of all the major tango orchestras of the Golden Age (1935-55). Author Michael Lavocah is not only a historian of tango, but also a brilliant storyteller, and he weaves a fascinating tale around each orchestra, making these old songs and long dead musicians come alive once again. If you are a tango dancer who cares about the music you dance to, and would like to understand it better, then this is the book for you. It will hold an important place in your library and in your personal body of knowledge. If you're a tango DJ, or want to be one, there's no question--you have to have this book. For myself, I've read through it so many times, I probably have it memorized! Go ahead, ask me anything.... 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Simple Excellent By Customer Very comprehensive, detailed and in-depth classification of the Tango songs for dancing. If you are a Tango dancer, or you just like Tango music, than you would love the stories about the main orchestras of the Golder Era of tango. And, then everything will make sense. This book makes order in the chaotic universe of Tango music. Simple Excellent.

Please note: this book now has a 2nd edition. This is the 1st edition. This listing only remains so that you can read the reviews. In this unique book, Michael Lavocah takes you on a compelling journey through tango music. He introduces the key individuals who shaped tango history, telling their stories in a series of lively vignettes. Engaging, entertaining and passionate, this is the definitive English language guide to tango dance music. Packed with information that you just won't find anywhere else, Tango Stories: Musical Secrets is essential reading for anyone who would like to understand tango better.

About the Author Michael Lavocah is an authority on tango dance music. He works internationally as a Tango teacher and DJ, with a special reputation for teaching musicality. He has a reputation for making complex ideas easy to understand, transmitting a depth of knowledge with humor, simplicity and clarity. Michael is the proprietor of the website www.milonga.co.uk, a reference point for tango dance music in the English speaking world.