



Edgardo Donato (1897-1963), one of nine children of Italian immigrants, was born in the Buenos Aires neighborhood of San Cristóbal. While still a child, his family moved to the city of Montevideo, the capital of Uruguay.

At the age of ten he started to study music with his father, a cellist, who conducted a chamber orchestra in Montevideo. The violin was Donato's instrument of choice. He played in a succession of orchestras, both tango and jazz, in Montevideo.

In 1922 he composed his first hit, the tango Julián. But Donato wasn't able to sell his tango, even for twenty pesos, so he finally he published it himself. This tango only became popular after an interpretation by the actress Iris Marga and a recording made by the popular female singer Rosita Quiroga, both in Buenos Aires.

Soon after, he wrote what would become one of the most recorded tangos in the world: "A Media Luz". Donato said that he composed it on a streetcar. It premiered in Montevideo in a musical revue called "Su Majestad la Revista". It was soon recorded by Firpo, Canaro and Gardel.

In 1927 he put together an orchestra with fellow violinist Roberto Zerrillo under the label Donato-Zerrillo. The group included his brothers: Osvaldo on piano and Ascanio on cello. They made their debut in Montevideo on July 14, 1927. Soon after, the impresario of the Select Lavalle movie theater of Buenos Aires heard them play and offered them a contract. It was common for tango orchestras to play during silent movies; patrons often attended more for the music than for the film.

They were there until 1930, under the name of Orquesta Típica Criolla Donato-Zerrillo. Advertisements announced them as "The nine tango aces: the most striking native tango orchestra ever heard". They disbanded in 1930, after a brief tour with the female singer Azucena Maizani.

Donato continued as Edgardo Donato y sus Muchachos. His new orchestra frequently showcased the talents of individual musicians with solo passages within a piece, including his own mastery of the violin and his famous "pizzicati". This "pizzicati", or plucking of the violin strings, was a signature element of Donato's style.

Edgardo Donato y sus Muchachos appeared in Argentina's first "talking" motion picture, "Tango". Ironically, the advent of talking pictures could be considered the first major crisis endured by tango.

July 12, 2009

A Media Luz

Te Busco

Mis Pesares

El Distinguido Ciudadano

Cortina

El Rey Del Compas

El Resero

Vea Vea

Cortina

Sentir Del Corazon (Milonga)

Ella es asi (Milonga)

Repique Del Corazon (Milonga)

Cortina

El Distinguido Ciudadano

El Ingeniero

Un Lamento

Cortina

Con Tus Besos (Vals, vocal)

Noches Correntinas (Vals)

VolverÃ¡s Pero CuÃ¡ndo (Vals)

Cortina

Esa (nuevo)

Tres Son Multitud (nuevo)

Solo Por Hoy (nuevo)

Cortina

Fue Mi Salvacion (Vocal)

La Melodia Del Corazon(Vocal)

A Oscuras (Vocal)

Cortina

Milonga Para Gardel (milonga)

Carnavalito (milonga)

Pena Mulata (milonga)

Cortina

Triunfal

Alicia

Rebecca

Cortina

Vals For H (waltz)

Valcito (waltz)

Gabriels Vals (waltz)

Cortina

El Acomodo

El Estagiario

Tierrita

Cortina

Sensiblero

La Gran Muneca

9 de Julio

Cortina

Sacale Punta (Milonga)

Papas Calientas (Milonga)

El Lengue (Milonga)

Cortina

Sueno Querido (vocal)

Gallo Ciego (Instrumental)

Recuerdo (Instrumental)

Cortina

Desde El Alma (waltz)

Pedacito De Cielo (waltz)

Flor De Lino (waltz)

Cortina

Mishiadura

Sinsabor

Pasion Criolla

Cortina

La Cumparsita

Unkown

Morse Code of Love

Francisco Canaro (composed by Donato)

Edgardo Donato Y Sus Muchachos

Edgardo Donato Y Sus Muchachos

Edgardo Donato Y Sus Muchachos

Juan D'Arienzo & Su Orquesta Tipica

Juan D'Arienzo & Su Orquesta Tipica

Juan D'Arienzo & Su Orquesta Tipica

Edgardo Donato Y Sus Muchachos

Edgardo Donato y sus muchachos & Horacio Lagos

Edgardo Donato Y Sus Muchachos

Leopoldo Federico (born 1927)

Leopoldo Federico

Leopoldo Federico

Edgardo Donato Y Sus Muchachos

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Carlos Libedinsky

Carlos Libedinsky

Carlos Libedinsky

Edgardo Donato Y Sus Muchachos

Edgardo Donato Y Sus Muchachos

Edgardo Donato Y Sus Muchachos

Angel Vargas

Orquesta tipica de Lucio Demare & Raul Beron

Roberto Firpo

The Tango Group

The Tango Group

The Tango Group

Combo Tango

Combo Tango

Combo Tango

E. Donato

E. Donato

E. Donato

Quinteto Angel (Germany, founded 2001)

Quinteto Angel

Quinteto Angel

Edgardo Donato Y Sus Muchachos

Edgardo Donato

Edgardo Donato Y Sus Muchachos

Horacio Salgan (1916-)

Horacio Salgan

Horacio Salgan

Carlos Rodrigo

Carlos Rodrigo

Carlos Rodrigo

Edgardo Donato Y Sus Muchachos

Edgardo Donato Y Sus Muchachos

Edgardo Donato Y Sus Muchachos

Anibal Troilo (1914-1975)

Nilufer

The Del Prados