



TANGO BAR CALGARY INSTRUCTORS: RICARDO/VIOLETA PACHECO

Ricardo and Violeta Pacheco were born in Chile and immigrated to Canada in 1975 with their 3 children. They brought along with them the always intense desire of dancing with the happy rhythms of the Latin music, which was installed in their spirits at an early age.

They were founders and directors in different positions of a group called THE LATINO CANADIAN CULTURAL CLUB, an organization that put together many social events for the Latin community, and keeping up with that culture, dancing all night long has always been part of these celebrations. This Club is still very active within the Latin Community in Calgary and Ricardo and Violeta attend occasionally some of their parties.

In 1992, they became member of the University of Calgary Ballroom Dancing Club where they learned all the American and international dances offered by this Club; from Swings, foxtrot, waltzes, country, Tango; and all the Latin dances already known by them, such as cha-cha-cha, mambo, salsa, cumbia, merengue, bolero, rumba, samba, guaracha, etc. They became Teacher Assistants in this Club and helped to promote and teach, in Calgary, the different dances of Ballroom style. The training provided by Certified

Professional Instructors for Teachers Assistants was done in a regular basis and covered almost every dance taught at this Ballroom dancing Club. A variety of Dancing workshops offered by the Club with local and out of town guest Instructors were done regularly and all TAs were asked to attend. Participation in these workshops at U of C Ballroom Dancing Club enhanced considerably, from the technical point of dancing, the expertise of Ricardo and Violeta . Their repertoire of dancing was enlarged up to 38 different dances.

Then, in 2002, Argentinean Tango came into their repertoire. Club Tango Argentino, based in Calgary, asked them to host at their home for a week, a couple of Instructors from Buenos Aires. Nito and Elba Garcia, in Calgary for a sequence of Tango workshops, didn't speak English and needed an Spanish translator. Spending a week with this well known and respected couple from Buenos Aires was the turning point for Ricardo and Violeta to start dancing Argentinean Tango, something they have done in the past in a very low profile. Nito and Elba, in return for the hospitality, taught them some Tango in a variety of private lessons and left them with reasons to pursuit this dance. After they departed with a return invitation to join them in Buenos Aires, Ricardo and Violeta travelled the year after to that country and then the irreversible Tango fever for both of them was born.

Since then, they have been in Argentina three more times now with groups of Tango students, friends and tango dancers from Calgary and other western Canadian cities.

After their return from Buenos Aires for the first trip in 2003, Ricardo and Violeta were asked if they would be interested in teaching Argentinean Tango at a Restaurant called Don Quijote, in Calgary. They accepted the invitation and started teaching Tango on a weekly basis every Tuesday (Tango night at Don Quijote) under the name TANGO BAR CALGARY.

Their teaching was accepted immediately and their success was implanted within the Calgary Tango Community. Teaching tango Salon style (called also Tango fino in Argentina – refine Tango), the most popular in that country, which is dance by the majority of Argentineans, and the passion and elegance demonstrated by this couple during their instructions and dances, made an impact among the Tangueros and Tangueras.

The popularity of Ricardo and Violeta's easy form of Tango instructions expanded very quickly; they had to increase the amount of Tango lessons and they started a new Program at Sunalta Community Hall in addition to the Lessons at the Restaurant. Their selection of tango music was also

accepted widely and dancers became more familiarized with different Tango Orquestras styles.

During their tenure as Argentinean Tango Instructors, Ricardo and Violeta, in order to become more proficient in their teaching, have taken private lessons from the following Instructors in Argentina during their 4 trips and in Canada:

- NITO AND ELBA GARCIA
- MIGUEL ANGEL PLA
- MARIO AND EUGENIA BOURNISSEN
- MAYA GAILLARD
- ALEJANDRO FIGLIOLO AND VALERIA INARRA
- DANIEL CARRE (TANGO CANYENGUE)
- GALLEGO MANOLO AND MARTA ANTON (CANYENGUE)
- GUSTAVO CHIDICHIMO AND VIRGINIA MARTORANI
- JULIO BALMACEDA AND CORINA DE LA ROSA
- ANGEL CORIA
- JORGE “EL TURCO” NASSEL AND SONIA PERALTA
- JORGE FIRPO (TANGO MILONGUERO)
- DANIEL LAPADULA
- EDUARDO SAUCEDO AND MARISA QUIROGA
- GUSTAVO ROSAS (TANGO NUEVO WITH VOLCADAS)
- CRISTINA CORTES (Tango Nuevo with Colgadas and Volcadas)
- DEMIAN GARCIA

Personal study of Tango has also included DVD lessons from the following Tango Academies:

OSVALDO ZOTTO/MORA GODOY - (ASI SE BAILA EL TANGO)- 5 DVDs from Level 1 to 5.

PEPITO AVELLANEDA – (ASI SE BAILA MILONGA) – 3 DVDs from Level 1 to 3.

GABITO – Level 1, 2 and 3.

OSVALDO PAIVA - Level 2

JULIO BALMACEDA/CORINA DE LA ROSA- 2 DVDs for Turns (giros), Hooks (ganchos) and other material.

GLORIA AND EDUARDO

GEORGE GARCIA/CHRISTIE COTE (Tango waltz)
MORA GODOY (Level 1 and 2).

One of the most rewarding experiences created and implemented by Ricardo and Violeta, have been Dances presentations – Tango included – at several Seniors Homes prior to the Christmas celebrations. These events have taken place during the last 2 years (2006-2007) and a number of several Volunteers who love to dance have made an incredible contribution in performing for Calgary' Seniors Community.

TANGO BAR CALGARY has been invited to do Tango workshops in New Denver, BC (West Kootenays Valley) during the last 2 years and the review from the organizers of these Summer Dancing Camp has been outstanding. They have been invited already to come back in 2009.

The personal appeal of Ricardo and Violeta, in conjunction with the contribution of Teacher Assistants (Rosario Aceituno, Linda Hills, Jim Conley and Ian Watson) has permitted that TANGO BAR CALGARY, with the profound emphasis in technique and elegance, is one of the most proficient and accepted Tango Academy in Western Canada.