

FERNANDO OTERO - VICTOR VILLENA

BUENOS AIRES NOW

The creative connection between **Fernando Otero** and **Victor Villena** takes stage again for the 2017-18 season.

Buenos Aires Now is conceptualized around the music of both musicians' hometown, evoking the feel of chamber music, improvisation and classical contemporary music.

Otero and Villena merge into a full and interactive musical speech, alternating rhythmical and melodic prominence, providing a fully Argentine aura with emotive phrasing within a lyrical language easily identified with the tango genre and ranging from heart-felt melodies to fast-paced rhythms, quickly exchanging leading roles.

The program portrays the sound of Buenos Aires, in which the bandoneon plays a major role while the piano explores countermelodies, with both instruments building a thick wall of sound and sometimes rising to particular technical challenges when creating solid soundscapes.

FERNANDO OTERO

Grammy Winner - Warner Music recording artist Fernando Otero is considered by critics as a virtuoso pianist and a composer who has created his own style, using elements of classical contemporary music and improvisational jazz, based on the Tango as a primary language. He found his voice as a writer and musician when, at the urging of one of his music teachers, he began to incorporate the sounds of his native Buenos Aires into his work. Based in New York, Otero has found correspondingly diverse collaborators, among them Paquito De Rivera, the Kronos Quartet, Eddie Gomez, and Quincy Jones.

VICTOR HUGO VILLENA

Born in Argentina in 1979, Victor Hugo Villena is one of the world leading bandoneon players. Celebrated by the international press, the New York Times quotes: "Mr. Villena's bandoneon expressing extremes of earthiness and ethereality, an emotional universe unto itself. A master of the instrument». Victor Villena won the "Best Soloist" award in the National Competition of Cosquin (Argentina) in 1997 when he was only 18 years old.

Victor Villena has performed in venues like Philharmonie de Paris, Teatro La Fenice (Venice), Broadway 54 (New York), Washington's Synagogue, YIVO's Center (New York), Frankfurt Alter Oper (Germany), London Barbican (England), London Queen's Hall (England) Teatro Bibiana (Italy), Dresden Opera House (Germany), Koln Philharmonic Hall (Germany).