

# Concurso del ocho

The plan does not appear to be new; for more than fifteen years Eric Jeurissen has walked around with an idea. He searched for a way to stimulate the development of danceable tango

by Marc van Ameijden & Lucien Lecarme

This year this idea was finally formed and together with Lucien Lecarme he developed the first lay-out for a tangomusic competition, that should take place during Doble Ocho: The Concurso del ocho. Holland has relatively many tango ensembles, certainly compared to other countries. Musicians however hardly meet each other, except during performances and in Rotterdam danceschool Cuartito Azul, where the Rotterdam conservatory students have the chance to perform on a regular base. Like El Corte is a meeting place for tango lovers, the Concurso del ocho could become an occasion to bring national and international musicians together and stimulate them to rearrange danceable tango's. This year

the composition "El Corte" by Carel Kraayenhof will be the subject in which musicians can set their teeth. The song was a present from Kraayenhof for El Corte, and commemorated its 16th birthday, the start of Doble Ocho. The result doesn't have to be tango music in a classical sense, the Concurso also wants to stimulate innovative arrangements, or classical arrangements translated in a modern way by musicians. But what is modern tangomusic? Arnoud de Graaff has written a refreshing article on this subject as he writes about neo-tango: 'First of all, it is produced by musicians of all sorts, who have firm roots in both modern and world music. The second characteristic of neo tango is the immensely diverse way of approaching tango, in which numerous fusions are made with other musical genres, such as klezmer, jazz, chansons, opera, classical music, world music and so on. Furthermore, tango musicians use an instrumental setting that is partly similar to the traditional one but they also make use of digital sampling techniques and instruments normally associated with world music or other non tango genres. Finally the line up of the modern neo tango ensembles

is usually very different from the traditional tango orchestras, such as orquesta tipica and gran orquesta.'

Read this article in full length on: [www.torito.nl](http://www.torito.nl)

Read the interview with Eric and his vision on tangomusic: [www.doble-ocho.com/20yearsalcorte.htm](http://www.doble-ocho.com/20yearsalcorte.htm)

## Tango jam

This year's Doble Ocho presents a new phenomenon in Europe: the tango jam. Jazz music is known for its jam (improvising around a musical theme). Jamming in tango however, is new. But why not? Tango is, after all, improvisation. A tango jam consists of a group of musicians (who differ widely in background, level and knowledge of tango) who create tango music by improvising. Since form plus freedom equals improvisation is Iwan Harlan's musical motto, Doble Ocho asked him to organize a tango jam and a tango music workshop for musicians. The music workshop will take place on Wednesday. The results of this workshop will be presented on Thursday

The concurso is supported by:

VSBfonds

► FRIDAY MARCH 21 15.00 & 21.00 VEREENIGING  
For this years first Edition of the Concurso Del Ocho, an international jury lead by Gustavo Beytelmann, has made a pre-selection from recordings made by the participants. The musicians compete for a performance on the fridaynight salon, prize money handed out by Dutch actress and tanguero Liz Snoyink, and promotion activities by the El Corte foundation.

Iwan Harlan is a composer, instrumentalist (piano, guitar, percussion & vocals) and producer, who manages SoundToVision, a High End Studio & Laboratory where a fascinating alchemy of traditional musical know-how and modern licks, beats and grooves takes place. At the moment Iwan Harlan is involved in the Balkan beat project Turilitawa Shutka, which recently resulted in a mini CD Romano Chavo.

Arnoud de Graaff

► WED. MARCH 19, 19.00 LINDENBERG, WORKSHOP  
► THURSDAY MARCH 20, 18.00 ODESSA, JAM  
More info: [www.doble-ocho.com](http://www.doble-ocho.com) and [www.soundtovision.de](http://www.soundtovision.de)

## Historical Town Walk Nijmegen

Herman Schlusser takes you on an 1-hour walk.

When you cross the road at café-restaurant the Lindenberg – where the Doble Ocho festival opens on Wednesday – you'll step on the grass of the 'Valkhof'. A little park where the Romans left their traces and where Emperor Charlemagne built his palace. At the right side you'll find the remainders of the St. Maartenskapel (12th century) and further on the St. Nicolaaskapel (11th century). After enjoying a view of the river the Waal, walk downhill to the quay (the 'Waal-kade'). Downstairs you go to the left and you pass some enjoyable cafés. A bit further you'll see the Brewer's House (16th century) on your left. Not far from there, in the same alley, you'll find the Toll Master's House (around 1500). At the Waalkade, take the first street to the left and then the second to the right. After a while you pass the Commanderie of Saint John (founded in about 1200 as a



hospital). From there, you're as good as at the Grote Markt, a market place with its striking Weigh-house. Walk underneath the Church Arch (1542) which will lead you to the St. Stevenchurch (since 1254). When you walk around this church, you can see the Latin School (founded in 1546) and the Canon's houses. After passing the arch again, walk straight on the Grote Markt, leaving the weigh-house on your left. This is the Burchtstraat. On your right hand you'll see the

historical Townhall (1554). The end of this street will lead you back to the Lindenberg where you started.

Café Odessa, which will accommodate a part of the Doble Ocho-festival on Thursday and Sunday, is nearby. In front of the Lindenberg you turn into the Ridderstraat and after a few metres you turn to the right to the Antoniusplaats.

The VVV Tourist Office at the Keizer Karelplein offers all sorts of booklets with more comprehensive Town Walks.

## Festival info

Nijmegen • 19-23 march 2008

### Programme Gran Noche

Sat. March 22:  
Quinteto STAZO MAYOR  
feat. Luis Stazo, founder of Sexteto Mayor

### Workshops & Performances by:

- Alejandra Mantifian and Gabriel Missé
- Erna y Santiago Giachello
- Eric Jeurissen & Claartje
- Peter en Pingel en Wim Warman

Subscribe online, book your tickets now online: [www.doble-ocho.com](http://www.doble-ocho.com)



## Tango and Food

Tangodancing is a sport. After warming up in the tangocafé, the salon is your play-ground, and the chill out party is in your hotelroom or in another tangocafé the next morning. This all takes energy, and energy needs to be fed. Therefore, the Doble Ocho organisation has made deals with the several festival locations. On Wednesday, Lindenbergcafé 23 will serve fine priced tangofood during the tangocafé, until 20.00h. Check out Ankara on Thursday, it's very close to El Corte, as most El Cortians will know! De Vereeniging will serve their tangomenu on Friday and Saturday, but you need to be in time: from 19.00h. all tables will be occupied because of a big concert in the main hall. And last but not least, Odessa will serve a special 3 course tango menu with a 5 euro reduction when you bring the coupon printed below!!

**5 euro reduction**  
on tangomenu  
in Odessa  
only sunday march 23

## Eva's Column

### Heels that knock you out of your socks

The first three months of my tango life I was obliged to dance on my socks. Being a student and a tango dancer at the same time restrained me from buying a pair of good dancing shoes. But after two beginners courses of tango I got fed up with my white socks slowly transforming into grey ones, and the occasional collision between a pair of unskilled male feet and my own poor toes. So, being aware of the fact that it takes some practise to be able to walk on heels (backwards!) with any degree of elegance, I started six centimetres above the floor. Now two years later I find myself 10 centimetres above the dance floor, finally the way it should be. Namely on Comme Il Faut' shoes. I love them and apparently I am not the only one in tango land who does so. On almost every milonga in the Netherlands you can see, or when you are unlucky, feel, they pop up now and then. On my search for new dancing shoes I met Martijn van Bokhoven, who after a failed attempt in importing fresh ginger and sweet potatoes now imports tango shoes from Argentina. Being a tango dancer himself, he noticed at a certain point that dancers around him were in search of dancing shoes that were both attractive and comfortable to dance on. "Naturally I thought, if the dancing shoes that are available in the Netherlands lack something, we should look for a better product in a different place" says Martijn. He got in contact with the Comme Il Faut store in Buenos Aires, and set out to Argentina. "When I walked into the actual store, I was very surprised. With the exception of the ones in the display window there were no shoes in sight." As the store manager accompanied him into the storage room, he was to pick out his first batch. From an enormous variety of shoes he chose the ones he thought the most exceptional, imaginative and individual ones. And apparently he made the right decision, because they sure sell! At the moment Martijn receives demands for dancing shoes from all over the world and he visits Tango festivals and Milonga's regularly in order to introduce people to the product he is so passionate about. "It is a great pity I cannot try those sexy high heels on myself" he said. The Comme Il Faut shoes are hand made, high quality shoes. Every design is produced in a limited edition, so you are always assured of owning an unique pair of shoes. The only exterior thing they have in common is the super thin/high sexy pencil heel. (oh and by the way they are great to dance on!)

Eva

Visit [www.commeilfaut.nl](http://www.commeilfaut.nl) and [www.commeilfaut.com.ar](http://www.commeilfaut.com.ar) for further information  
Martijn is in Nijmegen on the friday and saturday salon to sell his shoes!

## What tango can do to you!

by Marij Faessen

Ellen Kocken, manager of Dziga (a workplace for movie makers and video artists) followed life in El Corte for nearly a year. The plans for making a documentary about El Corte had been lingering in her head for years, but she never managed to raise enough funds to do so. When the province of Gelderland granted her a subsidy, she was able to combine her two passions in life: film and tango.

## Sporty and refined

How many people design cloths especially for tango? In Holland, Esther Heitzer (Tango La Estrella) is one of the pioneers. Contaminated by the tango-virus 14 years ago, she was immediately in search of brisk garments that were both sporty and refined. She has been designing and manufacturing exclusive Tango-Wear ever since. Her Garments are depicted by a simple yet subtle fit, though above all they show cheerfull and pronounced motives. Daring and Remarkable!

Eva de Kleer

Both on the friday and saturday night of the festival, Esther is presenting part of her collection in de Vereeniging.

► WED. MARCH 19, 20.30 LINDENBERG

Read more on the website: [www.doble-ocho.com/20yearsalcorte.htm](http://www.doble-ocho.com/20yearsalcorte.htm)

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