

*Lessons and Practica  
Information*

*Tuesdays in Denver:  
The Denver Turnverein  
1570 Clarkson St.*

*Beginner I & II Lessons  
6:30 - 7:30 pm*

*Intermediate/Advanced  
Lesson*

*7:00-8:00 pm*

*Practica*

*7:30 - 10:30 pm*

*Cost*

*Lesson and Practica: \$10*

*Buy a four week pass and  
save!*

*Practica only: \$6 members  
\$5 member seniors/  
students/military*

*\$10 non-members*

*Argentine Tango  
in Denver & Colorado*

There are dances (called milongas) and practice sessions (called practicas) in Denver, Boulder, Ft. Collins, Colorado Springs, Salida, Grand Junction, Greeley, and Aspen. Tango Colorado, a non-profit organization, is one of the oldest Tango groups in the country as well as one of the five largest and most active. This is not the "ballroom" dance that you see in dance competitions or that is taught by most commercial dance studios; rather this is the authentic Tango from Argentina, which is rarely seen competitively the same way it is generally danced socially. Argentine Tango is danced with intense connection and focus on your partner. We think it is an amazing dance, and once you are hooked, it is like no other dance in the world.

*For More Information,  
a Comprehensive Calendar of  
Tango Events, or to Join  
Tango Colorado, Please  
Visit*

*Tangocolorado.org*

TANGO



by: dvora kanegis  
www.tangoartist.com

GETTING  
STARTED

in Argentine  
Tango

and Tango

## Tango Colorado's

You can find a list of our Tango instructors on the Tango Colorado website. There are other fine teachers in our community who do not appear on the site, but the ones who are pictured are the ones who have chosen to teach for Tango Colorado and have met the strict criteria necessary to do so. Each teacher generally teaches for two months at a time and are then rotated. As each instructor has his or her own technique, style, and teaching philosophy, the two month period provides consistency for the student and his or her skill and progression. If you like a particular teacher's style, we encourage you to discuss with them the additional group and private lessons he or she offers.

## No Partners Required!

Partners are not necessary for the Tango Colorado lessons, practicas or milongas. If a particular teacher sponsors a workshop or lesson that requires a partner, they will specify so in their notice. We cannot guarantee there will be gender balance at any of these events, but in lessons, most instructors ask that partners rotate frequently so that all dancers participate. If you do come to a lesson with a partner, you are encouraged to rotate, but will not be forced to do so. However, rotation vastly improves the learning curve.

## Tango Music & Connection

Tango is about two very important concepts: Connection and Musicality.

Connection is the musical interpretation, energy, and the subsequent communication established between two individuals. This will

## Tango Music & Connection, cont.

be different with each partner. By its very nature, the Argentine Tango provides a unique grounding movement that creates a feeling of suspension and anticipation.

Musicality is the essence of Argentine Tango and is quite different from other popular music. It is said that it has "texture", meaning each instrument and voice has its own text or melody. Tango uses both rhythmic beats and syncopated beats. Dancers then translate the different "beats" in a way that the partners move in unison while they place their feet on the floor at slightly different times creating a "suspension" of movement unique to Tango. Once you begin to tune into the various melodies and instruments within the music, you will magically discover that it opens up doors to creative, exciting, satisfying, intimate, peaceful, passionate, spontaneous and "addictive" experiences that only Argentine Tango can provide.



## Clothes & Shoes

We are often asked, "What do I wear to class? How about shoes? Are the dances dressy?" Below are some recommendations that will hopefully help answer those questions.

Clothing: The attire for classes and the practicas (practices) is generally casual. Jeans are acceptable, but you will see a variety of "dressiness" at the practicas. The important thing is that you are comfortable.

## Clothes & Shoes, cont...

Layering is always a good idea because even when it's cold outside, you can become quite warm after dancing for a while.

Attire for milongas (the social dances) is generally more dressy and sometimes even elegant. How dressy you want to get depends on the milonga AND your mood. Women: If you feel like getting really "deckerd out", do; if you are feeling a little more casual, wear a nice skirt/pants and top. Strapless dresses can work, but you will probably feel more comfortable with something attached to your shoulders. Tight skirts do not allow the leg extension necessary in Tango.

Shoes: Until you're "hooked" on Tango and feel that intense need to buy multiple pairs of Tango shoes, all you need are shoes that have a soft or leather sole that will pivot easily on the floor. Rubber soled shoes do not work.

Women's shoes: A heel of one inch to four inches is fine, whatever you feel most comfortable in. Make sure they attach to your foot (i.e., open backed shoes, sandals, clogs, etc. don't work for Tango). Platform shoes do not work well for Tango either and your feet will hurt if you try to wear them dancing. If you know you're committed and want to spend the money, you can find dance shoes at any dance store, including practice shoes and dance sneakers.

Tango shoes are also available through a variety of online outlets, for both men and women, but before you spend the money, try out a few pair of leather/soft soled shoes, and experiment with heel height (and heel width, for women).