

Press release for immediate release

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Tango singing star Martín Alvarado to perform in Germany for the first time

Awarding winning artist Martín Alvarado, widely considered to be Argentina's finest and most significant contemporary tango vocalist, is to perform for the first time in Germany.

The world renowned tenor, who won a prestigious Latin UK Award, earlier this year, will be among the headline acts at the Tangonale festival in Berlin on Saturday July 20.

Alvarado will be performing at the festival as part of his 25th international tour which will also take him to Finland, UK and Russia.

He said: "I am very happy to be performing in Germany for the first time and presenting my repertoire to a new audience. I also love seeing new cities and this will be my first visit to Berlin."

Alvarado, who was born and raised in the Buenos Aires barrio of Flores, has won wide acclaim across the world for his "extraordinarily beautiful" voice, and already, his acknowledged artistry is such that he is increasingly being recognised as a highly influential vocalist in the history of tango.

He has drawn comparisons to the late great Carlos Gardel and in Argentina recently, was described as a modern "cantor nacional" – (national singer), the term used to describe artists, such as Gardel with the talent to sing in many different styles.

In March, he clinched the Latin UK Award for Concert by International Artist of the Year, competing in the same category as Columbian rock star Juanes, salsa legend Oscar de Leon and Grammy-winning Spanish pop singer David Bisbal - and even Jennifer Lopez. He collected his prize and performed at a glitzy award ceremony in London where guests included David Gilmour of Pink Floyd and fashion designer Vivienne Westwood.

The award was a double success for Alvarado who also this year signed a deal with the highly regarded record label World Music Network to release and distribute globally in both digital and physical format his last album *Más Allá*. The deal will see the album due for release in the summer (2013), and makes him the only Argentinean artist to have an entire acoustic tango album released through this label, which has some of the biggest names in world music on its roster.

In Argentina, where his music has daily airplay on tango radio stations, Alvarado engenders much national pride for the way he has become something of a cultural ambassador for his country's rich musical heritage. He has been touring almost continuously for the past ten years performing more than 400 times often to sold-out audiences in major venues and festivals. During this time, his tours have been achieved without any recourse to artistic bursaries or grants.

Blessed with a stunning vocal and emotional range and married to a commanding and charismatic stage presence, Alvarado has successfully undertaken interpretations of many styles, such as milongas, valses, candombes and zambas, also finding time to dig out rare works by celebrated poets and composers including Astor Piazzolla. He has written over seventy pop and rock songs, as well as recording Spanish versions of well-known Finnish and Russian tangos.

Recently he has gained acclaim for his collaborations with some of the more avant-garde Finnish tango players, such as pianists Matti Laukkanen (of nuevo tango outfit Quinteto Otra Vez) and Mikko Helenius, in the process exchanging interpretations of well-known compositions and exploring new possibilities in this timeless genre.

He discovered his talent to sing at the age of 19, by chance, while studying guitar in Buenos Aires. A few years later he travelled to Spain where he was spotted singing in Barcelona and invited to perform in Finland, where tango is hugely popular. News of his talent quickly spread and within two months of arriving there, he was performing with the Tampere Philharmonic Orchestra.

In 2008, Alvarado starred in the cutting-edge "El concierto del Nuevo Tango" with internationally-renowned conductor and flautist Patrick Gallois, Otra Vez and symphony orchestras and, separately, with Finland's celebrated UMO jazz orchestra. In 2009, he took part in Piazzolla's operita "María de Buenos Aires" on its first Polish version and several times in Finland. He starred in it again in July last year (2012) after being invited to perform, for the second time, at the Kuhmo Chamber Music Festival, one of the most prestigious chamber music festivals in the world. He will be performing in it again in Finland later this year.

He is currently working on three new albums, one with Horacio Avilano, one with Mikko Helenius and another with Matti Laukkanen.