

# **CELLspace DJ**

**"Presentation/Meeting"**

**May 30th, 2012**

guided by Homer G Ladas

# **The Future of CELLspace DJing**

New Behringer EPA900 + stands + subwoofer?

Future live music system - procurement, training, etc

DJ breakfast meetings - re-institute, rotating basis, etc

DJ evaluation/feedback - current vs future methods?

New DJ candidates & mentorship program?

DJed theme nights - seasonal, bi-monthly?

## A start of the night CELLspace DJ quiz:

The teachers are wrapping up. They played only late 50's Carlos Di Sarli instrumentals. Assuming you will be the first DJ to play...

### **What music do you start the evening with?**

- A. Juan D'Arienzo early Instr &/or w/ Echague
- B. Carlos Di Sarli - instrumentals
- C. Tango Fusion - alternative set
- D. a Milonga or Vals tanda
- E. Edgardo Donato (mixed 30's & 40's) w/ lyrics
- F. Juan D'Arienzo with Maure
- G. a world music alternative set
- H. other

# Time Out: Let's Briefly Talk DJ Equipment

1. Laptop(s), iPhone, etc, vs. CD's
  - What equipment to use?
2. Sound Cards & Cleaning Software
  - Do they make a difference?
3. Headphones (& thus previewing)
  - Does this help your DJing or not?
4. Any other questions?

# CELLspace DJ 101: Tandas

What is a Tanda? Why do we use Tandas?  
(Listen to Examples)

How Many Songs (2, 3, 4)?

**A**-List vs **B**-List Songs?

**Power Songs** - The What, Why, and When!  
& **Jinx Songs**...

**Exercise**: Let's build two tanda's together...

- A. Traditional
- B. Alternative

# CELLspace: The Initial Set-Up

## Some Questions to Ask Yourself include...

1. - Do you know your sound-system & environment?  
(amp quality, room/speaker layout & height rule, etc)
2. - Are you strategically & comfortably located?  
(i.e. where's the best place to sit?)
3. - Did they provide, or do you have, the cable(s)?
4. - Do you have a power outlet to use nearby?
5. - Is there a fan plugged in nearby (i.e. noise)?  
(also beware of laptop 'cooling fan' noise)

**Warning:** Plugging In & Out can lead to...

[**Demonstration**]

"The Beginner DJ **POP!**"

DJ 101 **Equipment Mantra:**

at START, Amp **On** first & Volume **Up** last

at END, Volume **Down** first & Amp **OFF** last

# Let the Music **Play!**

## Sound Check & EQ'ing

- 1. What is the best EQ set-up at start?

In a pinch try - Traditional :( & Alternative :|

[**Demonstration:** iTunes Examples]

- 2. What is the best volume to start the night?

Lower vs Higher & The **Energy Wave!**

- 3. What happens when more folks are dancing?

Volume wise & Sound (EQ) wise



# CELLspace DJ 101: Cortinas

What is a Cortina? Why break between Tandas?  
([Listen to Examples](#))

@CELLspace - Common Tanda or Different

How Long? ~25 to 45 seconds ave.

What Kinds of Music to Use?

non-danceable, danceable, high or low energy,  
thematic use, etc

[The Cortina Trick](#) - additionally used to help with  
initial sound check and later to stall...

Assuming your first CELLspace **Tanda** is playing, and people are dancing, you decide to...

1. Take a walk (around the dance floor)
2. Preview or search for your next set
3. Get a drink & eat your sandwich
4. Cabaceo someone and go dance
5. Chat with your DJ side-kick
6. Watch & listen
7. None of the above
8. Some of the above (1-6)

You're DJing **on-the-fly** tonight, but you know the following **facts**:

1. The milonga lasts from ~9:10pm to midnight!
2. you will co-DJ with (i.e. mentor) a new DJ candidate.

**Who will go first?**

**How do you split the night?**

# Time to talk CELLspace tanda flow...

1. What **System** will you use?

AT CELLspace: 1 Trad set & 1 Alt Set Rule, i.e.

i.e. TAVATAMAT, etc

(T=tango, V=vals, M=Milonga, A=Alternative)

2. How will you create your **Energy Wave!**

[**Show** Shorey Myer's Approach]

3. Keys: 1. **Be Transparent** - Advertise your mix!

(i.e. 100% Trad, CELLspace 50/50, 100% Alt)

2. **Be Consistent** - Stick with **System!**

- but, know when to diverge/make changes.

- Recommend you create a **DJ FLOW SHEET**

# Tango DJ 101: Advice to New DJs

- Equipment - Less is More!
- Dance to your music...before you DJ it.
- Study (see reference list)
- Don't obsess over obscure details
- Learn who your audience is (& don't over educate)
- Listen & Watch (even when not DJing) vs. Previewing
- Walk the floor often to check sound &
- Ask other dancers for feedback
- Seek mentorship (locally or online)
- Create library of tandas, different orchestras & alt music
- Be prepared before hand but also be ready to improvise

# Homer's DJ Philosophy

1. Remember you are 'Providing a Service'
2. Always Be Transparent & Consistent
3. Study Tanda Creation & **Energy Flow**...
- 3.5 Sometimes it's When you play it, not What
4. Have a **Style** but keep your **Ego** in check!
5. Know/Learn Your Audience - Watch & Listen
6. Balance Community Education vs. Fun
7. Develop the Art of Mixed Music (trad/alt/live)
8. Know when to Break the Rules...
9. Don't be Afraid to take a Chance and Fail, then Learn From your Mistakes!

# Tango DJ 101: Starter Resource List

1. TheOrganicTangoSchool.org/DJ\_Resource
  - a. DJ Presentation + Reference List, Perth Tango Club, Australia 2010
  - b. Alternative & Mixed Music DJ Reference Material (w/ PDF Playlists)
2. Tango DJ Yahoo Group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TangoDJ/>
2. [www.TODOtango.com](http://www.TODOtango.com) - An online mega source for tango music history, lyrics, discography, scores, interviews, articles, etc (est. 1999).
3. [Orchestra Handout](http://tango trance.blogspot.com/) by Dan Boccia, download at [tango trance.blogspot.com/](http://tango trance.blogspot.com/)