

# **DATS**

## **A BRIEF HISTORY**

### **2000 -2010**

Ten years ago, a small group of enthusiasts breathed life into an exciting new enterprise – the Dublin Argentine Tango Society! From the start, the ambitions of the founders and the early committees were boundless and their accomplishments many. Ten years on, the spirit of those founder members still endures and DATS has grown to become the vibrant heart of Argentine Tango in Dublin. Not only did it succeed in putting tango on the map in the city and the country but it also, in the process, created a tango community that sustains, not only its own activities, but a range of alternative tango options as well.

An important part of the success of DATS during the last ten years has been the smooth succession of committees to take over the practical running of the Society. Long may it continue to prosper!

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### **DATS: In The Beginning.....**

*Paul Morrin.*

The wonderful dancers of the show ‘Tango Pasión’ graced the boards of the Olympia Theatre in Dublin in the autumn of 1996. All box office receipts were broken for the show. The world, and now Ireland, had taken Argentine Tango to its heart.

As the second millennium came to a close, only one dance teacher, Sharon Morosini Whelan, offered instruction in Argentine Tango, using the last twenty minutes of her Salsa class to show anybody interested some basic steps. Her students became fascinated with this wonderful dance. Due to Sharon’s busy schedule it was not possible at that time for her to give a full class in Tango and this led to the formation of the Society. The idea of having a weekly class became an obsession to a group of us, ‘us’ being Maeve O’Byrne, Anne Grills, Katrin Hübner, Mark Hughes, Peter O’Toole, Orlaith Tunney, Rosemary and myself. By chance, we were put in touch with a teacher who had danced Tango with a touring company in America.



Paul [L] Maeve [R] Amb. B. [2nd from R]

On the first night of classes in October 1999 over fifty people turned up at the City Arts Studio on the quays. Only then did we realize that Tango was more than just a passing interest to the people of Dublin. Due to a lack of space we transferred the class to Mother Redcap’s near Christ Church. We also got the chance to open a Tango salon every Sunday night in the Turk’s Head, and this allowed us to practice what we had learnt during the week.



The official launch of the Society was on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2000. It was attended by up to 250 members and friends, the guest of honour being the Argentine Ambassador and his wife. A short time later we had our first AGM and a committee was elected, consisting of Maeve, Anne, Katrin, Orlaith, Ricky Muldowney, David Dalton, Eric Lopes, Rosemary and myself. There have been so many unsung heroes in the Society over the years - all the committee members who have given of their time and energy, all the teachers, from

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many different countries such as Argentina, Germany, France, Spain, Italy, England, and, of course, our own Irish teachers. To all those of you who have helped to make the aims of the Society, i.e. to promote and develop Argentine Tango in Ireland, a positive and realistic aspiration - Gracias y Viva El Tango!

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## DATS Tango as Toddler

*Orlaith Tunney - with ideas from Anne Grills*

“Wouldn’t it be something if we could dance tango socially in Dublin?” The idea was born over a glass of wine, in a hotel on Parnell Square, after a combined salsa and tango class in Morosini-Whelan’s. Maeve O’Byrne & Anne Grills (tango’s birth parents) were gathered there along with Paul & Rosemary Morrin, Mark Hughes, Peter O’Toole and I. We were a group of people who had a dream to dance and have some fun along the way.

The community of tango sprung forth and quickly gathered momentum with practical and visionary enthusiasts joining the committee including Katrin Hübner, Emma Gannon, Sybil Hodgett, Ricki Muldowney, Dave Dalton, Wendy Livingstone & Louise Campbell. The Chairs of the committee in the early years were Maeve, and then Paul followed by me, Wendy and Louise.

Dancers came from all walks of life and nations to join the evocative, heart full classes and milongas. The very first classes were held in the City Arts Centre where the committee put up the money to hire the venue. Patching up holes in linoleum became a health and safety hazard and we moved swiftly to Mother Red Caps at Christchurch with its wooden floor and tall windows. It became our regular home on Tuesdays. Hot on Tuesday’s heels was the more sophisticated Sunday night milonga at the Turk’s Head. The end of a night was always marked by the signature tune ‘Tango to Evora’ from Greek singer Haris Alexiou. After a number of years we moved to The Castle Inn when Mother Red Caps was put up for sale. Thus, the Christchurch area was our tango home for many years.



Rosemary and Anne

Teachers came from far afield and as our experience and confidence grew, Dublin started to grow her own! After Sharon, our next teacher was Anna Castellanos, a dance teacher from America. Then came Gustavo Porter and Monina Paz from Buenos Aires; tall, elegant, handsome Gustavo and enigmatic, energetic, sexy Monina. They infected us with the possibilities of entering another dimension through the dance and the connection that is possible with your partner, even if only for two or three dances. The adrenalin flowed. Guest teachers included Claudio & Maria Omar from Buenos Aires. Memories of their lithe bodies, earth bound and sailing through the air; tantalizing slits in skirts, slicked-back hair, fedora and heels. We’d arrived!

Some of the earliest teachers who had learned their craft in Ireland were Emma, Anne, Rosemary & Paul. This fearsome foursome organized a suite of 5 week tango classes in the Turk’s Head. Rosemary & Paul continued to teach for quite some time and inspired many of the early DATS dancers both on and off the dance floor. Katrin, Thomas Rasche and Elmar Jung were the next wave of committed Dublin grown teachers to spread the skill and love of tango. Soon the Dublin teachers were invited to Limerick, Cork & Galway.

Experiments abounded from a summer Sunday afternoon milonga on the Stephen’s Green Bandstand, to “performing” tango at the asado in Abbeyshrule following contact with the Longford- Westmeath Argentina Society. Maeve O’Byrne forever dreaming, scheming and inspiring the rest of us created “The Tango Story”, a history of Argentinian Tango through dance. We had so much fun rehearsing, dressing up and choreographing the show. The production travelled to the Hawk’s Well Theatre in Sligo and The Hanged Man restaurant & pub, Co. Kildare. We collaborated with Des Early and his musician friends for a number of live tango music and dance events. Numbers attending were increasing week by week. Dublin was afflicted by the tango frenzy. Members were taking trips to Buenos Aires to learn more and soak up the atmosphere of the heartland. Returning holiday makers were identifiable from their glitzy shoes and fancy steps!

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The committee evolved and grew over the years. Maeve & Anne wrote and produced quarterly editions of the DATS newsletter, keeping us abreast of happenings including stories such as the DATS trip to join the Edinburgh Tango Society at their Winter Ball; the DATS Honorary membership of the Rosario Tango Academy; photos from balls, lunches etc. With time the committee and society became more systematic with a constitution, audited accounts and our very own membership cards! Committee meetings were practical and full of discussion and debate.

What a privilege to collaborate with a bunch of people (all ages, cultures, professions) driven to create something out of their love of dancing. The people with ideas and commitment, together with teachers, created the space for Dublin dancers to walk, glide and socialize to the beat of the Argentinean soul. I met some of my best friends through DATS and am so pleased to see it continue to flourish and inspire others.

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## DATS' Fifth Anniversary Ball

*Katrin Hübner 2005*

5 years after its official launch in March 2000, Dublin saw DATS' 5th Anniversary Ball in the Pillar Room of the Rotunda. What a wonderful occasion that was! Almost 200 people danced the night away in the elegant Georgian surroundings of the Pillar Room.

The Special Guest was the Argentine Ambassador to Ireland, His Excellency Marcelo Huergo. He gave a witty address to the company and then presented the five founder members of DATS who were present - Anne Grills, Maeve O'Byrne, Orlaith Tunney, Paul Morrin and myself - with a commemorative gift on behalf of the Society and its members.

What better could we DATS founders have hoped for when we put our £10 on the table to pay for DATS' very first venue in the City Arts Centre way back in November 1999?



John, Bernadette and Amb. Huergo



Orlaith and Katrin

The Society has come a long way since then, with the help of many dedicated people. This was very evident at the Ball. I kept marveling at the dancing crowds. What a pleasure it was to see so many happy faces, so much style and confidence! You could feel the buzz when Dublin's current Tango teachers -Thomas and Maria, Keith and Veronica, Monina and Julian, Simona and Carlos, Andres and Maria - took to the floor for a dance demonstration. The Tango dancers gathered around in an appreciative circle and we could witness the diversity and high level of Tango styles, and realize how lucky we are to have so many excellent Tango teachers now resident in Ireland.

The Ball featured the live music of Tango Brava - a Dublin Tango quartet under the helm of Des Early - and the great Tango selections of DJ, Andres Bezem.

For me, Tango in Dublin started off as my "substitute family" when I arrived here first and to this day I have not found the feeling of welcome, integration and the fun of dancing in any other city around the globe as much as I have in Dublin!

Cheers to the next 5 years of Tango in Dublin!

# DUBLIN ARGENTINE TANGO SOCIETY

## 2005 - 2010

dublin argentine tango society  
in aid of  
friends of the rotunda

**ROTUNDA WINTER BALL**  
saturday 24<sup>th</sup> november  
Pillar Room of the Rotunda

Tickets €30 Info: [www.dublinto.com](http://www.dublinto.com)



Dublin Argentine Tango Society  
in aid of  
Friends of the Rotunda

**Rotunda Summer Ball**  
Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> July  
Pillar Room of the Rotunda  
Parnell Square, Dublin 1 (Entrance at right of Gate Theatre)

Tickets: €30 Info: [www.dublinto.com](http://www.dublinto.com)

tango argentino  
in the  
**IFI**  
6 eustace st.  
every sunday  
beginners' class 6.30pm  
milonga 7.30pm

Class & Milonga  
5 or 6.50 Euro

Dublin Argentine Tango Society

**Fifth Anniversary Ball**  
Pillar Room of the Rotunda  
Parnell Square, Dublin 1 (Entrance at right of Gate Theatre)

Guest of Honour: Ambassador M. Huergo, Argentine Republic

Live Tango Music

Tickets €25 Info: [www.dublinto.com](http://www.dublinto.com)

dublin argentine tango society

**Tango Summer Ball**  
harbourmaster pub  
green room  
IFSC  
live music  
monica & nestor castillo  
2nd July 8.30pm  
Info: [dublinto@gmail.com](mailto:dublinto@gmail.com)

Dublin Argentine Tango Society  
and  
Friends of the Rotunda

**Rotunda Tango Ball**

Dublin Argentine Tango Society

**WINTER BALL**  
Friday 21st November  
Fallon & Byrne  
11-17 Eschequer St., Dublin 2  
with Marion and Enrique

Tickets: 30 Euro Info: [www.dublinto.com](http://www.dublinto.com)

**TANGO WORKSHOPS**  
with  
**Monica & Nestor Castillo**

Vals 2.00pm-3.30pm  
Barridas y Sacadas 4.00pm-5.30pm

dublin argentine tango society

**Tango Spring Ball**  
harbourmaster pub  
IFSC  
green room  
saturday 18th february  
8.30pm 'til late  
live music

Tickets €15

Dublin Argentine Tango Society

**Winter Ball**  
Friday 27th November  
Fallon & Byrne  
11-17 Eschequer St., Dublin 2

with Nestor and Chiche

Tickets: €30 (€25 in adv) Info: [www.dublinto.com](http://www.dublinto.com) Email: [dublinto@gmail.com](mailto:dublinto@gmail.com)

Dublin Argentine Tango Society

**Winter Ball**  
Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November  
Bull & Castle Inn  
6-7 Lord Edward St. D 2

€15 Info: [dublinto@gmail.com](mailto:dublinto@gmail.com)

Dublin Argentine Tango Society

**The Oak Room**  
10TH DATS ANNIVERSARY  
The Mansion House  
Friday 16th April 7.00pm - 10.45pm  
By kind invitation of the Lord Mayor

Dance Performance - Beatriz Cisneros & Javier Diaz  
Music Selections by DJ Andro Haavandi  
Complimentary Champagne, Wine & Finger Food

Admission By Ticket Available At DATS Desk

**Free Members Night**

Info: [www.dublinto.com](http://www.dublinto.com) Email: [dublinto@gmail.com](mailto:dublinto@gmail.com)

**TANGO Argentino**  
IN THE  
**BELVEDERE BAR**  
Gl. Denmark St. Off Parnell Sq.

**EVERY TUESDAY**  
with Beatriz Cisneros

Classes  
Beginners 7.30pm  
Improvers 8.30pm  
Milonga 9.40pm

Fees  
€8 - Members  
€10 - Non Members

Dublin Argentine Tango Society  
Info: [www.dublinto.com](http://www.dublinto.com) Email: [dublinto@gmail.com](mailto:dublinto@gmail.com)