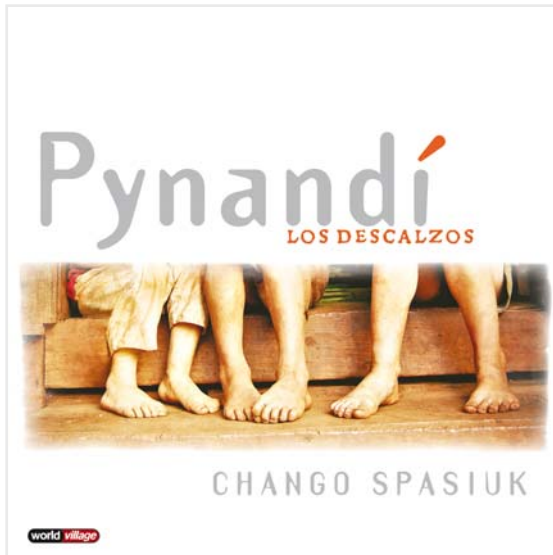


# CHANGO SPASIUK

The master of chamamé to tour U.S. with new release  
*Pynandí -- Los Descalzos* on World Village



WV 468083

Innovative Argentinean accordion virtuoso and composer **Chango Spasiuk**'s latest CD is entitled *Pynandí -- Los Descalzos* ("Barefoot," World Village 468083, street date February 10, 2009), from an indigenous Guaraní word, referring to that nation's impoverished rural populations. This is quite fitting as, like American blues, Portuguese *fado* and Argentina's own tango, the sunny, lilting *chamamé* was at one time considered too lower-class to be of interest to educated listeners. But that was before Spasiuk, with his uninhibited stage demeanor and flying blond hair, put his spin on it, delighting traditionalists while intriguing rock and jazz audiences. The current album, produced by Bob Telson and engineered by Jorge Da Silva, is a love letter to the land of Spasiuk's birth, capturing the red earth, blinding heat, and rough good humor and warm fellowship of laborers heading out for an evening's fun. But all is not as simple as it seems -- the first track, *Tierra Colorada* ("Red Land"), while cheerful on the surface, also harbors

edgy moments of dissonance. *Suite Nordeste* ("Northeastern Suite") opens with an accordion astride a staggering percussion motif, like a horseman negotiating uneven ground. Later on, as the guitar, fiddle and other instruments enter, the scenery becomes more and more resplendent, although the journey has its rough spots and, ultimately, a lonely grandeur. Each of the 15 tunes harbors a contradiction of some kind; although this music is seductively accessible, it is also anything but easy listening -- in the best possible sense.

**Horacio "Chango" Spasiuk** (his nickname is slang for "kid") was born in Misiones, the northeastern-most Argentinean province. As a youngster, he picked up a strong love of the polka from his Ukrainian grandparents. But Eastern and other European sounds, along with Brazilian, *Criollo*, and native Guaraní flavors, were already deeply embedded in the 6/8 rhythms of the region's *chamamé* dance music. He received his first accordion at the age of 9 and was soon performing these two styles, along with *schottisches*, *chamarritas*, *rancheras* and *rasguidos dobles*, at weddings and other celebrations. While still in his twenties, "el Chango" moved to the capital city of Buenos Aires. There, his personal blend of folkloric



CHANGO SPASIUK / © Douglas Manger 2007

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sources with modern innovations, often played with his own orchestra, gradually won him large local and international following while winning him several important competitions. These days, his music is highly evolved and sophisticated, but at heart, remains faithful to its rural beginnings. Indeed, Spasiuk's success in bringing *chamamé* into the concert hall is often compared to his compatriot Astor Piazzolla's internationalization of the tango. Among his many honors is being named "Best Folklore Artist" at the Carlos Gardel Awards, winner of the 2006 BBC World Music Award in the "Newcomer" category and a nomination for "Best Folk Album" at the 2007 Latin Grammy® Awards. Chango tours Europe and the U.S. February through April 2009 with appearances in New York, Boston, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

"Few artists can match the impact of Chango Spasiuk's recent triumphant 'arrival'"  
- Jon Lusk, *fRoots*

"a contagious sense of bonhomie that transcends region-specific cultural roots."  
- Ernesto Lechner, *CHICAGO TRIBUNE*

"Great artistry, virtuoso talents... It's a deep, unfettered joy to indulge in Chango's masterpieces."  
- Chris Moss, *SONGLINES*

"A virtuoso player, Spasiuk stretches the vocabulary of the genre, coming close to avant-pop yet always staying true to the feel and the spirit of *chamamé*."  
- *Jazziz*

### CHANGO SPASIUK 2009 TOUR

26, March	Minneapolis, MN	The Cedar Cultural Center
27, March	New York, NY	Zankel Hall, Carnegie Hall
3, April	Boston	Somerville Theatre
4 & 5 April	Los Angeles, CA	Getty Center
7, April	San Luis Obispo, CA	Grace Church
9, April	San Francisco, CA	Yoshi's

*All dates subject to change.*

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