

Chango Spasiuk: Pynandi

(World Village)

★★★★★

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[Article history](#)



Chango Spasiuk may look like a 1970s rock star, with his long blond hair and beard, but he is one of the great originals of the Latin music scene: an instrumentalist and composer who has popularised and transformed the country music of northeastern Argentina. He plays the accordion and specialises in chamamé, a local dance style that the elite of Buenos Aires never took seriously until he showed how it could be performed with subtlety, elegance and sophistication. This set shows why he is so special. It consists mostly of instrumental pieces filled with delicate mood changes, in which he switches, often within the same track,

from rousing dance music to rapid-fire flurries and lyrical passages that reflect the wide open spaces of his home region. He is matched by equally versatile violin and cello, plus the fluid guitar work of Sebastian Villaba, who provides the sturdy vocals on three tracks. Spasiuk starts a British tour next week, and he is even better heard live.