

Eleanor and Dario

Teacher Resource Guide Lotus Blossoms 2026



ABOUT THE ARTISTS



Vocalist and songwriter Eleanor Dubinsky and Argentine guitarist/composer Dario Acosta Teich bring audiences together with fresh interpretations of jazz, Latin, popular and original songs. Their interactive school concert *From Buenos Aires To The Andes: A Musical Journey Through Argentina* takes students on a dynamic ride through performances of tango and the folk genres of chacarera and huayno, including interactive songwriting and an introduction to traditional Argentine musical genres and instruments.

Eleanor Dubinsky is “a multilingual musician who can capture the emotions and soul of a community in a song.” (NPR). Hailing from St. Louis, MO, her songs celebrate both her mid-western roots and the formative time she has spent in South America, Western and Central Europe, Portugal and Cape Verde. Eleanor is a vocalist and also plays guitar, cello and hand percussion.

Guitarist and composer **Dario Acosta Teich** combines his deep knowledge of classical and South American vocabularies with his passion for jazz harmony and free improvisation. Born in Tucumán, Argentina, Dario was raised in a traditional home filled with folk music and frequently accompanied his father Kato Acosta to *peñas* (informal gatherings of folk musicians who share traditional songs). Dario graduated from the University of Tucumán Conservatory training program at the age of eleven and earned a Master's degree in jazz performance from Hebrew University's Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance.

MUSICAL MAP OF ARGENTINA



Argentina is a large country in South America that is divided into regions, like the north, south, east and west of the United States. The official language of Argentina is Spanish. Several other indigenous languages are also spoken including Aymara (ayee-MARA), Quechua (KE-chooah, Toba (TOW-ba) and Guaraní (Gwa-ra-NEE).

The Spanish and indigenous words on this map name the musical styles in different regions in Argentina. Can you tell which is the north, south, east and west?

MIND, BODY, MUSIC **CONNECTION**

"Song is a ceremony of love between the artist and the public."
- Mercedes Sosa, celebrated Argentine singer

The mind is a terrible thing to waste! Music allows us to remember how lucky we all are to be able to use our brains! Did you know that there is scientific evidence that music has the power to alter your mood, explain a feeling or even heal?! Music is *powerful*.



It's not only music that improves our brain functions. Artistic expression of many kinds helps our mind and body connect! A great example is dancing. Allowing your body to move and express yourself through the music is a powerful self-awareness exercise.

Each person connects with music in his, her or their own way. Whether through singing, dancing, playing an instrument, listening, songwriting drawing or other activities, there is no wrong way to appreciate music!

"The music goes in my ears, is filtered through my heart, and comes out through my feet." - El Flaco Dany Garcia, Tango dancer



THREE GENRES (STYLES) OF ARGENTINE FOLK MUSIC

*"Creativity is inventing, experimenting, growing, taking risks,
breaking rules, making mistakes, and having fun."*

— Mary Lou Cook

Tango (TAN-go) is a style of music and dance that originated among European, South American and African populations of the countries of Argentina and Uruguay.

Instruments: Tango is traditionally played by a solo guitar, guitar duo, or an ensemble known as the *orquesta típica* (or-KE-sta TEE-pee-ka), which includes at least two violins, flute, piano, double bass, and at least two *bandoneóns* (accordions).

One famous tango is *Por Una Cabeza* (By One Head), a song about losing a horse race by the length of one horse's head!

Watch and listen [here](#)

Listen [here](#)



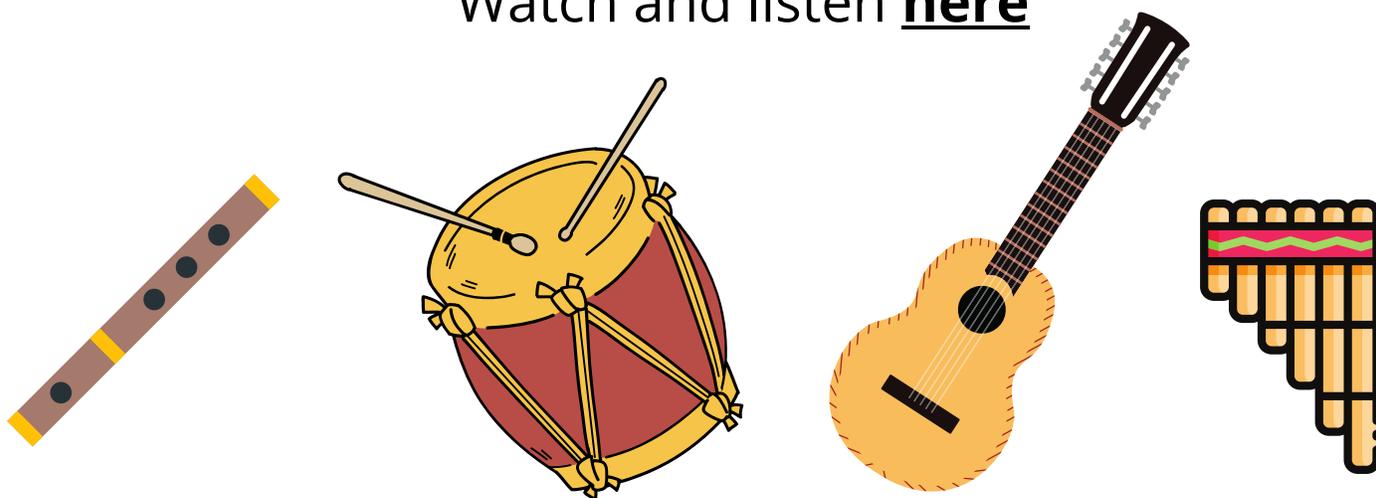
Tango is a sad thought that is danced. – Enrique Santos Discépolo

Huayno (WHY-no) sometimes called Carnavalito (Car-na-val-I-to), is a popular folk music and dance from the Andes mountain region in the north of Argentina as well as in the South American countries of Peru, Bolivia and Chile. Huayno is often played in the streets of cities and towns while people of all ages dance and play, particularly at festivals and parades.

Instruments: Huayno is traditionally played by a bombo (BOM-bo) or traditional drum, quena (KE-na) or flute made from a hollow cane, sikus (SI-kus) or pan flute and charango (cha-RAN-go) or small guitar-like instrument with five double strings).

One famous huayno is *El Humahuaqueño* (El oo-ma-wa-KAY-nyo).

Watch and listen [here](#)

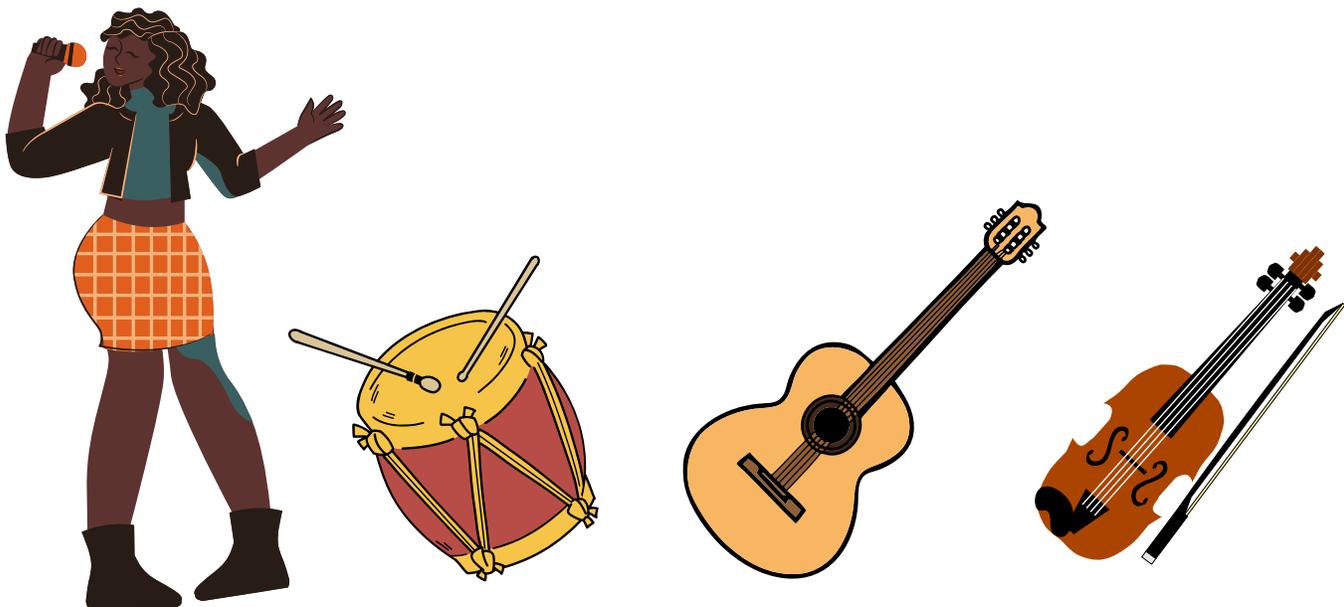


"One door is shut, but a thousand are open." – Argentine Proverb

Chacarera (cha-ka-RE-ra) is a style of dance and music that originated in the north of Argentina. For many people in South America, chacarera is the most typical folk music for countryside and rural areas. Chacarera played by one musician or a group and is danced by couples in a specific dance pattern.

Instruments: Chacarera is traditionally played with singing, guitar, violin and bombo (drum).

One famous chacarera is *Chacarera del Monte*.
Watch traditional chacarera dancers and listen [here](#).



"Where words leave off, music begins" - Heinrich Heine

GAMES

*"It's not enough to have the most melodious voice to sing a tango. No. You have to feel it, moreover. You have to live its spirit."
- Carlos Gardel, Argentine singer, composer and actor*



ACTIVITY: *Can you draw a line between the Spanish words on the right and the corresponding English on the left? see how many you can guess correctly.*

WORD BANK

INSTRUMENT
TYPE OF DRUM
SOUTH
MOUNTAIN
FAMILY
NORTH
GUITAR
DANCE
HELLO
MUSIC
THANK YOU
TYPE OF DANCE AND MUSIC

GITARRA
GRACIAS
BOMBO
MÚSICA
BAILE
FAMILIA
TANGO
NORTE
SUR
HOLA
MONTAÑA (MON-TAHN-YA)
INSTRUMENTO

Do you speak a language in addition to English? Do you know anyone who speaks another language? Which language or languages?

ARGENTINE MUSIC AND INSTRUMENTS

B D U E Q N M B K L E X T G B A J C C G R X M D Z
U O B H R V B L Y C N S U R A I R H C M F U Q D T
Q D M U Y O Q O I A H H Z Y N K F E P F S D K M B
A Q P B M I L O G K Q G U G D O V K R I W B Z J O
A N N J O V V K P N N Q F A O N A X C A X Q M G H
G D Z M F B C F L B U K P H N Y K R Z R C F A K B
Z D R D R X G C G O G I K W E A R K G S N A N R V
E H L G P U I Y K A F C E G O U N G S E A A H B Z
T J H A I L A N N I Z O W W N H B I B W N Q D C R
O T J T O B B E N W I E U V N X O Y L R I T Q H R
D P A T O O U A I D Y V V V P Z K R A K W X I M V
C R E M C Q R I L W H E K N N O W O G N A T D N N
C H A R A N G O O E T X X L G Z M V D G E E F V A
C S X Y Z K P T I I U G F R H O M T U Z K K K C H
W O S M Z N D A V Q X L O Q V C S W L N T U B E N
V O O B S R X B F O D V Q D Z R K S Z X W D C T C
P L N I T V K G J S X B P N J C Y N N G X J U M U
E K G W T W L R V D J W A E I Z N H D P T E X D D
X S Z C J H R I Y R B W V A V Y W W O S B V U O M
Q L W K H O X G T P C V S Z B W E R Z Z E L Q P O
X A W J X P T F B R D P E R C U S S I O N O P S V
B J Q O I L Q Y X M T V O J S I T W T F R J R X T
R A M Y M E R O T I B B Y B C O C V D V W O X A P
W O A Q G Y C L B P R X T V H O Z K E C N A D T Y
Q T Q D F V A L M W S I K U S Z V D U X K S W Z Y

CHARANGO
BOMBO
BANDONEON
GUITAR
TANGO
MUSIC

HUAYNO
QUENA
SIKUS
ARGENTINA
SONG

FOLKLORE
VIOLIN
VOICE
CHACARERA
DANCE

TAKEAWAYS



Eleanor Dubinsky and Dario Acosta Teich

School name _____

Grade _____

what did you like about Eleanor and Dario's workshop?

Was this the first time you learned about music from Argentina

What would you like to learn more about?

Have you ever written a song before?

Did you like writing a song?

If you could write another song, what would be the topic?

What would you tell other students your age about Eleanor and Dario's program?

What would you change about Eleanor and Dario's program?

Do you have any more comments or suggestions?

Please write your name below if you give Eleanor and Dario permission to use your name and any comments in future promotions.

Name _____

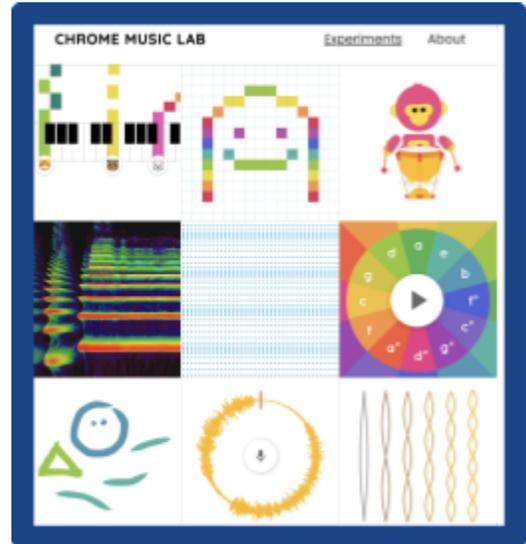


*Responses can be sent to Eleanor Dubinsky
Email: eleanorsings@gmail.com*

STEAM Activity - Chrome Music Lab

See Sound in Action!

Chrome Music Lab is a free, web-based collection of interactive experiments that makes music more accessible and fun to learn. It uses hands-on, visual activities to help users explore concepts like rhythm, pitch, and chords.



Visit: musiclab.chromeexperiments.com/Experiments

No need to create an account or download an app, only an internet browser is needed to access Chrome Music Lab. Chrome Music Lab also works on tablet devices.

Materials written by Eleanor Dubinsky and compiled Lotus Education and Arts Foundation, 2026

For more information regarding **Lotus Blossoms**, please contact:
Tamara Loewenthal, artisticdirector@lotusfest.org
P.O. Box 1667, Bloomington, IN 47402
lotusfest.org

