

The "Tango War": A Battle over Tango Music Rights

By Melkisedeck Leon Shine · July 3, 2023

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? In the early 20th century, a fierce battle erupted over the passionate and seductive rhythms of tango music. This heated conflict, known as "The Tango War," was not fought on the battlefield, but rather in courtrooms, dancehalls, and recording studios across the globe. Embark on a rhythmic journey through time as we uncover the fascinating tale behind this battle for tango music rights. ???

? Our story begins in 1913, in the enchanting city of Buenos Aires, Argentina. Tango, born from the fusion of European and African rhythms, quickly gained popularity among the working class. It swept through the streets and dancehalls like wildfire, capturing the hearts of locals and foreigners alike.

? Fast forward to the 1920s, when the radio became the ultimate source of entertainment. Tango melodies echoed through the airwaves, captivating a global audience. Entrepreneurs saw the potential and rushed to record and market this captivating music. But with the rise of tango's popularity, a legal battle was brewing.

? Villoldo's case marked the beginning of a worldwide debate over the ownership and use of tango music. The Tango War had officially begun, with artists, composers, and recording companies battling for control over the melodies that defined the genre.

? The war escalated further when in 1925, Francisco Canaro, another prominent composer, assembled an army of lawyers to launch an assault on those who had recorded his tangos without proper authorization. Canaro's determination sparked outrage and fear within the recording industry, setting off a chain reaction that would reverberate across continents.

? Amidst the chaos of the Tango War, international conventions were held to establish guidelines for copyright protection. In 1928, the Buenos Aires Convention on Copyright solidified the rights of artists and composers, offering them legal protection against unauthorized recordings and performances.

? As the 1930s unfolded, the Tango War gradually subsided, and a new era for tango music emerged. The battle had sparked a renaissance, as artists and composers basked in newfound recognition and financial security.

? Today, tango continues to enchant the world, with its fiery passion and dramatic flair. Thanks to the efforts of those who fought in the Tango War, artists and composers now receive the recognition and compensation they deserve for their creative genius.

?? So, the next time you find yourself swaying to the sultry sounds of tango, remember the historical struggles and triumphs that shaped this captivating genre. Let the Tango War be a reminder that behind every captivating melody lies a story of passion, perseverance, and the enduring power of music. ??

