

Bárbara Varassi Pega is a Rotterdam based pianist, arranger, composer, researcher and educator born in Rosario, Argentina. Specialised in River Plate tango music, she has toured the world with diverse ensembles, recorded several CDs and published articles related to her fields of expertise. *Tango Tinto* and *Tango Gradus ad Parnassum* are her two main own ensembles. She is also the pianist of the famous *Quinteto Astor Piazzolla* (<https://quintetoastorpiazzolla.com/>) with which she has intense tours around the world and collaborates as a pianist and composer with other ensembles, including the NEUE (<https://www.neweuropeanensemble.com/>).

She has created and collaborated in works including music, theatre, dance, puppets, fine arts, animation and audiovisuals, and is currently working on inter and transdisciplinary projects with international artists. In 2015, she participated at Mercantia festival, Italy, with the puppet theatrical show *Pinocchio*. During the pandemic, she crafted stop-motion short films and initiated the Facebook group "El amor en los tiempos del covid-19" [Love in times of covid-19]. This group, inviting global participation, led to the creation of a collective artistic web gallery and gained international acclaim, even earning a dedicated article in Argentina's prominent newspaper, *Página 12*. She is the co-director of *Seven fragments of her life*, a short animation movie selected for the International Film Festival Rotterdam 2024, where the film had its world premiere and was widely acclaimed by the critics and the public.

She is the author of *The Art of Tango*, a unique book with a companion website on tango performance, arrangement and composition published in 2021 by renowned Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group. She currently works as artistic research coach and piano and ensemble teacher in the Master of Music at Codarts University of the Arts, Rotterdam where she also coordinates the Tango (World Music) Department and fulfilled a postdoc project focused on tango music creation and education in 2022. She also works as researcher and as artistic research coach in the Master of Music at Fontys University of Fine and Performing Arts, Tilburg. She has obtained two Bachelor degrees in piano, at the Instituto Provincial del Profesorado de Música in Rosario (1998) and the Conservatorio Statale di Musica Giuseppe Verdi, Milan, Italy (2003). In 2009 she completed a Master of Music at the Tango Department within the World Music Department at Codarts University of the Arts, Rotterdam and in 2014 a PhD trajectory at the Academy of Creative and Performing Arts, Leiden University, as part of the docARTES programme. She also completed studies in composition at the Conservatoire de musique, de danse et d'art dramatique du Pays de Montbéliard, France, 2015.