

Verve, simmering passion and an occasional flash of humour

Anthony Marwood, James Crabb and Jonathon Coco can play tango like natives.

Stephen Whittington, The Advertiser

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Jonathon Coco, double bass. Picture: Dylan Coker

An Englishman, a Scotsman and an Australian walked into a bar in Buenos Aires.

The Englishman was carrying a violin, the Scotsman was carrying an accordion and Australian was carrying a double bass.

It sounds like a joke, but it isn't because these three – Anthony Marwood, James Crabb and Jonathon Coco – can play tango like natives.

This program began and ended with the master of tango nuevo, Astor Piazzolla, played with tremendous verve, simmering passion and an occasional flash of humour.

In the middle was a classic – *Por una cabeza* – by the Elvis of tango, Carlos Gardel, a bittersweet gem of reckless love and regret.

Marwood and Crabb together played a sonata by Bach, originally for violin and keyboard, the accordion sounding like a positive organ.



James Crabb, accordion.

James Crabb has remarkable dexterity and an unrivalled ability to play contrapuntally on the accordion.

He hits the buttons so fast it's like he's touch typing at 500 words per minute (the world record is 216).

Igor Stravinsky's *Divertimento* from *The Fairy's Kiss* was surprisingly effective for this unlikely combination as well.

A Scottish lament by Sally Beamish was evocative and moving, while two Scottish folk melodies ended in a dazzling virtuoso duel between Marwood and Crabb.

Anthony Marwood and James Crabb

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