With its mesmerizing style and sound, the Lorena Guillén Tango Ensemble has captivated audiences with soulful arrangements of Argentine tango standards and original compositions that create a dynamic tango and pan-Latin fusion. The musicians in the group each have rich and extensive experience in Argentine tango, jazz, classical and contemporary music, and other world and popular music styles, all of which can be heard on their debut recording, *The Other Side of My Heart*.

Based in North Carolina, the group has been committed to collaborations and concerts with the Latino organizations of the region, such as Casa Azul of Greensboro and the Hispanic League of Winston Salem, and their new recording reflects that community engagement. Developed by Lorena Guillén (lyricist/vocalist) and Alejandro Rutty (composer/bass player), “The Other Side of My Heart,” is an oral-history musical piece based on interviews with six Latina immigrants to NC. The women’s testimonies became the lyrics of six songs, and fragments of their recorded voices can be heard throughout the piece.

The Lorena Guillén Tango Ensemble has performed “The Other Side of My Heart” and many other selections from their new recording throughout North Carolina and beyond, including concerts in Durham for the Mallarmé Chamber Players; in Greensboro for Guilford College, Triad Stage’s UpStage Cabaret, and the Music For A Great Space series; in Winston-Salem for the Hispanic League’s “Colorful Sounds in Concert” and the Music Carolina SummerFest; at the Blowing Rock Art & History Museum Summer Concert Series; at High Point University; and at Georgia Southern University.

The ensemble has presented its music nationally and internationally at Kleinhans Music Hall and the Calumet Arts Café in Buffalo, NY; at the MusicBox Theater and Folk Research Center in Saint Lucia, West Indies; and for concert series sponsored by the Amherst Saxophone Quartet (NY), the Frick Museum (PA), and the Veronika String Quartet (CO). The Lorena Guillén Tango Ensemble has also been featured recently in live radio and TV broadcasts, including performances on WUNC’s “The State of Things” with Frank Stasio (NPR affiliate in Chapel Hill, NC); on KUNM’s “Corazón Tanguero” with Cristina Baccin (NPR affiliate in Albuquerque, NM); and on Fox8News in High Point, NC.

Interested in engaging young audiences, and with the idea that music it is the best ambassador to appreciate cultural diversity, the ensemble has participated over the years in many outreach programs at universities such as Bennington College (VT), Hartwick College (NY), University of Maryland-College Park (MD), Rutgers University (NJ), Elon University (NC), and at many public schools in Guilford County, NC. This fall they will travel to Mary Washington University in VA for lectures and perform in Winston-Salem’s annual FIESTA, a free street festival that draws over 20,000 visitors.