



# In search of true tango

A LOVE of the tango led Dutch-born musician Miranda Wageman to move beyond dance classes to Spanish language lessons.

And the journey went further after her Spanish teacher took her to see a tango band fronted by Domingo "Mingo" Herrera.

"After the show Mingo asked me if I'd enjoyed the music and I said, 'yes but where is your violinist?'"

"My husband then dropped me in it and told Mingo that I play the violin."

Wageman soon found herself a member of Cuarteto Farol (The Street Lamp Tango Band) and in the 18 months since she joined, the band has upped the tempo.

Cuarteto Farol is now a regular at festivals both locally and interstate and has a regular spot at Tropicana Cafe in Fremantle on Saturday mornings.

Later this year the band will embark on its most exciting venture yet – a trip to Argentina courtesy of an ArtsWA grant.

Wageman said the trip would give the band the chance to study "proper" Argentinean tango, record a CD with local musicians and perform in Buenos Aires and other places.

Wageman said the way tango is played in Argentina is very different to what we hear in Australia. During a previous trip a teacher told the violinist, "You play very nice but you play classical, not tango."



**BAND OF  
THE WEEK**  
LES EVERETT

## CUARTETO FAROL

"We will learn how to use our instruments in the true tango way," Wageman said, "it will be a novelty for all of us."

Cuarteto Farol is a four piece band with Herrera playing bandoneon (the most advanced member of the accordion family); Shane Pooley on double bass and the versatile Abe Dunovitis on guitar and vocals.

Wageman's previous musical experience was as a member of an orchestra and said she found playing in a tango band more fulfilling.

"It's nice to see people really enjoying the music, dancing or tapping their feet and physically enjoying the sound."

With the trip to Argentina looming, the band members are now making sure they're ready.

"We're practising every week as well as playing at the Tropicana which is like a public practice," Wageman said, "we want to do as many performances as we can so that we're a nice tight group when we get to Argentina."

Join Cuarteto Farol at the Tropicana Cafe, near Victoria Hall in High Street on Saturday mornings.