

TandaPrompter

Version 3.0
(C) Michael Pascher

TandaPrompter

Application

The program "TandaPrompter" runs under Windows and allows the compilation of genre and artists for the tandas of a milonga and their presentation via a beamer.

The compilation of the tandas can be done before the milonga or interactively during the milonga.

When using the freeware audio player Foobar2000, the process can be automated to a large extent.

Installation

TandaPrompter does not require any installation. The ZIP file is unpacked into a directory of your choice, then the program is ready to run. It makes sense to create a shortcut to TandaPrompter.exe on the desktop. To do this, drag the file TandaPrompter.exe to the desktop while holding down the "Alt" key.

Setting up the program

After unpacking the program TandaPrompter.exe can be started and set up.

Install .Net Framework

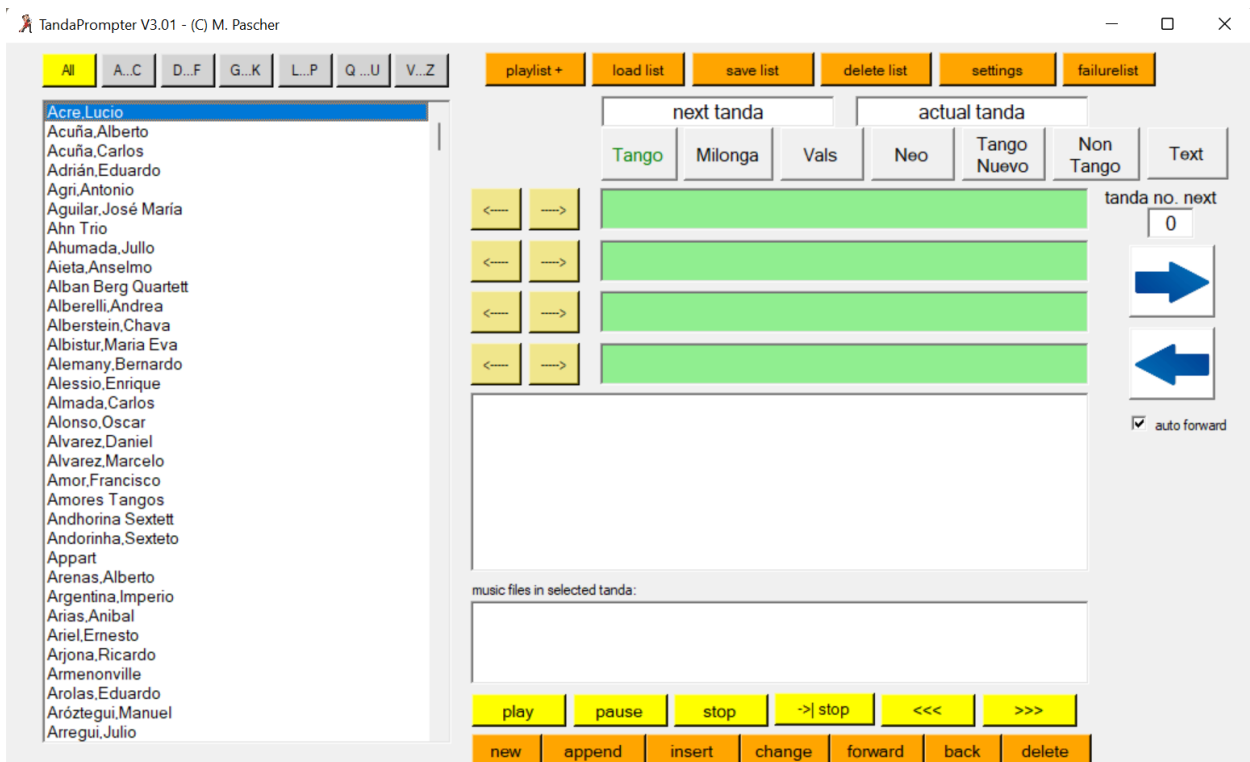
If not already available, the .Net Framework 4.8 may need to be downloaded and installed. This happens automatically on request after the start and has to be done only once.

Program interface

The program displays a presentation area that takes up the whole screen and a dialog box that is used to control the program.



Full screen display of tandas during the milonga



Dialog for program control

Operation of the program

The program normally recognizes the connected beamer or second screen and displays the preview image, which is also displayed during the milonga. If necessary, the tanda display must be moved to the beamer manually or by changing the display options.

The screen displays shows the "current" and the "next" tanda during the milonga. For each tanda, the genre (tango, milonga, vals, neo or non tango) and the artists whose music is played in the tanda are displayed, as well as pictures of the artists, if available. Each display can be set up

- manually during the milonga,
- in advance as a list or
- in the form of prefabricated tandas during the milonga

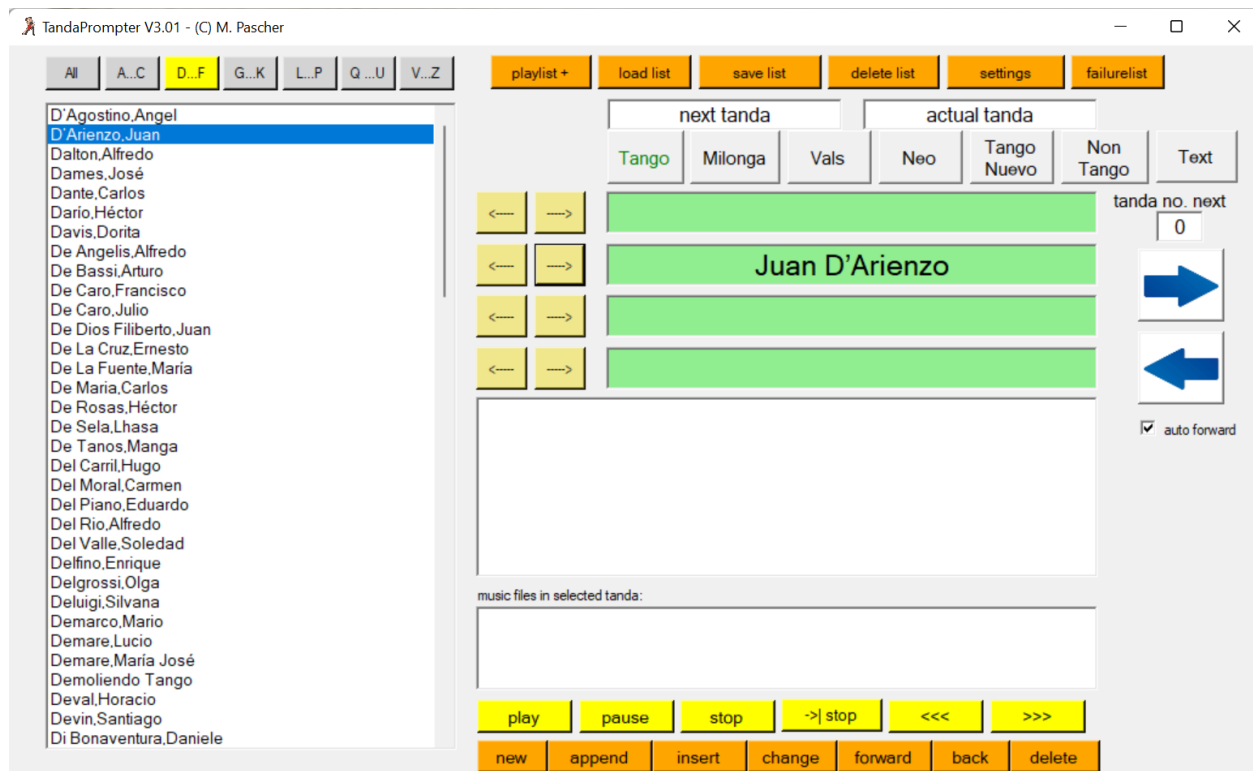
The display of a tanda includes the genre, the artists and if available pictures of the artists. The procedure is as follows:

1. Selection of the genre by clicking on a button Tango, Milonga, Vals, Neo, Tango Nuevo, Non-Tango or Text, the text of the selected button turns green
2. Selection of an artist from the list on the left side
3. Transfer to one of the 4 artist fields on the right by clicking on the corresponding button ---->.
4. If more than one artist is played in the tanda, repeat point 2 and 3
5. Click on the button "append" to append the tanda data to the list of tandas below the input fields, delete the input fields and reset the genre to tango.

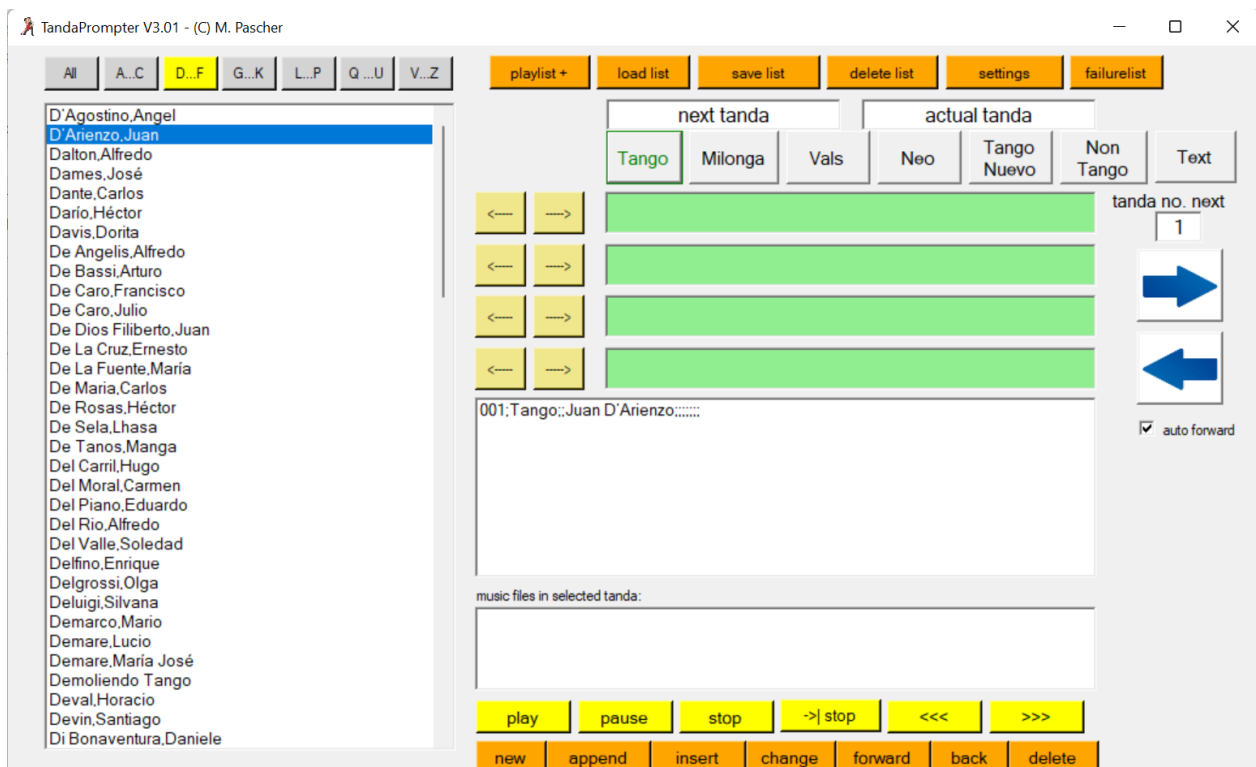
Selection of an artist can also be done by selecting the range (All, A..C ... V..Z) and then entering the first letter(s). ESC clears the selection by letters.

Alternatively to 2. and 3. the artist names can also be typed directly into the fields manually. The

"Text" genre is intended for pure text in the input fields, e.g. greeting or farewell text. No genre is displayed on the beamer in this case.



In this tango-tanda only D'Arienzo is played



The tandas has been appended to the list

By repeating the above steps, a complete display list for a milonga can thus be created. Such a list can be saved to a file with the "save list" button in the top center. The file extension is ".tdl". With the button "load list" a saved list can be reloaded at any time, the existing list will be deleted before.

As soon as there are tandas in the list, the top list entry is displayed on the beamer as the "next tanda". If there are several entries in the list, the display can be scrolled back and forth using the buttons with the blue arrows on the right side of the dialog. The DJ must do this manually after each tanda. It is up to the DJ whether to create a complete list of the pieces to be played during the milonga beforehand or, depending on the development of the milonga, create only a few tandas in advance and expand the list interactively during the course of the milonga. The latter approach, of course, requires a lot of attention.

Above the blue arrow keys, the number of the next tanda in the list is displayed. Navigating the list with the blue arrow keys is independent of the possibilities to influence the list with the keys located below the list. The display remains unchanged during appending, inserting and deleting, unless one of the displayed tandas is deleted or inserted in between.

The editing options are as follows:

the "forward" and "back" buttons can be used to move forward and backward in the list. The selected entry is displayed in the list fields. The displayed content can be changed there and then taken over with the "change" button. With "insert" a new tanda can be inserted before the currently selected one, with "append" it can be appended to the end of the list. "delete" deletes the selected tanda from the list.

The "clear list" button deletes the entire list, the beamer display is of course also deleted.

With the button "save list" the tanda list can be written to a file, with "load list" it can be read from a file.

One more word about the genre "Text". This genre is used to insert a display with important information (e.g. greeting, info about next milongas, breaks or similar). If Foobar is used, it stops playing after playing the cortina, if next tandas genre is „Text“.

The texts of the title lines "next Tanda" or "actual Tanda" can be changed, they will be displayed as title lines on the beamer.

Automated mode of operation

If the freeware program Foobar2000 is used as MP3 player, the course of a milonga can be partially automated. For this it is necessary that tandas are prepared in the form of playlists. This can be done e.g. with Foobar2000, i.e. drag 3..4 files of the same genre and from the same artist/orchestra and/or the same epoch and/or the same rhythm into a playlist and save them under a meaningful name as M3U playlist. In this way, any number of Tanda playlists can be prepared.

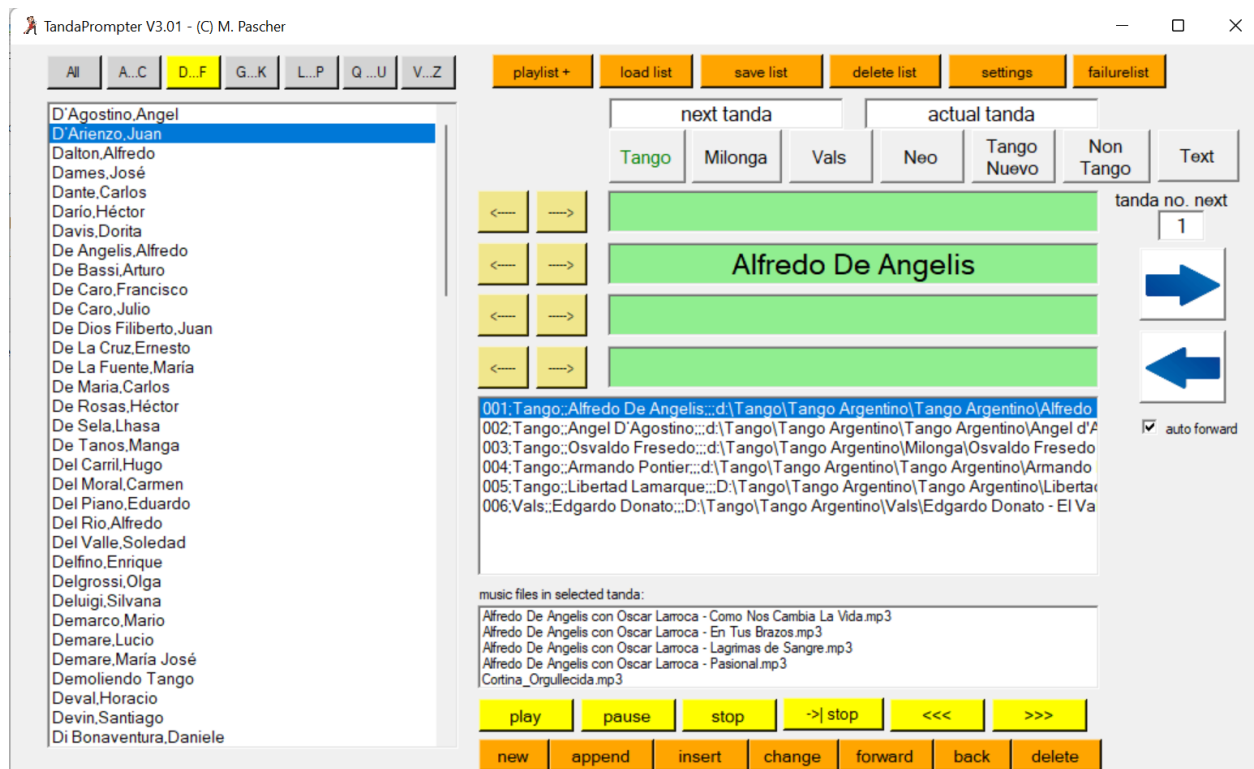
In the next step, these playlists are supplemented with additional information (genre, artist/orchestra) using the TandaEditor program and an MP3 file is attached as a cortina.

During the milonga, the DJ can now import some of the ready-made tanda playlists into Tanda-Prompter using the "append playlist" button, depending on the mood. If configured accordingly, the playlist will be sent from TandaPrompter to Foobar2000, so that all playlists imported into Tanda-Prompter are also available in Foobar2000 in the correct order to be played. At the beginning of the milonga, the button with the blue right arrow is pressed once and the first file in Foobar2000 is started. Foobar2000 writes a file with title and artist as content for each currently played track if configured correctly. TandaPrompter recognizes when a cortina is played, a tanda is over and switches

the display accordingly (the checkbox "auto forward" at the bottom right must be checked for this). The DJ only has the task to select the right tandas depending on the course and mood of the milonga and to import them into TandaPromper and to make sure that there are always at least two to three not yet played tandas in the list.

When attaching a playlist, TandaPromper warns you if you try to attach a tanda that has already been played. You can then cancel the import or allow it anyway.

Foobar can be controlled also remotely via the yellow buttons. When TandaPromper is started, a new empty playlist is created in Foobar. The start of the first MP3 file should be done directly in Foobar2000, because after adding tandas the playlist pointer points to the beginning of the last added tanda and not to the first file of the playlist.



Above alist of several tandas was created

When compiling from ready-made tanda playlists, the tracks contained in the tanda are displayed below the tanda list.

Display of artist-pictures

For the artists in the list, there are usually also images stored in the "Images" folder. If an artist is to be played that is not present in the list, it must be entered manually in one of the artist fields. This new artist can also be added to the list. To do this, the artist must be entered in one of the 4 fields to the right of the selection list in the special format "last name,first name". By clicking on the button <---- in front of the field, the artist is added to the list, the list "All" is selected and the new artist is correctly entered into the corresponding artist field.

If an artist is to be deleted from the left list, it must be selected in the list and then the "Del" key must be pressed. After each change the list is saved in sorted order, duplicate entries are removed automatically. Pictures of artists can easily be put into the subdirectory "Bilder". The file must be a "jpg" file and must be named "firstname lastname.jpg" like the artist in the list. First name and last name must be written exactly as in the list. If no image is available for an artist, the "Default.jpg"

file is displayed. If there are several artists in one tanda, the images of the artists are displayed cyclically one after the other.

With the button "failurelist" a text file "Fehlliste.txt" is generated, which contains all artists, to which no picture is present.

Settings

The "Settings" button opens the settings dialog.

In the "positions" group, the size, font, color and the positions of the data on the beamer can be set. The x-position cannot be specified, because the screen is divided in half for the current and next tanda. The numbers next to the data fields indicate the vertical position from the top, the total height is assumed to be 1000 (so 1 corresponds to 0.1% of the screen height). The "Font" buttons can be used to specify the font, font size and font color for each field on the left and right.

In the group "genre names" the names for the different genres can be entered. Since these names are also written to the lists, old lists can no longer be used when changes are made. The labeling of the genre buttons does not change!

positions	Y-Pos	left	right
title	145	Font	Font
Genre	210	Font	Font
artist 1	280	Font	Font
artist 2	330	Font	Font
artist 3	380	Font	Font
artist 4	430	Font	Font

genre names	
Tango	Tango
Milonga	Milonga
Vals	Vals
Neo	Neo
Nuevo	Tango Nuevo
non Tango	non Tango

background:
☐ video instead of image ☐ video in front transparency: 65

current title: ☐ show actual title act. title: Y-Pos: 530 X-Pos: 510 length: 480 Font: playing path: D:\TP\Playing

artist pictures: ☒ show images image: 610 img. height: 300 img. time: 8

save

In the "artists pictures" group, the display of artists' images can be activated.

„Image“ and „img. height“ indicate the y-position and height of the picture showing the performer below the tanda. If several artists are played in a tanda, the images of the artists (if available) are displayed cyclically, the display duration in seconds is defined via "img. time".

In the "background" group, the "background" button is used to select a background image for the display via file dialog. The data is displayed on this background.

With "video instead of image" instead of a background image a sequence of videos is played, which are located in the subfolder "Videos" and named "Video1.mp4", "Video2.mp4" and so on. After the last video, the first one is played again. With "video in front" the video can be placed completely in front over the text, but then the video must be given a transparency > 0 . This can be specified under Transparency in %, 65 is a good value for example. The text that is now behind the video is displayed with a black background, the text color should then be white or light. In this configuration the text does not look so frayed.

In the group "current title" you can define that the currently running title is displayed on the screen. For this purpose, the position and the length of the field must be specified and the path to a folder where the player program stores a file named "Playing.txt", which contains the information about the currently running title in a text line. This works e.g. with the programs "DigiJay" or Foobar2000, which are available free of charge. The file "Playing.txt" is deleted after reading the information. The displayed line is deleted every time you press "->" or "<-. In the program DigiJay the output of the current title must be configured. Under "Settings/Program/Paths and File Options" check the checkbox "write title info file" and specify file path "...\\Playing.txt". The file path must match the settings of TandaPrompter. In Foobar2000 the extension "Now playing simple" must be included and the appropriate settings must be made there.

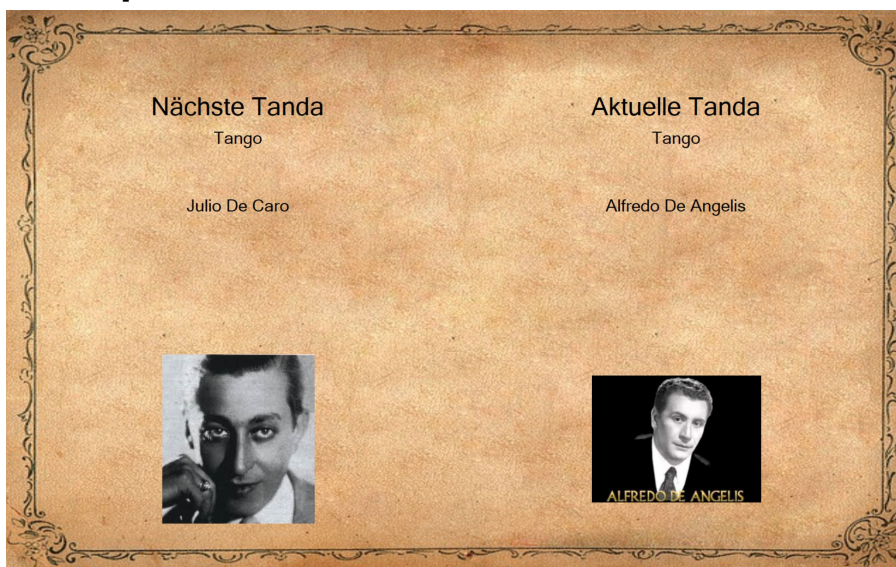
In the group "Foobar2000" the interaction with Foobar2000 can be set, if this player is used. "playlist to FooBar2000" activates the automatic loading of tanda playlists into Foobar2000, if a playlist is appended to the display list with the button "append playlist". The path to the EXE file of Foobar2000 must also be specified.

"player stop if genre text" stops the playback if the genre of the current tanda is "text".

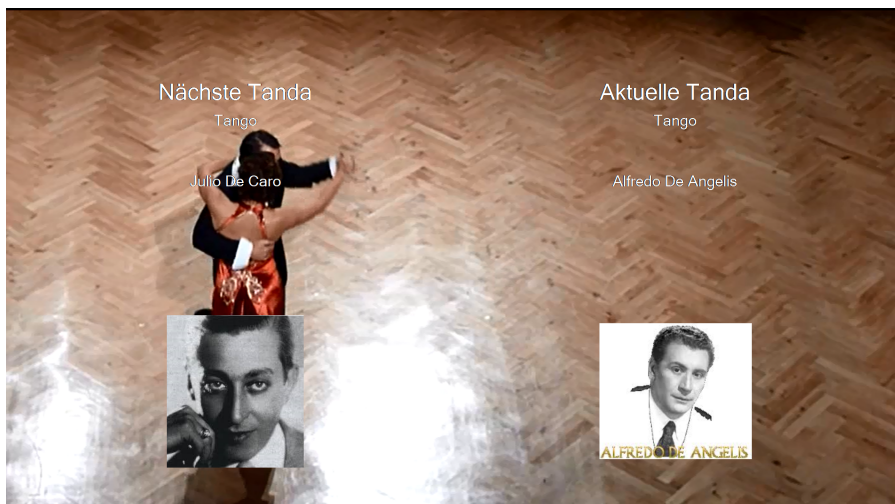
With a click on the flag you can switch between German and English.

With "save" the settings are written into the file "TandaPrompter.ini", from which they are also read at program start.

Example screens



Screen with image as background



Screen with video as background

Interaction with Foobar

Here again in summary the interaction with Foobar2000, if so configured.

When TandaPrompter is started, a new playlist is created in Foobar, the name is "New Playlist" or "New Playlist (n)", where n is a consecutive number.

When loading a pre-made Tanda playlist using the "playlist +" button, Foobar will automatically append the included music tracks to the playlist.

Foobar stores "Artist" and "Title" of the currently played track in a file, this file is evaluated by TandaPrompter. The data can be displayed. If the file contains the word "Cortina" TandaPrompter automatically switches to the next Tanda display.

If the genre of the next tanda is "Text", Foobar will stop the playback at the end of the cortina before the new tanda "Text" starts if activated in settings.

At the beginning of the milonga, click once on the button with the blue arrow on the right and double-click the first file in Foobar, then it will go automatically. After a "Text" tanda, continue with blue right arrow and yellow button "Play".

Foobar can be controlled with the yellow buttons. The button "->| stop" stops playing at the end of the current song.

Interaction with DigiJay

In DigiJay the Tanda playlists loaded in TandaPrompter must be inserted manually, for this right click in Playxliste and then "Load Playlist", select playlist and answer the question after append with "Yes".

Switching to the next tanda can also be set with DigiJay, for this in DigiJay under "Settings/Settings/Program/Path and File Options" set the file options "Artist2" and "Title" and check "Stream Info File" and enter the file "Playing.txt" with complete path.