



**CARMEN MARET &
ANDREW BERGERON:**
FOLIAS TANGO MUSIC

Tango music may have originated in the River Plate basin, but today it is also alive and well in . . . Grand Rapids! In 2002 *Carmen Maret*, MA '03 & '05, and *Andrew Bergeron*, MA '05, founded Foliass Music, a flute and guitar duo as well as music publishing company there. "I was first exposed to tango as an undergrad at (the University of) Missouri, where I played with a tango band," says Carmen, who earned two master's degrees (in flute and in ethnomusicology) at MSU. She met and later married Bergeron, a fellow MSU graduate student in music composition. Recalls Carmen, "We became involved with tango communities just starting up in Michigan, and we eventually landed a gig playing tango music at a Grand Rapids restaurant." Today, the duo performs

all over North America, composes both classical and jazz tango music, produces recordings which are sold online at foliassmusic.com, and does a lot of teaching "so we can pay our mortgage bills," says Carmen, who teaches at Aquinas College along with Andrew, who also teaches at Grand Valley State University and Grand Rapids Community College. "We just finished a national tour that included Alaska, the West Coast and Canada," says Carmen. "I'm now working on another tour from San Francisco to Alaska. We'll play tango music in wineries and at the end of the tour we'll be at the national flute convention in Las Vegas." Carmen says they play both traditional tango music and also "neo-tango," a modern version inspired by the late, classically-trained composer Astor

Piazzolla. "When we tour, we play mostly traditional tango music because that's what dancers respond to," explains Carmen. "But we appreciate both and believe there is a place for both." Carmen and Andrew tout MSU's College of Music and special professors, Michael Largey in musicology, and Charles Ruggiero in composition.

KATIE LAROCHE:
ONE WORLD, ONE
FUTURE

When she competed in last year's Miss America contest, she won two major honors (on top of over \$30,000 in scholarships)—"Miss Congeniality," which is



voted on by fellow contestants, and the "Quality of Life" award, which is based on how committed one is to one's platform. And *Katie Laroche*, '08, Miss Michigan 2010, remains totally committed to her cause—the problem of human trafficking. "I'll be speaking with young people throughout the world about human traffick-