

Columbus Day Luncheon: Verdi and the music of Risorgimento

Monday , October 10, 2011

Chair: Joe Crivelli

In 1850 Italy was still a collection of separate states ruled by foreign powers, principally Austria. One State, however, Piedmont-Sardinia, was independent. Its king, Victor Emmanuel, was dedicated to achieving Italian unification. Nationalists used the code “Viva VERDI” for their movement... an acronym for Vittorio Emanuele Re d'Italia. The wild success of the opera *Nabucco* put Verdi's name and music in the minds of many throughout the Italian peninsula. The “Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves” from that opera was an immense success. The work has become a second national anthem.

Tom Turicchi holds a Ph.D. in music history from Catholic University in Washington, D.C. and is President of the Italian Cultural Society of Naples. He lectures at both Hodges University's Center for Lifelong Learning and FGCU's Renaissance Academy.

Molino's Restaurant
Price: \$25

Doors open 11:00;
Brief talk 11:30 followed by lunch