



amici

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2012 VOLUME 13 ISSUE 2

A PUBLICATION OF THE ITALIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY

ICS PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



Valle dei Templi (Valley of Temples) or, in Sicilian, *Vaddi di li Tempri* is a misnomer as this UNESCO World Heritage Site is actually located on a ridge outside Agrigento. It is one of the most outstanding examples of "Greater Greece" art and architecture, and is one of the main attractions of Sicily as well as a national monument of Italy.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Perspective	1
ICS Top Ten Hits of Italian Opera	2
Don Giovanni	2
ICS Calendar of Events	3
UNESCO Heritage Sites in Sicily Lecture	4
Mosaic Art in Sicily	4
Sicily: The Arabs' Paradise	5
Cena Siciliana	5
The Role of Chorus in Italian Opera	5
Italian Language Classes	6
Il Cinema Italiano	7
Reservation Procedure	8

Cari amici,

Well here they are, the results! The Opera surveys have been collected, recorded and tallied. Each vote has been verified by Delfino & Delfino and now it's time to reveal the winner. And the winner, the Italian Cultural Society's selection of the all time greatest composer of Italian arias is...Puccini!

To step back for a moment, I began this project last spring in an attempt to reacquaint myself with the literature and music of Italian Opera. I wanted to reexamine for myself what it was that makes an operatic aria "great". In my opinion, operas do not have the dramatic depth to make them worth seeing over and over. We see or listen to multiple performances of an opera not because we might understand it more deeply, but because we want to experience a good musical performance.

The pieces you have selected in this project are considered "great" and frequently performed because people love to hear them or to hear a particular artist sing them.

So now, without further ado...the ICS list of the "Ten Greatest Hits of Italian Opera."

The top spot goes to the exquisite aria "Un bel dì" (One beautiful day) from Puccini's *Madame Butterfly*. Puccini himself considered *Madame Butterfly* his best and most technically advanced opera. It has become one of the most beloved operas of all time, so it would be difficult for any one of its many great arias to outstrip the opera itself. But one of its arias does just that. "Un bel dì" has been performed in recordings and in concert settings far more than the opera itself and by such divas as Renata Tebaldi, Renee Fleming, Maria Callas and Kiri Te Kanawa. The second spot also goes to Puccini for the aria "Nessun dorma" (Nobody shall sleep) from *Turandot*. "Nessun dorma" achieved pop status after Luciano Pavarotti's recording of it was used as the theme song of BBC television's coverage of the 1990 FIFA World Cup in Italy.

The next two places went to arias by Verdi: "Brindisi" (The drinking song) from *La Traviata* and "La donna è mobile" (Woman is flighty) from *Rigoletto*

continued on page 2

followed by two more by Puccini "*Mi chiamano Mimi*" (They call me Mimi) from *La Boheme* and "*O mio babbino*" (Oh, my dear father) from Gianni Schicchi.

Three arias tied for the next spot, "*Celeste Aida*" by Verdi, "*Che gelida manina*" (What a cold little hand – *La Boheme*) by Puccini, and "*E lucevan le stelle*" (And the stars were shining) from the most performed opera in the world, *Tosca* also by Puccini.

One slot left. May Rossini forgive me, but "*Sempre Libera*" (Always free) from *La Traviata* by Verdi was a strong entry at 10th place.

So that is our list.

As an act of contrition on your behalf for omitting Rossini, Mozart and Leoncavallo, I am spending the entire weekend, listening nonstop to *The Barber of Seville*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, and *I Pagliacci*.

Finally, I wish to thank the members who took part in this survey for their help in selecting the "Greatest Hits of Italian Opera."

Warm Regards,

Tom Turicchi, President ICS

ICS Top Ten Hits of Italian Opera

✓	" <i>Un bel dì</i> " (One beautiful day)	<i>Madame Butterfly</i>
✓	" <i>Nessun dorma</i> " (Nobody shall sleep)	<i>Turandot</i>
✓	" <i>Brindisi</i> " (Let's drink from this merry chalice)	<i>La Traviata</i>
✓	" <i>La donna è mobile</i> " (Woman is flighty)	<i>Rigoletto</i>
✓	" <i>Mi Chiamano Mimi</i> " (Yes, they call me Mimi)	<i>La Bohème</i>
✓	" <i>O mio babbino caro</i> " (Oh my dear father)	<i>Gianni Schicchi</i>
✓	" <i>Celeste Aida</i> " (Heavenly Aida)	<i>Aida</i>
✓	" <i>E lucevan le stelle</i> " (And the stars were shining)	<i>Tosca</i>
✓	" <i>Che gelida manina</i> " (What a cold little hand)	<i>La Boheme</i>
✓	" <i>Sempre Libera</i> " (Always free)	<i>La Traviata</i>

Don Giovanni Comes To Opera Naples

The well-known Mozart two-act opera, which premiered October 29, 1787 at Prague Italian Opera, will be performed in Italian with English subtitles on January 15 and 16 at Opera Naples 2408 Linwood Avenue.

Cast: Matthew Treviño, Bass, as Don Giovanni, Amanda Hall, Soprano, as Donna Anna, Leroy Lehr, Bass, as Il Commendatore (Don Pedro), Brian Cheny, Tenor, as Don Ottavio. For more cast info and opera times, visit info@operanaples.org.

Ticket prices are \$95, \$75, \$50, \$25 and can be purchased at <http://operanaples.tix.com> or 239-963-9050. ICS will not be handling reservations or offering discount pricing for this event.

Italian Cultural Society Calendar of Events

Tuesday, January 3 "*Malèna*"*

Tuesday, January 10

Musical Performance

"Operas in the Afternoon: Bellini to Puccini"

First Congregational Church of Naples

Performance **3:00 p.m.**; Wine and Cheese to follow

Sunday, January 15

UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Sicily Lecture

Stonebridge Country Club

Lecture by Edith Coleman at **1:00 p.m.**

Tuesday, January 17 "*Night of The Shooting Stars*"*

Wednesday, January 25

General Meeting Luncheon and Lecture

"Mosaic Art in Sicily" by Carol Jonson

Country Club of Naples

Social **11a.m.**; Lecture **11:30** followed by lunch

Thursday, February 2

Luncheon and Lecture

"Sicily: The Arabs' Paradise" by Gaetano Cipolla, Ph.D.

Tiburòn Golf Club

Social **11:00 a.m.**; Lecture **11:30** followed by lunch

Tuesday, February 7 "*The Sicilian Girl*"*

Friday, February 10

Cena Siciliana – Annual Regional Dinner

The Club at Pelican Bay

Prosecco and antipasti **6 p.m.**

followed by dinner and entertainment

Tuesday, February 21 "*Baaria*"*

Wednesday, February 22

Lecture

"The Role of the Chorus in Italian Opera"

by Gordon Greene, Ph.D.

Stonebridge Country Club

Lecture **1:00 p.m.**

Tuesday, March 6 "*La Scorta*"*

Thursday, March 8

Luncheon and Lecture

"Godfather Films, Game Theory and The Mafia"

by John Alcorn, Ph.D.

Kensington Country Club

Social **11:00 a.m.**; Lecture **11:30** followed by lunch

Wednesday, March 21

Buffet Lunch and Lecture

"The Four Seasons by Antonio Vivaldi"

by Tom Turicchi, Ph.D.

Naples Garden Club

Social **11:00 a.m.**; Presentation **11:30** followed by lunch

Tuesday, April 3 "*Big Night*"*

Thursday, April 5

Annual Meeting Luncheon

Introduction to Veneto

Pelican Isle Yacht Club

Social **11:00 a.m.**

Presentation **11:30** followed by lunch

*See page 7 for information on our film series.

For Information 239-434-3323

Important Notice

Some ICS events will have a choice of menu options and seating preferences. An "email blast" will be generated prior to these events detailing the entrée choices. Please call the information line to specify your luncheon choice and to indicate your seating preference. For your convenience, you may also use the email address listed below for menu choices and seating preference. *Cena Siciliana* will have a fixed menu, but you may call or email your seating preference for that event.

Your menu choice for these events **MUST** be received prior to each event.

ics.menu.seating@gmail.com

UNESCO Heritage Sites in Sicily Lecture

*E*dith Coleman, ICS founding member, will conduct a 50 minute presentation on the historical context and importance of the Heritage Sites in Sicily along with her insights into the art history of the region.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, established officially in 1946 and headquartered in Paris, has a program to identify and preserve cultural heritage sites considered to be of outstanding value to humanity. Italy has 47 UNESCO Heritage Sites, the most famous of which remains the Valley of the Temples in Agrigento. Come experience the wonders of Sicily's Villa Romana del Casale, the Baroque town of Ragusa and Syracuse, a jewel in the crown of Rome and Greece.

Sunday, January 15

Location: Stonebridge Country Club on Airport Pulling Road situated between Immokalee and Vanderbilt

Event Chair: Carolyn Dickinson

Lecture Only: 1 p.m. **Price:** \$10

"Mosaic Art in Sicily" Luncheon and Lecture at CCN



*E*xplore the breath-taking mosaics of Sicily with Carol M. Jonson as she presents some of Sicily's greatest mosaic art treasures for ICS members at The Country Club of Naples on January 25.

Sicily, standing at the crossroads of the Mediterranean, has been called "mosaics heaven" by Rod Humby, the webmaster for the *Joy of Shards*, a resource where visitors can share an enthusiasm for this art form. Carol will demonstrate how Sicily acquired her reputation with a presentation of some of the island's greatest treasures spanning the centuries from Villa Romana to the splendid Norman and Byzantine cathedrals and chapels.

Carol, who holds a master's degree in English Literature from Wayne State University in Detroit, was honored recently by Hodges University for her 15 years of volunteer service to the Frances Pew Hayes Center for Lifelong Learning where she has taught literature and humanities, art history and classical mythology.

Wednesday, January 25

Location: The Country Club of Naples, 185 Burning Tree Drive, Naples

Burning Tree is accessed from Northgate Dr/Solana Road from Goodlette-Frank (south of Pine Ridge).

Event Chair: Linda Crescenzi

Social: 11:00 Lecture: 11:30 followed by Lunch **Price:** \$28 inc tax and gratuity

**Did you solve the Columbus Day riddle?
It's as plain as the nose on your face!**

Sicily: The Arabs' Paradise

Dr. Gaetano Cipolla, retired professor of Italian at St. John's University in N.Y. and an expert on Sicily, will expound on the Arab invasion in 827AD which eventually gave them control of the entire island. While detailing the Arabs' influence on art, literature, language, and behavior and their transformation of Sicily into a veritable paradise with new crops, irrigation and a system of government, Dr. Cipolla will dispel some notions about the Saracens that are patently false. Gaetano Cipolla is President of *Arba Sicula* an international organization that promotes the language and culture of Sicily. He is an editor, publisher and translator of Sicilian poetic and dramatic texts.

Thursday, February 2

Location: Tiburòn Golf Club, 2620 Tiburòn Dr., corner of Airport Pulling and Vanderbilt Beach Road

Event Chair: Grace Mannino

Social: 11:00 a.m **Lecture:** 11:30 followed by lunch **Price:** \$39

Cena Siciliana

The Club at Pelican Bay will host the ICS "signature" celebration of the season with Sicilian food, wine and entertainment on February 10 starting at 6 p.m. with Prosecco and *antipasti* on the patio overlooking the lush 9th hole of the Club Course, weather permitting.

Four authentic courses, diligently researched and prepared by Chef Joe Gross, will comprise *la Cena* accompanied by fine Sicilian wines.

Throughout the evening attendees will be entertained by performers from ONcore, the young artist's ensemble from Opera Naples, and Melissa Vitrella, Artist in Residence at Opera Naples. Going among the tables, these young professionals will sing favorite arias from Italian opera, as well as, popular Sicilian and Italian folk songs.

Friday, February 10

Location: The Club at Pelican Bay, 707 Gulf Park Drive, Rt. 41 to Gulf Park located south of Vanderbilt and north of Pine Ridge.

Event Chair: Adam Crescenzi

Antipasti: 6 p.m. followed by dinner and entertainment **Price:** \$80

Note: Seating limited to 184 members and our invited guests

The Role of Chorus in Italian Opera

A group of happy villagers, a boisterous gang of thieves, a crowd cheering a hero or decrying a villain, a throng of lamenting slaves and joyous revelers come under the microscope as Gordon Greene, cultural historian and popular lecturer, examines the role of the chorus in Italian opera.

Date: Wednesday, February 22

Location: Stonebridge Country Club on Airport Pulling between Immokalee and Vanderbilt Beach

Lecture Only: 1 p.m. **Price:** \$10

Italian Language Classes Resume January 11

ICS will resume Adult Italian Classes at The Community School of Naples 13275 Livingston Road (just north of Pine Ridge), in Building N, 2nd floor, on Wednesdays. The six-week Winter Session will conclude on Feb. 15, followed immediately by the Spring Session which will begin on February 22 and conclude on March 28.

Robert Lundry, the newest addition to the ICS teaching team, will handle duties for Italian I in the Winter Session and Italian II in the Spring Session. We extend a warm welcome to Bob who joins Nancy Menaldi-Scanlan and Grace Mannino. Instructor bios can be found at our website.

Winter Session is \$60 for ICS members and \$70 for non-members. Checks made payable to Italian Cultural Society will be accepted by the instructor on the first day of class.

Classes cannot be "sold" individually, and there is no refund for missed classes.

Contact Donna Lenzi, Adult Language Program Coordinator, at 330-606-8822 or lenzidonna@gmail.com to register or for more information. You will be contacted to confirm your registration.

Winter Course Offerings

Italian I is an entry level, no pressure course for those with no prior Italian language experience. Berlitz 5 Minute Italian ISBN # 978-981-268-625-1 is used as a guide through critical sounds, greetings, numbers, telling time and present tense verb usage. The book is available for purchase through the instructor for \$16, or it is available at Barnes & Noble. Homework is assigned to increase confidence.

Plan to register early for this popular class. Italian I will not be offered in the Spring.

4:00-5:30 p.m. Room to be determined.

Italian II expands upon the introductory information in Italian I and increases the complexity of conversational situations with useful expressions for shopping, dining and small talk. Italian I or the equivalent is a prerequisite for this class which continues the use of the Berlitz book as a workbook and for homework.

4:00-5:30 p.m. in Room 14

Italian III/IV concludes studies with the Berlitz book and prepares students to begin speaking Italian with understanding of past and present perfect tense verb usage. Grammar, syntax and idiomatic expressions are explored.

5:45-7:15 p.m. in Room 14

Beginner Conversation relies on all the elements described in the above classes as prerequisite. No book is used in this class, but exercises are prepared by the instructor to introduce and reinforce vocabulary. The class is conducted in Italian, and English is spoken only to assist with grammar, structure, and syntax.

5:45-7:15 p.m. in Room 18

Intermediate Conversation is conducted in Italian with discussions of a thematic, literary or cultural nature using topics provided by the instructor. Beginner Conversation or the equivalent is a prerequisite for this class.

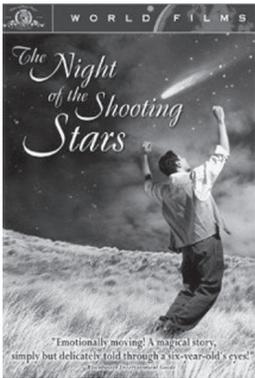
4:00-5:30 p.m. in Room 18

Il Cinema Italiano

All films are shown on Tuesday evenings in the auditorium of the Norris Community Center at 755 8th Avenue South in downtown Naples.

Parking is limited in the **Norris parking lot**, but **off-site parking** is available near the **Tennis Center**. Plan to arrive early and socialize with ICS friends.

A **\$5.00 donation** is requested. Doors open at **6:30 p.m.** with film at **7:00 p.m.**



January 17 – The Night of the Shooting Stars. *La Notte di San Lorenzo* is the award winning 1982 Italian “memory film” directed by Paolo and Vittorio Taviani. In it, the now- grown narrator reflects back to the night in August of 1944 when the peasants of her Tuscan village must decide to cooperate with the retreating Nazis or find the liberating Americans moving up from the south. The story, primarily focusing on those villagers who go in search of the Americans, illuminates the turning points for the people of the village and a turning point of the war. “Padre Padrone,” the Taviani brothers’ previous film of note won the 1977 Cannes grand prize.

The Night of the Shooting Stars won the 1982 Cannes Film Festival Jury Special Grand Prix Award and was named Best Film of the Year by the National Society Of Film Critics.

106 minutes

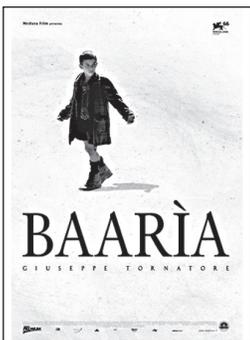
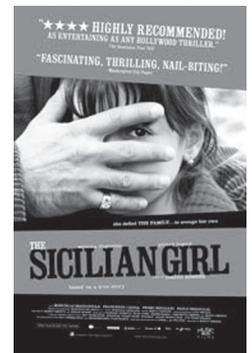
Italian with English subtitles

February 7 – The Sicilian Girl. This 2009 film by photojournalist and documentarian-turned-director Marco Amenta is inspired by the story of Rita Atria, a key witness in a major Mafia investigation in Sicily. *The Sicilian Girl* was nominated for a David di Donatello Best New Director award for Amenta’s earnest biopic of the brutality and destructiveness of Sicilian mob culture. Veronica D’Agostino portrays Rita, who testified against the Mafia in a famous 1992 trial in Palermo, Amenta’s hometown.

It was awarded “il Biglietto d’Oro,” Italy’s national prize for the film shown most often in public schools.

115 minutes

Italian with English Subtitles



February 21 – Baarìa. This 2009 offering by director Giuseppe Tornatore was the opening film of the 66th Venice International Film Festival. It recounts life in the Sicilian town of Baarìa (Sicilian slang for Tornatore’s birthplace, Bagheria) from the 1920s to the 1980s as seen through the eyes of lovers Peppino and Mannina. It evokes the loves, dreams and disappointments of an entire community over five decades. A main subplot running through the film is the history of the Italian left especially the Communist Party in the region.

Originally filmed in the local Baariotu dialect, *Baarìa* has been made with Italian and English subtitles.

It was a Golden Globe Best Foreign Language Film nomination in 2010.

Reservation Procedure

Information Line: 239-434-3323 for information and reservations.

To Pay By Check: Call the Information Line and clearly state your name, phone number, the name of the event you are reserving, and the number and full names of your guests. Give menu choices if options are listed in *amici* and your seating preferences. Mail checks to our new address:

**Italian Cultural Society
1100 Fifth Ave. South Suite 201
Naples, FL 34102**

To Pay By Check with a Reservation Form: Download the Reservation Form from the ICS website and mail it with your check to the above address.

Please note that we will continue the long-standing policy that a reservation is only **valid** when the check is received. We encourage you to make multiple reservations using one check. All reservations will receive confirmation of payment received.

ICS can no longer accept credit card reservations on the Reservation Line.

To Pay By Credit Card: Credit card payments will be accepted through our website using Pay Pal. Your reservation will be confirmed.

Cancellation Policy: NO Refunds will be given for cancellations made within four days of the event.

Membership Information

ICS membership year: October 1-September 30. Please submit dues no later than November 1 to be included in and receive an updated directory. Dues are \$60 for couples and \$35 for individuals. Dues may be submitted at any time but must be received by Nov. 1 for inclusion in the directory. Dues received after April 1 will be credited to the following year. Name badges are \$10 and will be mailed to all new members upon receipt of dues and badge fee. Members are requested to wear name badges at all events. Membership forms are available at all events and online.

www.italianculturalsociety.com

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