

La Dolce Vita for the MYSO – Summer notes from Italy

From the time the orchestra arrived in Milan on July 3, 2006 to its departure from Rome eleven days later it was a feast for all of the senses. We explored small Tuscan towns (Lucca, (home of Puccini), Siena, (the famous Piazza del Campo) and Arezzo with steep winding streets all surrounded by fields of sunflowers, vineyards and olive groves. In every place we visited were churches and cathedrals filled with precious works of art. – mosaics, frescoes statuary and paintings. Venice was approached by water taxi, where the beauty of the city is breathtaking from the Grand Canal. A day was spent visiting St. Marks, the Doges Palace, seeing the Murano glass blowing factory and enjoying the always delicious gelato. Other places we visited, that no visitor to Italy misses, were Pisa (The Leaning Tower) Florence (The Accademia and Michelangelo's David) Verona (Romeo and Juliet's balcony, and the stunning Roman amphitheatre) and Rome (Vatican City, the Forum and Coliseum) and anything else we had time for before heading back to our coaches.

Four concerts were performed magnificently even after long days of sightseeing. After a lovely al fresco dinner, we set up in the Church Eremitani for our first concert in Padova, a small town famous for its Cathedral of St. Anthony and Giotto collections.

Our second concert was in the ancient walled city of Arezzo, the setting for Benigni's "Life is Beautiful" We were scheduled to perform in the evening in the Piazza San Domenico but due to torrential rain we were allowed to move into the vast Basilica of S. Domenico which was dated back to 1275. The orchestra started the concert fearing that nobody would come, but the townspeople heard the music and kept coming! We played in a beautiful setting with incredible acoustics to an appreciative audience. The town of Arezzo was the birthplace of many famous people, most notably Petrarch, Michelangelo Buonarroti, and Guido d'Arezzo who invented musical notation.

Our third concert in Florence was scheduled for 9:00 P.M. in the evening. However, at that time Italy was playing in the finals of the World Cup. As soccer was on everybody's mind we moved our concert time to late afternoon and returned to our home base in Montecatini Terme in time to watch the Italian victory. The exuberant festivities lasted long into the night and MYSO members were some of Italy's biggest fans!

World Cup Victory Celebration



Our last concert in Montecatini was the most memorable. The famous thermal spa town is a place where treatments are performed in luxurious settings. The town has remained an attraction for famous and powerful people from all walks of life. Among the famous visitors were Giacomo Puccini who composed the second and third act of *La Bohème* there, and Giuseppe Verdi who participated in hydrotherapy for more than twenty years and where he wrote the music for the final act of *Otello*. We played in the spa Terme Tettuccio in a magical setting under a full moon to an enthusiastic audience, which was the perfect ending to a wonderful concert tour.



The MYSO's final concert in the spa Terme Tettuccio in Montecatini

Farewell to Italy and graduating seniors

Our arrivederci Roma (and Italia) took place at a beautiful vine covered outdoor restaurant “Quo Vadis”, on the Appian Way. We were serenaded by musicians singing operatic arias as well as well known popular Italian songs. The good food and music provided a perfect ending to a memorable and successful tour.

The following seniors are pursuing a career in music:

Anna Britton, violin	Mannes
Billy Leonhardt, cello	Messiah College
Kevin McGovern, bass	University of Maryland, College Park
Corrine Mona, flute	St. Olaf University in Minnesota
Anahid Gregorian, oboe	Oberlin
Santana Moreno, clarinet	University of Maryland, College Park
Kevin Manion, bassoon	Piano performance at Indiana University
Sarah Pennini, French horn	Queen’s University of Charlotte, NC
Nicholas Corasaniti, trumpet	Shepherd University
Tony Gioio, tuba	Shepherd University

Other graduating seniors:

Daniel Beller, clarinet	Brandeis University
Alex Boenisch, viola	Drexel University
David Burghy, trumpet	Swarthmore College
Bradley Oppenheimer, trombone	Harvard

Congratulations to all, and thank you for the many years devoted to the MYSO



Graduating seniors at Restaurante “Quo Vadis

Welcome New Members:

Zadamarie Alfeche, violin	Patapsco High School
Grace Calvin, percussion	Reservoir High School
Andrew Cheng, trombone	Howard High School
Ben Cureton, percussion	Home schooled
Curtis Dell, clarinet	Home schooled
Dondi Ellis, flute	St. Maria Goretti high School
Boram Kim, violin	Mt. Hebron High School
Yoomie Kim, violin	Marriotts Ridge High School
Felix Lee, clarinet	Clarksville Middle School
Paul Lee, cello	Marriotts Ridge High School
Adele McAllister, violin	Howard High School
Annabelle Mona, French Horn	Severna Park High School
Charles Pao, clarinet	Centennial High School
Jessica Sachs, oboe	Mayfield Woods Middle School
Zach Silberschlag, trumpet	St. Mary's College of MD
Jacqui Symon, bassoon	Ellicott Mills Middle School
Ashley Tobler, viola	Meade High School
William Utley, bassoon	Reservoir High School
Anna Walsh, flute	Glenelg Country School
Madeline Watson, violin	Home schooled
Stephen Watson, violin	Home schooled
Rebecca Watson, cello	Home schooled
Colin Webb, viola	Home schooled
Justin Yoon, violin	River Hill High School
Fu Zeng, violin	Centennial High School
Victoria Zhang, clarinet	Centennial High School
Yolanda Zhang, trombone	Mt. View Middle School

Halloween Fun





On Sunday, October 22 the MYSO was joined by the Maryland Youth Preparatory Orchestra for a family oriented afternoon of fun. The musicians wore Halloween costumes, as did many of the audience. The stage was decorated with bales of straw, pumpkins and Halloween items. The program included The Sorcerer's Apprentice; In the Hall of the Mountain King; Funereal March of a Marionette; March of the Scaffold; Danse Macabre; and Promenade and Great gate of Kiev.

December Concert

The MYSO concert on December 16 featured the winners of the International Young Artist Piano Concerto Competition. The Piano concerto No.3 in C minor by Beethoven was performed by Mariana Olaizola (1st movement), Belinda Juang (2nd movement) and Alan Woo (third movement). The program also included the Overture to Iphigenia in Aulis by Gluck, and Variations on a Famous Theme by Paganini by Ralph Matesky.



The winners of the IYAPC Concerto Competition in concert with the MYSO.

Poinsettia Sale

We thank all the participating families who made our poinsettia fundraising sale a success.

Tribute to Broadway

On a Saturday evening (March 3) a fundraiser/concert took place at CCBCC Catonsville. A silent auction was held, the auction items being “themed” baskets. The theatre lounge was filled with baskets of all sizes containing something for everyone. Dessert and coffee were served and the evening was festive and fun. Musical selections ranged from Richard Rodgers and Lionel Bart, to Bernstein and Andrew Lloyd Webber.

Spring Plant Sale

On the first Saturday in May the annual plant sale took place. Thank you to all the families who supported this fundraiser.

Season Finale – Viva Italia

A wonderfully exciting program of operatic music marked the end of the 43rd season. The orchestra was joined by Nicole Biondo, soprano, and Antonio Giuliano, tenor. Together, music of Cilèa, Ponchielli, Puccini, Rossini, Tosti and Verdi was performed. Mr.

Giuliano's rendition of Nessun Dorma from *Turandot* may be heard on Google video

<http://video.google.com/videosearch?q=MYSO+-+Nessun+Dorma>

Antonio Giuliano has appeared in opera, recitals and concerts throughout the United States and Europe. As a member of the United States Army Chorus since 1988, SFC he has represented his country as a soloist worldwide. He has performed for heads of state, kings and queens and recently served as soloist at the funeral services for President Reagan in Simi Valley, CA singing an a capella rendition of *Amazing Grace*. The 1992-93 season marked his Italian debut in Como, at which time he was invited to study with the great post-war Italian tenor, Franco Corelli at his home in Milan, who compared the young Giuliano to Mario Lanza. In March 2002, Giuliano made his Romanian National Opera debut in Bucharest, singing the leading tenor roles of Il Duca di Mantova in *Rigoletto* and Edgardo in *Lucia di Lammermoor*. In June 2004, The Washington Post praised the "fluid, clarion voice" of Antonio Giuliano in Opera Bel Canto of Washington's production of *La Favorita* by Donizetti.

Nicole Biondo, a Baltimore native and New York trained soprano has appeared locally and abroad in operatic and concert venues. She was trained in the studio of legendary Julliard voice teacher Beverly Johnson and also received advanced training through study in the AIMS in Graz program and the Florida Opera Company advanced role preparation studio. Miss Biondo began her career at the age of 14 as the youngest singer to perform with the then Baltimore Comic Opera Company. She has been featured in numerous roles for the mezzo soprano where she has received critical acclaim for her "exuberant and spirited" trouser roles. As her voice developed she sang roles such as Zerlina in *Don Giovanni* opposite James Morris, Lola in *Cavalleria Rusticana* opposite the late Ghena Dimitrova and Olga in *Eugene Onegin* with Dwayne Croft and Mignon Dunn. Miss Biondo has performed and studied under the baton of such noted conductors as Julius Rudel, William Crutchfield and the late Alexander Sander. Miss Biondo was a featured soloist touring with the Orchestra di San Remo and was named a "Voce per gli anni 2000" at the Teatro Regio, Parma, Italy. She has been featured in over a dozen Baltimore Opera Company productions, her most recent being Gilda in *Rigoletto* and Cherubino in *Le Nozze di Figaro* and has received praise for the warmth of her voice and her musical sensitivity.

Graduation

We wish this year's graduating seniors all the best in their future plans, and thank them for their commitment and dedication to the MYSO. This year's graduates are:

Carlina Cheung	1 st . Violin	Duke
Boram Kim	1 st . Violin	UMBC
Jae Rhee	Cello	Columbia
Maggie Sachs	Cello	Stanford
Charles Pao	Clarinet	Johns Hopkins
Karl Silberzahn	French Horn	SUNY

Alumni News:

Tommy Atkinson has graduated from Shenandoah University with a BM in Violin Performance. He will attend the University of Maryland at College Park to work on a Master's degree in violin. Last September he was named assistant concertmaster of the Loudon Symphony Orchestra in Leesburg, VA.

Matt Bohli is majoring in percussion performance at Boston University. He has been selected for the position of Principal Percussionist for the Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra

Andrea Desai (bassoon) will be attending the University of Maryland School of Medicine in the Fall.

Jennifer Miller Mascott (violin) was first among 485 graduates receiving Juris Doctor Degree at the George Washington University Law School

Russell Scarbrough (trombone) is working on his Doctorate at Eastman. His studies are in jazz composition. He writes orchestral music for the Eastman Studio Orchestra and the Bemus Pops Orchestra in Chautauqua. You can visit his website at

<http://home.earthlink.net/~rscarbro/>

Luciano Silvestri (French Horn) and wife Amanda are proud first time parents of Luke, born January 17, 2007 in Colorado