



# La Rondine

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ITALIAN CLUB OF ST. LOUIS

May 2005

## ***“More About Opera- Let’s Hear It for the Basses and Baritones” by Susan Wohl***

### **Next Meeting**

Wednesday

May 18<sup>th</sup>

Cocktails– 6:30p.m.

Dinner– 7:00p.m.  
\$20 per person

RSVP—Dan Viele

(636) 537-5960 or

ItalianClubSTL@aol.com

Pity opera’s poor basses and baritones. They never get the girl, they usually play a bereaved or angry father, or else the role of a treacherous villain. But don’t feel too sorry for them; their music is glorious, their opportunities to emote prodigious, and their characters unforgettable.

Each year the Italian Club features a program on the world of opera. Last year, presenter Susan Wohl explored the tenor’s role; and now, at our May meeting, it is the work of the basses and baritones that we will exam-

ine and enjoy. By definition, a bass is the male singing voice of the lowest range and a baritone the male voice having a range higher than a bass but lower than a tenor. For her May multi-media presentation, Susan has selected a group of ten of the most famous arias ever written for these voices by some of the greatest performers in the history of opera. A frequent and popular Italian Club speaker, Susan Wohl is a lecturer on opera at Washington University’s Lifelong Learning Institute.  
**by Gene Mariani**

## ***“Those Mysterious Etruscans” by Anna Amelung, Ph.D.***

Anna Amelung gave another of her memorable and charming presentations at the April meeting, The Mysterious Etruscans was an exciting presentation made all the more so by the witty asides and mannerisms of our own Doctor Anna. She described the Etruscan vivacity, exuberance, and quick intelligence as something almost mystical. She discussed their hilltop towns and their cemeteries. Their origins remain clear, perhaps, Lydia in Asia Minor. However, they migrated to Italy sometime during the 8th century BC or earlier. Etruscan country stretched from the Po Valley to Naples. Their emergence in the Italian peninsula seemed sudden, with the first stage known as the Villanovan, where they are thought to have emerged with the autochthon populations. They were famous for their metalwork, using iron from Elba. They created beautiful artifacts, sculptures and beautiful gold jewelry. The early Romans acknowledged and often begrudged Etruscan superi-

ority, knowledge and power. The perceived haughtiness and corruption of the Etruscans is shown in the legend of Lucretia, the virtuous Roman noblewoman that was raped by an Etruscan. She committed suicide in front of her male relatives to prove her innocence, so becoming the symbol of Roman purity, virtue and strength.

Anna’s presentation was, as always, beautifully presented and received with great applause and appreciation by the members. Anna Amelung is a magnificent example of the presentations that are made by Italian Club members. She was marvelous!

Anna Amelung received a Laureate from the Università di Bologna and a Ph.D. in French from Washington University and currently teaches French and Latin at University City HS. She is past President of the Classical Club of St. Louis and an active Italian Club member.

**by Vito Tamboli**

### **The Consul General of Italy, Eugenio Sgrò, is coming to St. Louis**

A welcoming dinner sponsored by the Honorary Vice Consul, the COMITES and FIAO will take place on Tuesday May 17, 2005, 7-10 PM, at the BOCCE CLUB on the Hill. The event which marks the Consul General’s first

visit to St. Louis is open to everybody and will feature foods from local Italian restaurants and merchants. The Italian Band of St. Louis will provide the entertainment. The buffet dinner is \$15 per person. Please RSVP by May 12th, telephone (314)259-2059, or by email to: aadurro@bryancave.com

***“She (Anna) described the Etruscan vivacity, exuberance, and quick intelligence as something almost mystical”***

## L'Angolo Del Presidente by James Tognoni

*Dear Fellow Members:*

From month to month when I sit down to write these little snippets I realize that what falls onto the page is a direct result of what is happening in my life or in those close to me. By the end of this month the last of my four children will have graduated college and moved on to start careers and the next chapter of their lives. These are bittersweet moments that lead me to feelings which are so new. I know many of you have gone through these same things with your own children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. My hat is off to you!

On a lighter note let's turn our attention to the real purpose of this column which is to update you on what is happening in our wonderful organization. The film and opera series at the Bocce Club continues, this past Friday night there were over 50 people in attendance. It is gratifying to see the response. Please note that we have "Stiffelio" on May 6 and "Il Marchese del Grillo" on May 13. Coming up on May 22 is the Fraschina concert at St Ambrose. Alberto Fraschina will be joined by Kathryn Thompson Favazza and Gina Galati. This promises to be an outstanding performance and a very nice reception following. The May meeting should

be quite interesting with the return of Susan Wohl who brings both enthusiasm and expertise on opera. Keep checking our website and this newsletter for things that are happening.

As always if you have questions, suggestions, complaints, please let me know. I am always interested in what you think and have to say. I learn from each of you and appreciate the fact that we have had the opportunity to touch each other's lives.

Ciao, Jim  
jtognoni@earthlink.net

### Italian Tenor, Alberto Fraschina's Encore Performance with Sopranos, Kathryn Favazza and Gina Galati sponsored by the Italian Club of St. Louis, National Italian American Foundation and St. Ambrose Church

Alberto Fraschina, of Cuggiono, Italy, returns to St. Louis to give an encore performance of operatic, religious and popular songs along with sopranos, Kathryn Thompson Favazza of Washington, D.C. and Gina Galati of St. Louis, Missouri. They will be accompanied by Sandra Geary. Organized by the Italian Club of St. Louis and St Ambrose Church, and sponsored by the National Italian American Foundation (NIAF) and the Italian-American community of Greater St. Louis, the concert will be FREE and open to the public. The concert, honoring St Louis' Italian-American community, will be held on:

**Sunday, May 22nd at 1:30 p.m.**

**St. Ambrose Catholic Church, 5130 Wilson Avenue at Marconi**

**Reception immediately following at:**

**Sacred Heart Villa, 2108 Macklind Avenue**

Alberto Fraschina studied at the prestigious Accademia Chigiana di Siena and won the 50th edition of the Concorso giovani cantanti lirici della Comunita' Europea di Spoleto. Mr. Fraschina has sung all over the world, and appeared in the 2003 production of La bohème and the 2004 productions of Turandot and Beatrice di Tenda at Milan's La Scala.

Kathryn Thompson Favazza, Soprano, returns to St. Louis after making her New York debut in the title role of *Lucia di Lammermoor* in the Rutgers Benefit for the Homeless Concert. Last year she performed *Gilda, Rigoletto*, to high acclaim with the same company. Ms. Thompson will return to Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall in June to compete in the Finals of Classical Productions' Professional Division Concert. Ms. Thompson is married to Anthony Favazza, son of Tony and Sue Favazza of Favazza's Italian Restaurant.

Gina Galati, Soprano, returns home to St. Louis from The Wichita Grand Opera where she is a Young Artist. After receiving her Bachelor's degree at Washington University, she earned an Artist Diploma from the Accademia Verdiana in Busseto, Italy and a Master's in Opera from the University of Kansas. Ms. Galati has sung such roles as Musetta in *La Bohème*, Fiordiligi in *Così fan Tutte*, Lisette in *La Rondine* and Zerlina in *Don Giovanni*. Ms. Galati is the daughter of Giovanni and Jackie Galati of Dominic's Restaurant.

### Dinner to Honor Guests from Cuggiono

The Italian-American community will be honored to have visitors from Cuggiono, Italy. There will be a buffet dinner on **Monday, May 23 at 7p.m. at Favazza's Restaurant**. The cost of the dinner will be \$20/person. *Reservations are required*. Please make checks payable to: Favazza's Restaurant and send to: Italian Dinner, c/o St. Ambrose Rectory, 5130 Wilson, St. Louis, MO 63110. Please indicate the amount of the check and the number and names of those attending. **The deadline for reservations is: Tuesday, May 17th.** We hope you can join us!

### Washington University Students Honored at April Meeting

Each year at the April Italian Club meeting we honor two students who are studying Italian language at Washington University. Each student receives a \$500 award to study in Arezzo. At our April 20th meeting, Giancarlo Colon received the Fred Giacomo Award from Southwest Bank and Nikhil Angelo received the Frank LoPiccolo and Mario Pertici Award from the Italian Club of St. Louis. The students were joined by Dr. Michael Syrimis, their advisor and Washington University faculty member. Ed Berra, President Emeritus of the Southwest Bank and Italian Club member, was also present.

### Benvenuto, nuovo membro

Dr. Tiziano Cembali, whose family is from Ravenna, Emilia-Romagna, Barbiano di Cignola.

### Young Artists' Competition

Congratulations to the winners of the Young Artists' Competition held on Sunday, April 24th.

**Level I- Piano-** Amelea Kim

**Level I- Strings-** Michelle Godbee

**Level II- Piano-** Susan Stanley

**Level II- Strings-** Tessa Gotman

**Best Overall Performance-** Tessa Gotman

The competition is sponsored by the Federation of Italian-American Organizations of the Metropolitan St. Louis Area. A special thank you to the Italian Club and its members for their continued support.

# TERZA PAGINA

## I capolavori della poesia italiana

a cura di Barbara Klein

**Alessandro Manzoni** (Milano 1785 – 1873) scrisse gli *Inni sacri* (1812-1815) che constano di cinque inni: *Il Natale*, *La Passione*, *La Risurrezione*, *La Pentecoste*, ed *Il nome di Maria*. Questi aprirono la strada ad una successiva produzione di stampo romantico, oltre che storico e religioso, incluso il suo romanzo più famoso **I promessi sposi**. Le prime tre strofe de *La Pentecoste* sono qui presentate.

### La Pentecoste

di Alessandro Manzoni

Madre de' Santi, immagine  
Della città superna;  
Del Sangue incorruttibile  
Conservatrice eterna;  
Tu che, da tanti secoli,  
Soffri, combatti e preghi,  
Che le tue tende spieghi  
Dall'uno all'altro mar;

Campo di quei che sperano;  
Chiesa del Dio vivente;  
Dov'eri mai? qual angolo  
Ti raccogliea nascente,  
Quando il tuo Re, dai perfi  
Tratto a morir sul colle  
Imporporò le zolle  
Del suo sublime altar?

E allor che dalle tenebre  
La diva spoglia uscita,  
Mise il potente anelito  
Della seconda vita;  
E quando, in man recandosi  
Il prezzo del perdono,  
Da questa polve al trono  
Del Genitor sali;

### In giro per l'Italia

a cura di Barbara Klein

#### Duomo di Orvieto

*"Miracolo d'arte sorto per custodire un Miracolo di fede"*



Nel 1263 Pietro da Praga, un prete boemo, si fermò a Bolsena a celebrare la Santa Messa e vide cadere dall'Ostia il sangue di Cristo, tanto che il Corporale ne fu bagnato. Papa Urbano IV, che si trovava ad Orvieto, ordinò che il Sacro Lino fosse portato lì per dargli una sede dignitosa e con la "Bolla Transitus" estese a tutto il mondo cattolico la festa del Corpus Domini.

Il 13 novembre del 1290, il Papa Nicolò IV pose la prima pietra della nuova Chiesa. I lavori durarono circa tre secoli, fra gli architetti vi furono Arnolfo di Cambio, Fra Bevignate da Perugia, Giovanni Uguccione, Lorenzo Maitani. Il risultante Duomo di Orvieto è una delle più significative creazioni dell'architettura gotica italiana.



La facciata, a forma di trittico, risplende di marmi policromi, sculture, mosaici, e colonne. Caratteristici il portale mediano e il rosone centrale ad opera di Andrea Orcagna. Il materiale impiegato per gli esterni e gli interni è prevalentemente basalto e travertine o combinati insieme in strisce dal colore contrastante. L'interno del Duomo appare semplice ed austero con tre navate, ancora di carattere romanico. Transetto e presbiterio, invece, hanno già forme gotiche. Nel transetto, su

progetto di Ippolito Scalza fu posto l'organo, ritenuto uno fra i più grandi d'Italia. Il Reliquiario del Corporale è l'opera più importante del Duomo, in esso è custodito il sacro Lino del Miracolo di Bolsena. Le superfici sono rivestite di figurazioni a smalto, sui due prospetti sono illustrate le storie del miracolo di Bolsena e le vicende della vita di Cristo. Il duomo di Orvieto è celebre anche per gli affreschi iniziati dal Beato Angelico con l'aiuto di Benozzo Gozzoli, e il *Giudizio Universale* di Luca Signorelli nella Cappella di San Brizio. Dicono che Michelangelo ne sia stato ispirato per il suo *Giudizio Universale* nella Cappella Sistina.



#### La festa della Palombella e del Corpus Domini

La festa della Palombella di Orvieto fu istituita nel secolo XV per iniziativa della famiglia dei Monaldeschi e si celebra ogni anno nel giorno della Pentecoste. Alle ore 12 il Vescovo, dal Palazzo dell'Opera del Duomo, agita un lino bianco. A questo segnale, il Capo Mastro fa accendere i razzi intorno ad una raggiera sulla quale è sistemata una colomba Bianca, che dal "cielo" posto sul tetto della Chiesa di S. Francesco scivola velocemente lungo un cavo di acciaio fino a raggiungere il "Cenacolo" situato sul sagrato



del Duomo. La rappresentazione simboleggia la discesa dello Spirito Santo sopra gli Apostoli e dall'esito della cerimonia - secondo un'antica tradizione - si traevano auspici per l'annata agricola in corso.

La colomba viene donata ad una coppia di sposi che la tiene fino a morte naturale.

Per ulteriori informazioni vedi <http://www.opsm.it>  
**Buon viaggio in Italia!!!**

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LA RONDINE**

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## **Prossime Manifestazioni**

### **FUTURE ITALIAN CLUB MEETINGS and EVENTS**

*May 18 - "More About Opera- Let's Hear It for the Basses and Baritones" by Susan Wohl*

*May 22 - Alberto Frascina's Encore Performance with Kathryn Favazza & Gina Galati  
at St. Ambrose Church- 1:30p.m.*

*June 15 - Annual Report from the Italian Vice Consul- Joseph Colagiovanni  
Italian Heritage Award presented*

*July 20 - "The Miraculous Canals of Venice" documentary with a buffet dinner*

*The Italian Club meets the  
third Wednesday of each month for dinner at da Baldo's Restaurant  
Cocktails—6:30p.m. Dinner- 7:00p.m.*

### **Italian Films & Operas - Spring Series at the Italia-America Bocce Club**

**stiffelio by giuseppe verdi**

**friday, may 6**

High quality but neglected opera due to Italian censors' opposition to the plot. Deals with the plight of a stern Protestant minister who considers divorce and even murder after discovering his wife is unfaithful. Features Jose Carreras & Catherine Malfitano. (123 minutes)

**il marchese del grillo**

**friday, may 13**

Alberto Sordi plays the role of an early XIX century prominent Roman historical figure, a dissolute, decadent, cowardly, resourceful prankster who spares no one from bitter ridicule, not even his own aristocratic family, the Papacy, Napoleon, commoners, merchants and artists alike.

*Except for "Santa Vittoria"(which is in English) all programs are in Italian with English subtitles and begin at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free.*

*Films are introduced by Dr. Antonio Perrone, and operas by Dorotea Rossomanno-Phillips. Sponsored by the Italian Club of St. Louis and the Italia-America Bocce Club. The Bocce Club is located at 2210 Marconi Ave., on the "Hill," St. Louis, Mo. 63110.*

*For further information contact Dorotea Rossomanno-Phillips at (314) 535-9748 or e-mail: dorotearp@aol.com*