



Italian Historical Society of America Newsletter

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Tutto Italiano **Benvenuto a *Tutto Italiano***

On June 25, 1876, in southeastern Montana, the commander of the 7th Calvary and his troops were facing a perilous force. Sent by the federal government to suppress the Arapaho, Dakota, and Northern Cheyenne, Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer dispatched his bugler, John Martin, with a note for reinforcements, while Custer waited by the Little Bighorn River.

Born in Italy, Giovanni Martino (or Martini), Americanized his name when he landed in New York in 1873. The following year, he enlisted in the U.S. Army as a trumpeter and was assigned to the 7th Calvary. In his journal, Martino recounts his prior experience in service, having volunteered as a drummer when Garibaldi was in Northern Italy in the late 1860s.

Martin traveled about three miles, under attack, to another encampment. The stories vary, but by the time supporting troops arrived, Custer and his regiment had been overpowered; and Martin was the sole survivor of Custer's infantry. (*Thank you, Al.*)

[John Martin \(Giovanni Martino\): Custer's Bugler](#) (PDF)

[Giovanni Martini: An Historical Odyssey](#) (PDF)

[Custer's Bugler: The Life of John Martin \(Giovanni Martino\)](#)

[John Martin's Story of the Battle, #1](#) (Scroll down)

[Little Bighorn, Crow Agency, MT](#)

Puccini Updated

As the Renaissance took hold in Italy, the arts expanded into new genres. Theater was changing, with more elaborate plays and extended musical interludes. In 1589, when Ferdinando de' Medici I, Grand Duke of Tuscany, married Christine of Lorraine, a French princess, the month-long celebration included staged entertainment with a multifaceted intermission. The performance marked the origins of opera.

Jacopo Peri (1561-1633) wrote the first opera, and precedes an impressive list of many Italian composers including Claudio Monteverdi (1567-1643), Vincenzo Bellini (1801-1835), Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901), Giacomo Puccini (1858–1924), and Gian Carlo Menotti (1911–2007). Their music continues through centuries of performances and – in contemporary times – through recordings and digital technology. Music is a form of expression, combining art and culture with societal and historical events.

From Puccini's [Turandot](#), the latest version of [Nessun Dorma...alla Corona](#) sung by Daniel Emmet. (YouTube, April 20 2020) (*Thank you, John.*)

[Giacomo Puccini](#)

[One Essential Recording of Every Puccini Opera](#)

[Il Volo - Turandot: Nessun Dorma, Live: August 12, 2016](#) (YouTube)

[Luciano Pavarotti sings "Nessun dorma" from Turandot: The Three Tenors in Concert 1994](#) (YouTube)

['Nessun Dorma' Song Lyrics](#)

Visit Italy

[Navelli's Saffron Queen and the Power of Bling](#) (Life in Abruzzo)

[Sicily to subsidise post-Covid holidays as Italy considers reopening to tourists](#) (The Guardian; May 5, 2020)

[How to See Italy's Best Sites – From Your Sofa](#) (Fathom; March 20, 2020)

[Live Cams in Italy](#) (Skyline Webcams)

From the Italian American Press

The Italian American Press offers a great selection of books – culture, history, memoirs, art, family, food, the supernatural, the natural beauty of Italy, and more – for every interest. Help preserve Italian American heritage and history. Support authors of Italian heritage who write about Italian American and Italian culture and let them know you found their books on the Italian American Press.

[Read my interview with Chiara Giacobbe, Director of New Authors for Kazabo Publishing in the latest issue of *La Gazzetta Italiana*](#). She explains how books are selected and the translation process.

New Books Featured on the IAP

[Short Stories II](#) and [Arnolfini Art Mysteries 2](#), both by Rich DiSilvio. With a writing style blending historical events with fiction, adding culture, and weaving in mystery and the colorful personalities of the characters he creates, [Rich DiSilvio's works are entertaining and absorbing](#). Author of *The Winds of Time: An Analytical Study of the Titans Who Shaped Western Civilization*, Rich expanded into writing fiction and mystery, producing stories with surprising twists that compel his readers to ponder the details presented with the end results. Rich has won numerous awards for his writing and artwork, and recently created the video [COLUMBUS: Facts & Fiction](#), (See below.)

Italian American Heritage Project

Although October is several months away, it's not too early to learn about Columbus and the importance of Columbus Day to Italian Americans. It's important to learn the facts and spread the word to inform others. The groups opposing Columbus Day have an organized agenda to eliminate it from America, and Italian Americans must be prepared to provide a rational and factual rebuttal to the attacks on Columbus and the disrespect for Italian American culture and heritage.

Over the years, members of the Italian American community throughout the States have been addressing the spread of misinformation that has erroneously caused a deep hatred for Columbus; but Italian Americans need a cohesive nationwide program to battle the campaign to abolish Columbus Day.

Bill Cerruti, Chair of the California Italian American Task Force and Executive Director of the [Italian Cultural Society](#) in Sacramento, recently published [Why Columbus Day Matters](#). The PDF can be downloaded and distributed either digitally or in print. He notes it was written "to make our case to the Italian-American community on why they should support Columbus Day as part of their Italian-American heritage. The fate of Italian-America rests in the efforts of the Italian-American community organizations to

effectively maintain their heritage and Columbus Day is an integral part of that heritage.”

The (almost) 15-minute artfully produced film by Rich DiSilvio looks at the numerous false statements that have been circulating for years and provides fact-based rebuttals. [COLUMBUS: Facts & Fiction](#) is “An academic account of Christopher Columbus to inform viewers of truisms and dispel the falsehoods that surround Columbus with historical facts, not unproven rhetoric.” If you are signed in to YouTube, show your support with a positive comment and a “like.”

Italian Americans need a nationwide program to battle the campaign to abolish Columbus Day or it will be lost, even though Indigenous People already have a designated day, and Native Americans have a day and a month to celebrate their culture.

Indigenous Peoples Day – August 9

Native American Month – November

Native American Heritage Day – Friday after Thanksgiving

Visit the [IAHP website](#) to read my articles, learn about the lesson plans, see the resources I’ve used, and support my work. Donate for a cause – preserving Italian heritage and Italian American history and culture through education. [All donations are tax-deductible.](#)

On The Radio

West Coast Italian Radio ([WCIR](#)), based near Seattle, is hosted by Tony La Stella and Marzia Clyons and every Monday broadcasts an hour of “everything Italian” throughout the United States. In my interview on May 11th, we talked about *The Quest: Maximizing Health and Wellness Through Spiritual Healing* (free download available at [www.italianamericanpress.com/](#), [dvbooks.net/thequest.htm](#), and [https://www.lagazzettaitaliana.com/](#)), and Lake Garda. [Listen to the show and my interview.](#)

Italian American News

[Governor of New York, Andrew Cuomo, delivers a message to commemorate Festa della Repubblica](#) (YouTube, June 3, 2020)

[Ron Onesti named president of Italian American Sports Hall of Fame](#) (Daily Herald; June 1, 2020)

News about Italy

[Maria Montessori: Celebrating 150 Years](#)

[‘Tu Vuò Fà L’Americano’: Europe’s 2021 Jeep Compass Is An Italian Posing As An American](#) Carscoops; June 4, 2020)

[Italy’s Nearly Deserted Pompeii Reopens Its Ruins To Public](#) (International Business Times, May 26, 2020)

[The Circus Came to Town, Then It Couldn’t Leave](#) (bdnews24.com; May 22, 2020)

[In Venice, hopes for another rebirth after the coronavirus outbreak](#) (Washington Post; May 8, 2020)

[Good Vibes From Italy](#) (Fra Noi; May, 2020)

[Italian Air Force play Nessun Dorma, sky-paint flag to encourage citizens during Covid-19 lockdown](#)

March 23 (YouTube; March 23, 2020)

