

Il Gazzettino

December 2017

Message from the Board

Despite the many activities that fill up our time during this time of year, we can not let December pass without wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2018!

Buon Natale e un Buon Anno 2018 a tutti voi!...

Auguri,

Friends of Italy Society of Hawaii Board
info@friendsofitalyhawaii.org

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Upcoming Events

Italian language classes
Level 2

The Board is in the process of planning many exciting events for the new year – watch for more details coming in January!



Upcoming Events: Italian Language Class

Board Member Carlo Andrea Malanima recently completed a Level 1 Italian course with a group of our members (great job, Carlo!). The course focused on the foundations of the Italian language, namely conjugation of frequently-used verbs, articles of speech, etc.

We are still working to secure a location to hold the Level 2 Italian course next year, although the start date is uncertain.

We have also received a number of inquiries from members asking when the Level 1 course will be held. We are looking into bringing on a second instructor that can teach a Level 1 while Carlo teaches a Level 2. Otherwise, a Level 1 course would not begin until after the Level 2 course ends. If you know anyone who may be interested in being a course instructor, please contact us at friendsofitalyhawaii@gmail.com. We appreciate your patience as we work to secure a venue so that we can continue the language courses.

We are currently planning many exciting activities for the new year. Watch for emails from us in January!



Past Events

On Friday, December 1, FOISOH held a **Pizza Social** at Brick Fire Tavern in Chinatown. It was a sold-out success!

Festa di Natale

Festa di Natale, held at Café Julia on Sunday, December 10 was great fun with good food, beautiful music, dancing, gifts, and of course, Babbo Natale!



Feature Story

THE ITALIAN IMMIGRANT WHO COMPOSED ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST BELOVED CHRISTMAS CAROLS

By Mark Ethridge

In the spring of 1907, Father John B. Young, pastor of St. Francis Xavier Church in Manhattan, is visiting Rome on Vatican business. He is also looking for a replacement for his organist, Gaston Dethier, who is leaving to pursue a concert career. Father Young hears a young musician named Pietro Yon play the organ. Impressed by his musical abilities, he decides to offer him a three-year contract. Thus the 21-year old becomes an immigrant to the United States, like millions of his compatriots. Unlike many of them, however, he enters the country as a professional musician with a good and stable source of income. His brother S. Constantino Yon had preceded him and holds a similar position at St. Vincent Ferrer Church, also in Manhattan.

Pietro Yon was born in Settimo Vittone, Piemonte, Italy. Pietro attended musical conservatories in Turin and Milan as well as the Accademia di Santa Cecilia in Rome. He played organ for a while at the Vatican and at the Royal Church in Rome.



Feature Story

Pietro continues as an organist at Saint Francis Xavier Church until 1925. He becomes an American citizen in 1921, and on January 1, 1922, he is appointed Titular Organist of the Vatican, an unusual and great honor. Fearful of losing such a great talent, the Catholic Church of New York promotes Pietro to position of associate organist at Saint Patrick's Cathedral in midtown Manhattan. Two years later, he is appointed music director. He continues a distinguished career at Saint Patrick's until his death in 1943.

In 1927, Pietro writes and composes the Christmas piece *Gesu Bambino*. It is first written in Italian, and is later translated into English by Frederick H. Martens. It is published in 1923 by J. Fischer & Bro., and first performed at St. Francis Xavier Church in 1924.



Feature Story

The melody and lyrics of the chorus are derived from *Adeste Fideles* (O Come All Ye Faithful). The music historian Salvatore Basile notes that the song achieves “the near-impossible feat of surviving in the standard holiday repertoire, with important performances, innumerable recordings, and every kind of vocal and instrumental arrangement.”

In the first column below are written the original Italian lyrics; the second column is Martens’ English translation; the third column is the literal English translation from Italian.

Nell'umile capanna
nel freddo e povertà
è nato il Santo pargolo
che il mondo adorerà.

When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows
Upon a winter night,
Was born the Child, the Christmas Rose,
The King of Love and Light.

In the humble hut,
In cold and poverty
The Holy infant is born,
Who the world will adore.

Osanna, osanna cantano
con giubilante cor
i tuoi pastori ed angeli
o re di luce e amor.

The angels sang, the shepherds sang,
The grateful earth rejoiced;
And at His blessed birth the stars
Their exultation voiced.

Hosanna, hosanna, sing
With a joyous heart,
Your shepherds and angels,
O King of light and love.

Venite adoremus
venite adoremus
venite adoremus
Dominum.

O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

Come let us adore,
Come let us adore,
Come let us adore
The Lord.

O bel bambin non piangere
non piangere, Redentor!
la mamma tua cullandoti
ti bacia, O Salvator.

Again the heart with rapture glows
To greet the holy night,
That gave the world its Christmas Rose,
Its King of Love and Light.

O beautiful boy do not cry
Do not cry, Redeemer!
Your mother cradles you,
Kisses you, O Savior.

Osanna, osanna cantano
con giubilante cor
i tuoi pastori ed angeli
o re di luce e amor.

Let ev'ry voice acclaim His name,
The grateful chorus swell.
From paradise to earth He came
That we with Him might dwell.

Hosanna, hosanna, sing
With a joyous heart,
Your shepherds and angels,
O King of light and love.

Venite adoremus
venite adoremus
venite adoremus
Dominum.

O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

Come let us adore,
Come let us adore,
Come let us adore
The Lord.

Ah! venite adoremus
Ah! adoremus Dominum
venite, venite
venite adoremus
adoremus
Dominum.

Note: This is not a literal translation of the Italian.

Oh! Come let us adore,
Oh! Come let us adore,
Come, come,
Come let us adore,
Let us adore
The Lord.

Feature Story

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Gesu Bambino

By Pietro Yon

Arranged and Orchestrated by Bob Krogstad



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Feature Story

Pietro Yon died in 1943 on the feast of St. Cecilia, patron of musicians, Nov. 22. Among the 1,300 mourners at his funeral was another Italian, the celebrated conductor Arturo Toscanini. The Mass of Requiem was Yon's own composition.

In addition, to his talents as an organist and a composer, Pietro Yon was also a teacher. Among his pupils was a Harvard graduate student in music, who approached Yon in 1914 in order to learn more about musical counterpoint. That student's name is Cole Albert Porter. He is destined to become one of the greatest lyricists and song writers of Broadway and Hollywood.



Cole Porter as an undergraduate student at Yale University