

# Il Gazzettino

March 2017

## Message from the Board

We look forward to an active spring season with many exciting events. We hope to see you at some of them!

Abbracci,

Friends of Italy Society of Hawaii Board  
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## Upcoming Events

**Cirque de la Symphonie by Hawaii  
Symphony Orchestra + Dinner**  
March 18, 2017 7:30 PM • Blaisdell  
Concert Hall + Brick Fire Tavern  
(continued on next page)

**Lunch with Maestro JoAnn Falletta  
followed by HSO Concert**  
**"Masterworks 10: Ocean Dreams";**  
**Where:** Sabrina's Ristorante +  
Blaisdell Concert Hall  
**When:** Lunch March 31, 2017  
12:30 PM – Concerts April 1 & 2  
(Watch for email announcements  
coming soon!)  
**Parliamo Italiano!**  
(Let's Speak Italian!) Starting March 19  
**Verdi's Requiem + Dinner April 6**

## Upcoming Events:

### Cirque de la Symphonie + Dinner at Brick Fire Tavern

**What:** Enjoy a unique evening out on the town with Friends of Italy! We'll first be serenaded by the talents of the Honolulu Symphony. Following the concert, we'll head to Brick Fire Tavern for delicious Neapolitan Style Pizza featuring pizzas created especially for our group and meant to harmonize with the many colorful aspects of Cirque de la Symphonie.

*We're delighted to share that the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra kindly offers a 30% off group discount for Friends of Italy Members.*

**When:** Saturday, March 18 - Showtime @ 7:30pm

**Where:** Blaisdell Concert Hall & Brick Fire Tavern, 16 N. Hotel Street.

**Cost:** \$29-\$79 (depending on ticket) + 30% off  
Register at our website

A feast for the eyes, ears, and heart! Local favorite, Maestro **Stuart Chafetz** returns to lead the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra through an array of popular film scores as **eight mesmerizing acrobats, aerialists, strongmen and contortionists** perform in front of (and above!) the orchestra.

The guest artists include some of the most amazing **veterans of exceptional cirque programs** from around the world. What can you expect from the program? **John Williams Hooray for Hollywood, Horner My Heart Will Go On from Titanic, Elfman Batman Theme (1989), Kander Selections from Chicago**, and MORE!

## Upcoming Events

### Parliamo Italiano

# Parliamo Italiano!

You have voted!

Parliamo Italiano will start its inaugural get-together on Sunday, March 19th - 12.30pm at 9Bar in SALT Our Kakaako.

Jeannin Jeremiah will be your host to get things going. If demand grows, we can offer more sessions.

#### **FUTURE DATES:**

- April 23 - 12.30pm @ 9Bar
- May 21 - 12.30pm at 9Bar

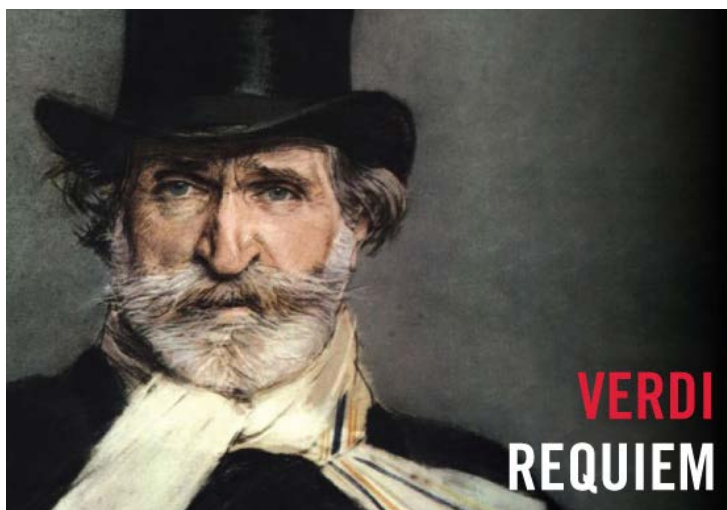
## Verdi Requiem + Dinner

with the Oahu Choral Society and also featuring the Brigham Young University Hawaii Chorus

**Thursday, April 6, 2017**

**7:30 p.m. at the Blaisdell Concert Hall**

(Watch for email announcements coming soon!)



## Past Events

### Fencing Talk

On February 9, 2017 Pauline Chakmakjian gave a fascinating presentation on Italy's contributions to the sport and art of fencing.



### A Little Dinner among friends at Baci Bistro (una Cenetta fra Amici)

A casual dinner and conversation was held at Baci Bistro in Kailua February 24. The dinner was a great success and will likely be repeated in the future!



## Feature Story

# “THE LAST WHITE MAN TO SEE CUSTER ALIVE” (AND TO LIVE TO TELL ABOUT IT) WAS AN ITALIAN

By Mark Ethridge

In the early afternoon of June 25, 1876, General George Armstrong Custer hastily dictated a message to his Adjutant, Lt. William W. Cooke, who then gave the message to an orderly, and told the messenger to deliver it to Captain Frederick Benteen:



“Trumpeter, go back on our trail and see if you can discover Benteen and give him this message. If you see no danger come back to us, but if you find Indians in your way stay with Benteen and return with him and when you get back to us report.”

The orderly’s name was John Martin. He was the bugler for the unit and had some years earlier anglicized his Italian birth name, Giovanni Crisostimo Martino, to John Martin in order to make his transition to American life easier.

After receiving General Custer’s orders he rode off to find Benteen’s position about three miles away. Custer then gave the order for his brigade of the Seventh Cavalry to descend the hill to attack the Indian camp along the river below.

“Boys, have courage!” General George Custer shouted, “Be brave, and as soon as we get through with these Indians we will go home to our winter station.”

That would be the last time that John Martin would see General Custer and his 210 men alive. He would later write in his diary: “I soon reached the crest of the hill, and looking back, I could see that the Indians had already attacked, and our boys were acting very excitedly. I rested my horse on the brow of the hill for a minute and sat watching the action in the distance. At the time, I did not think it was the last time any one of these men would ever been seen in life.”



## Feature Story

The message to Captain Benteen read: "Benteen Come on. Big Village.  
Be quick. Bring packs W.W. Cooke P.S. Bring packs

Below is a photograph copy of the note. The original note is written in the center of the page; it was rewritten at the top by Benteen for legibility.

Along the way, Martin did encounter hostile Indian fire, and his horse was wounded , although the bugler escaped unharmed and did deliver the message to Benteen. Instead of coming to Custer's immediate aid, however, the Captain went to reinforce Major Marcus Reno's brigade that was also under attack in a location now called Reno's Hill. There they were under siege and remained for two days, threatened themselves with annihilation, until the main U.S. Army force arrived, led by General Terry.

It is generally believed that John Martin was born in 1853 in Sala Consilina in Campania near Salerno, Italy (there is a rival claim of Apricale in Liguria as his birthplace). When he was only 14, Martin left Sala to join



## Feature Story

Garibaldi's forces in northern Italy fighting the Austrians, and he participated in the Trentino campaign of 1866-67. Finding little economic opportunity in Italy he set off to America in the year 1873. Arriving in Brooklyn, New York, he discovered that most work was back-breaking manual labor.

While passing an Army enlistment center in New York, he was approached by Army recruiter Lieutenant Edward Hunter with promises of a steady job and superior wages. He enlisted as a bugler and eventually found himself at the Battle of the Little Big Horn, but his story does not end there.



John Martin continued serving and completed nearly 30-years in the U.S. Army rising to the rank of Master Sergeant before his mandatory retirement in 1904. He would serve in the Spanish-American War of 1898 and was stationed for a few years in Cuba.

## Feature Story

His discharge document bears the statement, “Service honest and faithful,” and these types of comments are characteristic of his service record.

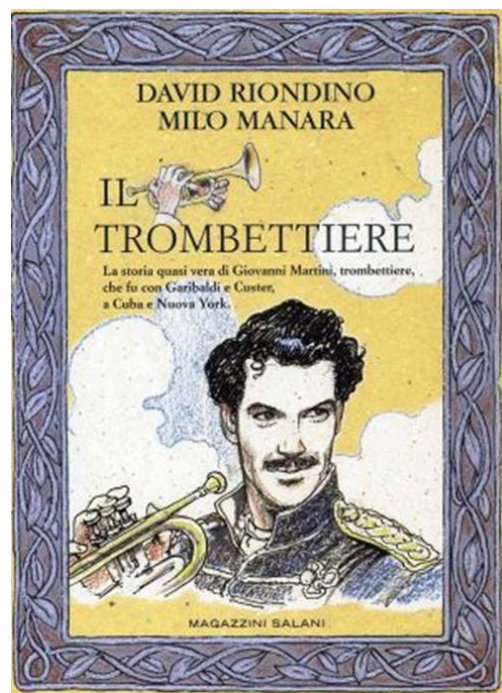
After his retirement, he worked for the New York Subway system as a ticket taker at the 103rd Street station in Manhattan. He later worked for the Brooklyn Naval Shipyard. He became something of a local celebrity, playing his bugle and telling his war stories at the theater and to neighborhood children.



John Martin's headstone in Cypress Hills National Cemetery

In 2007, the Italian actor, musician, entertainer and writer, David Riondino coauthored a book about John Martin and his adventures titled “The Trumpeter,” the cover of which is seen here.

Much of the information for our story was drawn from the article “Trumpeter John Martin (Giovanni Martino)” by Leonardo Solimine. The article can be found on the Internet at:  
[http://www.littlebighorn.info/Articles/John Martin.pdf](http://www.littlebighorn.info/Articles/John%20Martin.pdf)





## Special Guest Article

### John Ciardi: Italian-American Poet And Twentieth Century Translator Of Dante's *Divine Comedy*

By Joseph Saturnia

Here is another interesting piece of information regarding the translation of Dante's *Divine Comedy*, and a follow-up to the Gazzettino's February story on Longfellow and the Dante Club.

One of the most popular contemporary translations of Dante's *Divine Comedy* was done by a famous Italian-American poet John Ciardi. John Ciardi was born in Boston in 1916 the son of Italian immigrants from Manocalzati, Avellino in Campania. His father died in an automobile accident in 1919, and he was raised by his Italian mother (who was illiterate) and his three older sisters.

John was best known for his work as a columnist and poetry editor for the *Saturday Review*, director of the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, a book on how to read, write, and teach poetry titled "How Does a Poem Mean?", and a 1960s television program called *Accent*.

John completed the translation of Dante's *Divine Comedy* in three phases: *The Inferno* in 1954, *The Purgatorio* in 1961 and *The Paradiso* in 1970. All three were subsequently released as a set, *The Divine Comedy* in 1977.



## Special Guest Article

In 1951, an Italian professor discovered a poem written by John, “Manocalzata,” about his mother’s hometown in Italy and had it published in the local papers. The mayor of Manocalzati was so moved that he ordered the poem set in bronze and led a delegation to Ciardi’s home in Metuchen, New Jersey to make John an honorary citizen and to invite him to the unveiling ceremony. John accepted and attended the ceremony, including a parade, dedication, and unveiling of the poem engraved on a bronze plaque. A piazza was dedicated to John (Piazza John Ciardi).



Piazza John Ciardi

### **Manocalzata (Gloved Hand)**

Outside my mother’s town in Avellino  
There stands a rock with a gloved hand chiseled on it.  
And so it names a place: Manocalzata.

That’s all I know of it. I’ve never been  
Nearer to it than three thousand miles.  
No one knows whose hand or why the glove.

How many times have I thought of it, needing a name  
For what will not be named except by chance,  
Or for some reason no one can remember?

As a tree mosses itself into twilight folding  
The place of the tree into its presence in time-  
Someone could be born there and believe it.

As a diver hangs forever in the eye  
Between sea and rock, the arrest of the action glazed  
Forever on the air of the place of the dive.

## Special Guest Article

Or simply because it is more important  
To remember being than to have been, I am  
That hand in the glove and that glove on the hand

Of an unknown stone whose presence I shall someday enter  
(As one arrives familiarly to twilight)  
Being convinced at last of my last presence there

NOTE: The town of Manocalzati is also the home of Joseph Saturnia's great grandfather.



John Ciardi's poem inscribed on a bronze plaque at the Manocalzati city hall

# Announcements

## 2017 Hawaiian European Film Festival

Hawaii European Cinema will present its 2017 Film Festival from March 24-26 at Consolidated Ward Theaters with TITAN XC.

As part of the HEC's mission to share the culture of Europe through film, all screenings are offered free to the community. Reserved seating and show times will be released at the end of February. One Italian film will be included called "I Who Only Love You ( Io che amo solo te)"



Italy | 102 min | Romantic Comedy  
Directed by: Marco Ponti

Friday, March 24, 2017

8:30p - 10:12p

Consolidated Ward Theatres with TITAN XC

See <http://hawaiieuropeancinema.org/film-festival> for details.

# Announcements

## Chatham Baroque

Mediterranean Odyssey  
A Musical Tour of Southern Europe

Saturday, May 6, 2017 • 7:30 pm  
Lutheran Church of Honolulu

Sunday, May 7, 2017 • 3:30 pm  
Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity,  
Kailua-Kona



Andrew Fouts, baroque violin;  
Patricia Halverson, viola da gamba  
Scott Pauley, lute and theorbo

Discover elegant baroque sonatas and toe-tapping dances from the sun-soaked shores of Mediterranean Spain, France and Italy - La Jota and Canarios from Spain, sonatas by Jean-Marie LeClair in France, virtuosic fireworks for the violin by Arcangelo Corelli and earthy renditions of Italian dances by Giovanni Kapsberger. A leading chamber ensemble from Pittsburgh, Chatham Baroque has been praised for its "colorful virtuosity" by the New York Times and as "musically impeccable" by the Washington Post. More details at:

<http://www.earlymusichawaii.com/events.htm>