



Italian Historical Society of America Newsletter

JULY 2019

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VOLUME 15, NUMBER 07

Tutto Italiano Benvenuto a *Tutto Italiano*

Earlier this year, Patrizio Buanne performed in New York and surrounding states, serenading his loyal fans with a voice that reveals his passion for music and in a style he describes as “timeless, fun, romantic, and positive.” Patrizio is a multiplatinum international recording artist, but in the States, he is most often known as “America’s Favorite Neapolitan Pop Crooner.”

He follows the footsteps of an earlier generation of chart-topping crooners of Italian heritage – Tony Bennett, Perry Como, Dean Martin, and Frank Sinatra – but faces the challenges of the shifting music industry in America today. Unlike many crooners of today, though, Patrizio speaks multiple languages and, in addition to Italian and English, he has recorded songs on his albums in Afrikaans, German, and Spanish.

Patrizio has been in South Africa working on his latest album, but took time away from his music to answer a list of questions I sent. When asked about his latest project – to be released later this year – he promises it will be “a Christmas surprise,” and assures his fans that it will have the “Napoli flair” because “I can only be myself.” What is the “Napoli flair?” His reply: “My Napoli flair is simply singing from the heart and praying that better times for Neapolitans and Sicilians in Italy will come.” He continued, “... for me, and above all millions of Neapolitan people, it means being a son of emigrants of a nation called Italy, where Neapolitans and Sicilians and their infrastructure are not treated equally as the northern states, and where a great kingdom called *Regno delle Due Sicilie* became simply ‘The South.’ Neapolitans and Sicilians had to emigrate to Australia, Canada, USA, Argentina, Germany, and many other countries as they were and are discriminated in Italy.”

His Neapolitan parents moved to Austria, where Patrizio was born, and traveled between Naples and Vienna for their restaurant business. He was brought up listening to the tunes in the restaurant and in his pre-school years, sang along with the music. I asked Patrizio, “What inspires you to sing?” It hasn’t changed from his early career goals: “I still keep focused on the most sensitive and genuine things that one experiences in life, which are your surroundings, people, upbringing, history, and above all culture. My bread is the applause and no matter how many millions of records I have sold, I am happy that my music is played in restaurants all over the world and used in movies without me being stalked and chased on the street. Instead, I’m congratulated by people around the world for my success, and that allows me to live a normal life.”

Asked about the musicians that have inspired him, Patrizio replied, “I was always inspired by singers with great vocal abilities and variety such as Elvis Presley, Tom Jones, Roy Orbison, The Beatles, Freddy Mercury, and Enrico Caruso, because they could defend their status of being a celebrity with their talent and natural way of being.”

Patrizio was eight years old when he began playing the guitar; he performed in musical productions and formed a band. By eleven, he was winning song competitions, and six years later he was asked to perform in Poland for the visit of Pope John Paul II; but everything was uprooted when his father died that same year. The grief set Patrizio back, but his dedication to music and in tribute to his father, he

was steadfast in his goal of becoming an international singer. He recalls, “Each song carries a memory ... some songs remind me of my late father and my wonderful mother; but at the same time new memories and experiences are made and, therefore, I am mentally and spiritually even more connected to my wife – who I have known for over 10 years and married in April 2019 – as well as our baby that we are expecting. Life is not about how many breaths we take, but how many breathless moments we have.”

Patrizio will be back in the States with a special performance at Amici Park in Little Italy, San Diego on September 21st. His concert is one of the programs and events sponsored by Convivio, an “Italian cultural organization – promoting Italian arts and culture as well as exploring the arts and humanities through a multicultural lens – and embracing innovative approaches to cultural advancement.”

In Part II next month, Patrizio discusses his music and the music industry.

[Patrizio Buanne](#) (Official Website)

[Patrizio Buanne - Fly Me to the Moon](#) (YouTube Video)

[Patrizio Buanne - Everybody Loves Somebody](#) (YouTube Video)

[Patrizio Buanne - On the Street Where you Live](#) (YouTube Video)

[Patrizio Buanne \(Dancing with the Stars\) – Surrender](#) (YouTube Video)

[Patrizio Buanne at Amici Park, San Diego, California](#) (Tickets)

[Convivio](#)

[Little Italy, San Diego](#)

[Little Italy Residents Association](#)

From the Italian American Press

The Italian American Press offers a great selection of books – children, memoir, art, history, 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.

New Books

[The Seven Golden Apples](#) by Robert Cirillo

In this beautifully illustrated Calabrian folktale initiated by the author’s great-grandfather in the 1880s and passed down orally up to the present, seven apples of solid gold disappear mysteriously from the royal castle. The youngest of the king’s sons, the courageous swordsman Prince Laticus, sets off on a perilous but enchanting journey to recover them.

[With my Two Hands](#) by Lewis M. Elia

Based on the true story of Frank Masullo, who fought during Mussolini’s reign, was interned by the Germans, immigrated to America, and built a successful business.

Author News

Joseph C. Polacco, author of *Vina, A Brooklyn Memoir*, was [featured in Vox Magazine](#).

Italian American Heritage Project

Late last month I received an email that included this: “I used your website to look up the rebuttal to the many charges against Columbus in that recent petition to remove

his federal holiday. Your website had all the answers I was looking for and gave me the rebuttal to each charge with a clear explanation. Thank you for the amazing work you have done with this project. If only every Italian American had this information in their head.”

If you are concerned about Columbus Day, if you are not sure what to say about Columbus, if you believe that saving Columbus Day is important for Italian American culture, if you feel pressured to agree that Columbus Day is not important, if your town board is meeting to reconsider Columbus Day, or if your local school board is considering removing Columbus Day, visit the Italian American Heritage Project [to learn about the controversy](#), read why [claims against Columbus are inaccurate](#), and read how the [differences in culture](#) affected the merging of the Old World with the New World.

Support the IAHP – Support My Work

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.](#)

More about Columbus Day...

[We the Italians](#), based in Rome, Italy, distributes information “regarding Italy in general, and specifically Italy in the US” through its website, newsletters, and monthly magazines. The magazine is available online and is filled with in-depth articles about Italian culture, people, business and economy, food and wine, and travel – with beautiful scenic photographs. Interviews in the magazine are featured on the website.

The website also has a [searchable base for all the articles it has published](#) about Columbus. In May, We the Italians launched “[We love Columbus: Manifesto](#),” noting that “Celebrating the roots of Western civilization ... must be an opportunity for discussion and dialogue to share values in respect of all.” The Manifesto is “an expression of individual support for the Italian institutions that have recognized October 12 as the ‘National Day of Christopher Columbus’ among the national and international celebration days, and for the Italian communities in the United States with whom we share the pride of our identity.”

Correction: The website mentioned last month is the [Official Christopher Columbus Website](#), not “All Things Columbus.”

Remember: 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 – November 28

Italian American News

The Commission for Social Justice, “the anti-defamation arm of the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America,” was instrumental in procuring [official recognition from the current mayor of New Orleans](#) for the 1891 lynchings of 11 Italian Americans. The [1891 New Orleans Project](#) has been established to create a memorial statue to be placed in New Orleans.

[The Pizza Ovens of Brooklyn](#) (The New York Times; June 11, 2019)

[Barnes & Noble Turns a Page With Private Owners](#) (Washington Post; June 9, 2019)

News about Italy

[Morandi Genoa Bridge: Towers demolished after evacuations](#) (BBC; June 28, 2019)

[Franco Zeffirelli, revered Italian director, dies aged 96](#) (The Guardian; June 15, 2019)

