OTHER EVENTS

XV WEEK OF ITALIAN LANGUAGE IN THE WORLD (OCTOBER 19 – 24)
“ITALIANO DELLA MUSICA, LA MUSICA DELL’ITALIANO”

- October 21 - LECTURE/DOCUMENTARY: Great Conversations in Music
  location: EMBASSY OF ITALY
- October 22 - LECTURE/CONCERT: Italian Songwriters and Their Literary Roots
  location: EMBASSY OF ITALY
- October 23 - CINEMA: Vecchi Pazzi
  location: NYC AUDITORIUM
- October 24 – SYMPOSIUM: Italian Language and Culture Conference: New Directions in Teaching and Research
  location: GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

SPECIAL EVENT

- October 25 – KIDS EURO FESTIVAL: Aria di Commedia by Pazzi Lazzi
  location: THE KENNEDY CENTER MILLENNIUM STAGE

ONGOING EVENTS

EXHIBITION – Le Onde: Waves of Italian Influence (1914-1971)
date/location: UNTIL JANUARY 2016 @ HIRSHHORN MUSEUM AND SCULPTURE GARDEN

EXHIBITION – Movie’n’Food – Sapore di Cinema
date/location: UNTIL OCTOBER 23 @ EMBASSY OF ITALY

INFO AND SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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Under the High Patronage of the President of the Republic of Italy

15TH ITALIAN LANGUAGE WEEK IN THE WORLD
"Italiano della musica, la musica dell’italiano"
(OCTOBER 19-24, 2015)

“L’armonia che temperi e discerni…”
(Paradiso I – verso 78)

TO CELEBRATE DANTE ALIGHIERI’S 750TH BIRTHDAY

October 20, 2015 at 6:30PM
EMBASSY OF ITALY
3000 WHITEHAVEN STREET NW - WASHINGTON, DC
ABOUT THE CONCERT: It seems like a curious paradox, but one of the most musical Italian poets received very little attention from the composers throughout the centuries. Apart from his celebrity among polyphonists in the 500s, his verses were rarely set to music in later periods. The Commedia - and especially some canticles from the Inferno - instead became topical places for romantic imagination, as displayed by Liszt's Dante-Symphonie, Pacini's Sinfonia Dante and many other symphonic and theatrical works. Among the numerous piano compositions inspired by the great poet, one that stands out is the work of Cesare San-Florenzo, a follower of Verdi, who although remaining in the shadow, published 12 Illustrazioni Drammatico-Musicali of the Divina Commedia for piano 4 hands, on the centenary of Dante in 1865. The first part of today's program presents some extracts as a setting for a selection of vocal pages linked to the Commedia composed by very well known authors. It is clear how the episode of Paolo and Francesca in Canto V of the Inferno is the most (ab)used by Romantic musicians in the 800s. The second part of the program is instead dedicated to Dante's sonnets, which were set to music for the most part by the Florentine Castelnuovo-Tedesco, who became an American citizen in 1946.

ANTONELLA BANAUDI was born in Sanremo. She graduated from the Verona Conservatory and studied with Augusta Oltrabella, Gabriella Ravazzi, Lia Guarini, Leyla Gencer, Carlo Bergonzi, Antonio Tonini, Gabriel Pisani, Bob Kettelson, and Luciano Pavarotti. Winner of many international competitions, such as AS.C.I.O., Maria Caniglia and Philadelphia Opera Company-Luciano Pavarotti, she was awarded the prestigious prizes Verdi Voices-Busseto, Maria Callas, G. Verdi-Parma and Puccini- Milan. A renowned interpreter of roles in Verdi's operas, in 1990 she was bestowed the Italian Critics Award. Important articles on Mrs. Banaudi have appeared in the magazines "Opera" (London) and "Metropolitan Opera News" (New York), amongst others. She was Pavarotti’s partner in Luisa Miller in Philadelphia and in numerous performances of Il Trovatore. She has recorded for Decca (with Pavarotti and Zuba Mehta), DentCD, Amadeus and Loreley Klassik.

MARCO RAPETTI was born in Genoa, where he graduated with honors at the local Conservatory. He continued his musical studies at the University of Cremona, in Paris and – as a Fulbright scholar – in the United States. He was the first Italian to get both a Master of Music and a Doctor of Musical Arts Degree at the Juilliard School in New York. Winner of many prizes in important piano competitions, he has performed in Europe, America, Africa, Japan and Australia. He has recorded over 20 cds, especially with Brilliant Classics. At 22 he started teaching at the School of Music of Fiesole and at the Milan Conservatory. Since 1999 he has held masterclasses at the University of Hawaii, the Haydn Konservatorium in Eisenstadt (Vienna) and at the Sydney Conservatorium. He is professor at the Conservatory of Florence. He also collaborates with RadioTre as a speaker and performer.

CARLOS CESAR RODRIGUEZ Acclaimed by The Washington Post as a "powerful and virtuoso pianist", Carlos César Rodríguez made his recital debut in his native Venezuela at age 5, his orchestral debut as soloist at age 11 and at age 21 made his Carnegie Hall Weil Recital Hall Debut in New York City. Mr. Rodríguez has also performed in major venues such as the John F. Kennedy Center, the White House, the Corcoran Gallery and the Steinway Series at the Smithsonian Institution, in Washington DC, Merkin Hall, Carnegie Hall, 92nd Y and the Americas Society in New York City, and the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria.