

Newsletter di maggio

maggio 2017

Dear Dante friends,

This year we will celebrate our Festa della Repubblica on 29 May with a recital by Italian violinist Domenico Nordio at Saint Matthew-in-the-City church in Auckland's CBD, kindly sponsored by the Italian Embassy, the Istituto di Cultura and Dante. Everyone is invited to attend and to get together after the concert for some light refreshments.

For those of you who are not familiar with the hilarious lives and times of Don Camillo and Peppone, don't miss this month's CineClub Dante. On 23 May, we will be screening *Don Camillo*, the semi-fictional story of the hot-headed priest of Brescello, a small town in the Po valley in northern Italy. The story is set in the years immediately following WWII and revolves around Don Camillo and his epic grudge with the local mayor Peppone, an ardent communist and Camillo's best friend and nemesis. The stories of Don Camillo and Peppone were written by Giuseppe Guareschi, to whom Matteo has dedicated a short bio on page 4.

Now that the weather is getting colder and there are fewer options for leisure activities, it's good to know Dante has your back. You will find plenty of ideas in this newsletter, so be sure to read it!

Buona lettura!

Stefania



The main piazza in Brescello with statues of Don Camillo and Peppone.

Il calendario di maggio

- 12 maggio** *Un ragazzo d'oro* - Embassy Film Serie (p.3)
- 18 maggio** Conversation with Viola di Grado at Auckland University (p.2)
- 20 maggio** Viola di Grado - Presentation at the Writers Festival (p.2)
- 19 maggio** Zuccherò's concert in Auckland (p.3)
- 23 maggio** *Don Camillo* - CineClub Dante (p.3)
- 27 maggio** Colazione alla Dante (p.5)
- 28 maggio** Incontro per bimbi in lingua Italiana (p.3)
- 29 maggio**  **Festa della Repubblica Concert (p.2)**
- Every Tuesday & Thursday** Pilates with Fiorella

Seguici!



President: Sir John Kirwan
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Secretary: Kelly McKinnon
School Director: Sandra Fresia
Newsletter: Stefania Perrotta

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Attività ed eventi



Festa della Repubblica - Concerto di Domenico Nordio

On the occasion of the 71st anniversary of the Italian Republic, the Italian Ambassador in Wellington, Fabrizio Marcelli, and the Istituto Italiano di Cultura, are pleased to invite you to the violin recital:

Celebrating Italy, by Domenico Nordio

A programme of music by J.S. Bach, Fazil Say and Goffredo Petrassi.

Location: St Matthew-in-the-City
187 Federal St, Auckland 1010

Monday 29 May, 6.15 pm

In collaboration with Dante Alighieri Society Auckland.

Light refreshments will be served after the concert.

Free entry. It is not necessary to book.

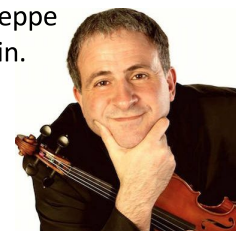
Click [here](#) for more info

About Domenico Nordio

Born in Venice in 1971, this former child prodigy gave his first recital at age of ten. At sixteen Nordio won the Viotti International Competition in Vercelli with the legendary Yehudi Menuhin as president of the jury. Following his subsequent competition successes at the Paris Thibaud, the Viña del Mar Sigall and the Marseille Francescatti Competition, it was the Eurovision Grand Prix obtained in 1988 which launched his international career.

Nordio, who records exclusively for Sony Classical, has performed in the world's most prestigious halls with leading orchestras. Presently he divides his time between his solo career and the Orchestra Giuseppe Verdi of La Scala, where he is lead violin.

More about [Domenico Nordio here](#).



Viola di Grado

Presentation at Auckland Writers Festival

Viola Di Grado shot onto Italy's literary scene with her novel *70% Acrylic 30% Wool*, taking out the 2011 Campiello First Novel Award. Her subsequent novel, PEN Literary Awards finalist *The Hollow Heart*, has been similarly lauded for its originality and linguistic gymnastics, and mashup of the gothic with coming-of-age themes.

Di Grado speaks with Jennifer Levasseur.

Saturday 20 May, 10.30am – 11.30am

Lower NZI Room, Aotea Centre, 50 Mayoral Drive, Auckland

Tickets from \$12.50 to \$25. [Booking here](#)

A conversation with writer Viola di Grado

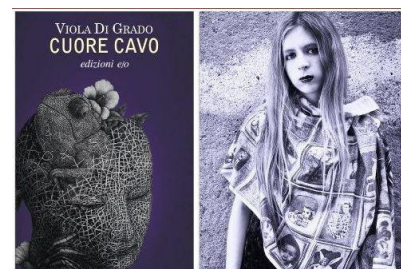
Italian writer Viola di Grado will meet Dante members and university students to discuss her work.

Thursday 18 May 2017

Time: 5pm - 6pm

Location:

Auckland University,
Arts 1, (Building 206)
Room 209



BE IN TO WIN!

We are giving away a ticket for the Writers Festival to the first email to info@dante.org.nz with the correct answer to this question: **What's the title of Viola's first novel, winner of the 2011 Campiello First Novel Award?**



Attività ed eventi



Incontri per bambini, 5 - 10 anni, con conoscenza della lingua italiana

Incontri mensili di domenica pomeriggio dalle 14.00 alle 16.00 per bambini di famiglie italiane per mantenere la lingua e la cultura italiane qui in Nuova Zelanda.

Costo: \$10.00 a bambino, fratelli \$5.00.

Confermare la presenza

Domenica 28 maggio
dalle 14.00 alle 16.00.

Italian Embassy Film Series

Un ragazzo d'oro, 2014, comedy-drama by Pupi Avati.
Friday 12 May, 6pm at the University of Auckland, Owen Glenn Building, 12 Grafton Road, Case Room 1 (Level 0).

The presence of a bright, shining **Sharon Stone** strikes an odd note in **Pupi Avati's** dark Oedipal drama about a mentally ill ad writer, whose dream of publishing serious fiction is hopelessly entangled in animosity towards his father. The story won the best screenplay award at Montreal, but it's certainly not the film's strong point. That distinction has to go to **Riccardo Scamarcio** in his most challenging role to date as a young writer sinking inexorably into madness.

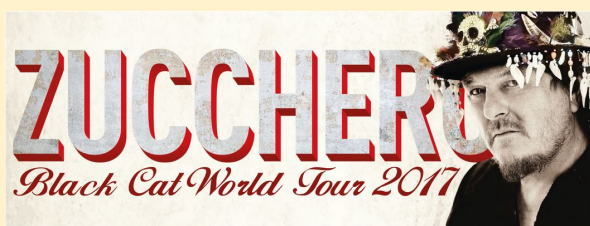
There are early warning signs that 30-something Davide Bias (Scamarcio) is teetering on the edge. He scathingly overreacts to criticism and closes himself off from girlfriend Silvia, while popping pills prescribed by a friendly shrink. When his mother phones to say his father has died in a car accident, Davide just shrugs.

But how could he miss a chance to act up at his father's funeral? So the action switches from dynamic young Milan to mummified old Rome, as he reluctantly returns to the musty, rambling apartment where he grew up.



Zucchero in concert!

Italian superstar Zucchero is coming to New Zealand for the first time. His Black Cat World Tour has performed in shows across Europe, including two sold out shows at London's prestigious Royal Albert Hall in October 2016. Zucchero has sung with some of the great music performers of all time including **Bono**, **Luciano Pavarotti**, **Joe Cocker**, **Elvis Costello** and **Miles Davis**. Don't miss out his concert at **Auckland Town Hall on 19 May**. All information and booking [here](#)



Laboratorio Teatrale - Save the date!

Matteo and his theatre group will perform on **Saturday 1 July at 5pm**. Don't miss this event!

CineClub Dante

Martedì 23 maggio alle 10.30 torna il CineClubDante! Guarderemo **Don Camillo**, un film italo-francese del 1952 ispirato ai personaggi creati da Giovannino Guareschi nel romanzo *Don Camillo*. Il film è stato selezionato tra i 100 film italiani da salvare. Ci vediamo alla Dante martedì 23 maggio alle 10.30. Il film avrà i sottotitoli in inglese.

CineClubDante is back on Tuesday, May 23rd, at 10.30am!

*We will watch **Don Camillo**, a 1952 French-Italian film directed by Julien Duvivier, starring Fernandel and Gino Cervi. It was the first film in the Don Camillo series.*

The film was based on the novel Don Camillo by author Giovannino Guareschi. See you at Dante on Tuesday, May 23rd at 10.30am. The movie will have English subtitles





L'autore del mese: Giuseppe Guareschi

Giovannino Oliviero Giuseppe Guareschi (1 May 1908 – 22 July 1968) was an Italian journalist, cartoonist and humorist whose most famous creation is the priest Don Camillo. Giovannino Guareschi was born in Fontanelle di Roccabianca in the Province of Parma in 1908. He hailed from a middle-class family. Guareschi always joked about the fact that he, a large man, was baptized Giovannino, a name meaning "little John" or "Johnny". In 1926 his family went bankrupt and he could not continue his studies at the University of Parma. After working at various minor jobs, he started to write for a local newspaper, the *Gazzetta di Parma*. In 1929 he became editor of the satirical magazine *Corriere Emiliano*, and from 1936 to 1943 he was the chief editor of a similar magazine called *Bertoldo*.



In 1943 he was drafted into the army, which apparently helped him to avoid trouble with the fascist authorities, and ended up as an artillery officer.

When Italy signed the armistice with Allied troops in 1943, he and other Italian soldiers were arrested and imprisoned in camps in German-occupied Poland, including Stalag X-B near Sandbostel, for almost two years. He later wrote about this time in *Diario Clandestino* (*My Secret Diary*). After the war, Guareschi returned to Italy and founded a monarchist weekly satirical magazine, *Candido*, in 1945. After Italy became a republic, he began to support Democrazia Cristiana. He criticized and satirized the Communists in his magazine, famously drawing a Communist as a man with an extra nostril.

When the Communists were soundly defeated in the 1948 Italian elections, Guareschi did not put down his pen but criticized Democrazia Cristiana as well. In 1950, *Candido* published a satirical cartoon by Carlo Manzoni poking fun at Luigi Einaudi, President of the Republic. The President is at the Quirinal Palace, surrounded by, instead of the presidential guard of honour (the *corazzieri*), giant bottles of Nebbiolo wine, which Einaudi actually produced in his land in Dogliani. Each bottle is labelled with the institutional logo. The cartoon was judged in contempt of the President by a court of the time. Guareschi, as the director of the magazine, was held responsible and sentenced. In 1954 Guareschi was charged with libel after he had published two facsimile wartime letters from resistance leader and former Prime Minister Alcide De Gasperi requesting the Allies to bomb the outskirts of Rome in order to demoralize German collaborators. The legitimacy of the letters was never established by the court, but after a two-month trial it found in favour of De Gasperi. Guareschi declined to appeal the verdict and spent 409 days in Parma's San Francesco jail, and another six months on probation at his home.



His most famous comic creations are the books of short stories he wrote about the rivalry between Don Camillo, a stalwart Italian priest, and the equally hot-headed Peppone, the communist mayor of a village in the "Little World" of a Po River Valley town. These stories have many times been made into films, and television and radio programmes; most notably in the series of films featuring Fernandel as Don Camillo.

By 1956 Guareschi's health had deteriorated and he began to spend time in Switzerland for health reasons. In 1957 he retired from the post of editor of *Candido* but remained a contributor. He died in 1968 in Cervia from a heart attack.





Attività ed eventi



School Holiday Programme

Twenty children joined us in April for a three-day school holiday programme dedicated to fun with games, activities, workshops, singing and cooking in an Italian environment.



We had a lot of fun making pizza, "gnocchi sardi" (typical Italian pasta from Sardegna) and salame al cioccolato, as well as learning some new Italian songs, playing together and making new friends.



Grazie a Sandra, Fiorella, Chiarina, Alice, Francesca, Alessandro e a tutti i bambini!

Colazione alla Dante Matteo presenta Viola di Grado

Queste sono alcune fotografie tratte dalla scorsa Colazione alla Dante. Abbiamo parlato, tra le altre cose, anche di Viola di Grado, la scrittrice italiana che parteciperà all'Auckland Writer Festival e che terrà una conferenza all'università il 18 maggio (conferenza alla quale siete tutti invitati).



La prossima Colazione alla Dante sarà **sabato 27 maggio**.

Bruno Ferraro, che già aveva tenuto una conversazione su Antonio Tabucchi, ci parlerà di Leonardo Sciascia, scrittore italiano famoso soprattutto per i suoi romanzi e racconti ambientati in Sicilia e incentrati sul problema della Mafia.

Vi aspettiamo alla Dante sabato 27 maggio alle 10am!



Profilo del mese



A teacher: Sandra Fresia

*Last month we introduced a new feature to our newsletter. Each month we will hear from one of our teachers and from students talking about their Italian language journey.
We hope you enjoy!*

Whereabouts are you from in Italy?

Mi chiamo Sandra, sono di Roma, ma sono nata a Parigi, e abito a Auckland da 22 anni.



What brought you to NZ and how long have you been here?

Sono venuta in Nuova Zelanda per la prima volta nel 1989, in vacanza, per andare a trovare mia sorella gemella Maria, che si era trasferita a Christchurch con il marito neozelandese e i loro due figli. Durante questa vacanza, facendo un giro nell'isola del Nord, ho incontrato anch'io un neozelandese, John, con cui mi sono sposata qualche anno più tardi. Dopo aver vissuto a Roma insieme cinque anni, anche noi abbiamo deciso di venire a vivere in Nuova Zelanda e per me è cominciata una nuova avventura piena di sfide.

What do you enjoy about teaching Italian to Kiwis?

Mi piace molto il mio lavoro, sono veramente fortunata! Insegnare l'italiano qui a Auckland mi ha dato l'opportunità di conoscere tante persone, di tutte le età, che hanno una grande passione per la lingua e la cultura italiana. Persone aperte, curiose, motivate, interessanti, generose con cui condividere e scambiare idee e conoscenze.



What are some tips for students looking to improve their Italian?

Prima di tutto non aver paura di sbagliare e cerca di rendere lo studio divertente!
Cerca persone con cui fare pratica, studia cose che ti appassionano, viaggia e frequenta un corso.

What do you find different or unusual about the Kiwi culture (compared to Italy)?

Ci sono molte differenze culturali fra i due paesi, dopo tanti anni sono contenta di appartenere a questi due mondi e ad apprezzarne le diversità. Torno ogni anno in Italia per mantenere questo legame con la famiglia, gli amici e il paese e organizzo insieme a mia sorella viaggi in Italia per studenti di lingua italiana per offrirgli un'esperienza autentica, un "full immersion" nella vita quotidiana e nella cultura.

What are your favourite places in NZ?

La Nuova Zelanda ha posti bellissimi, ma l'Abel Tasman National Park è forse uno dei miei preferiti.



Profilo del mese



A couple of students: John and Steph

Stephanie's and my interest in all things Italian began many years ago on our big OE. We had travelled through a number of countries on our travels, arriving eventually in Casale sul Sile, a small town in the province of Treviso. I had hoped to play rugby for the local side where an old Otago rugby mate - Greg McGee, of "The Antipodeans" fame - was already coaching/playing. In the event there was no room for additional *stranieri*, however the time we spent there was wonderful as we got to know a number of the locals really well. One lovely guy gave us a very memorable day on Steph's birthday. Chico was a Venetian gondoliere, and he announced he was taking just the two of us on a very special tour of the canals, after which we were coming back to his home for a meal of local delicacies. Memorable for sure!



We also travelled through Florence, Perugia (where we came close to enrolling at Perugia Stranieri Università), Rome, Naples and a few smaller towns en route. We simply loved the atmosphere, the sound of the language, the friendliness of the people, and of course the wonderful culture and heritage of Italy. We also realised then how much richer our experience would have been had we been able to speak the language. That was, well, quite a while ago! So, life can become complicated after OEs ... and it was only three years ago that we both decided to enrol at the Dante Alighieri - *principianti assoluti* - with Sandra as our teacher. We loved it so much we are still going (officially "Intermediates" now!), even though at times learning a new language can seem quite a mountain to climb. Therein lies the joy of Dante however - the wonderful encouragement and support of not only Sandra (who has been terrific throughout), Matteo and the others, involved at Dante, but also the

but also the truly great company we have been lucky enough to share with the others doing the course. As many of us have said, the pleasure is as much social as it is intellectual - evidenced by the regular coffees at Rupas, dinners at the Mezze Bar following Friday movies, and other special occasions/get togethers. And are we learning? As Sandra reminds us - think back to where you were 12 or 24 months ago to get a real measure of your progress. Yes we are!



Our class Christmas dinner last year (spouses in attendance)

Doing the course as a couple has been great - Steph can do my homework! Seriously though, having the opportunity to converse with one another in Italian is certainly a bonus, especially when your wife has a solid grasp of grammar. The key to progress is steady and regular studies of course. Steph and I tend to follow different approaches in that regard, and where I enjoy the many online tools that are available, Steph probably makes greater use of books, revision of notes, etc. And certainly the advice from last month's contributor to keep your notes organised is very good advice (note to self).

And, I would also strongly recommend getting involved in "Lo Spettacolo" organised by Matteo. I was drafted somewhat reluctantly into the *La Biografia di Al* performance last year, but was so glad I did. It was such good fun! The other people in the cast were fantastic, and I found it gave my Italian a terrific boost (I am still able to order a quadruple whiskey in Italian ... always handy).



The cast of *La Biografia di Al*

They say it takes around seven years to learn a language, and Steph and I have every intention of pushing on. After all, we want to be ready for our next OE!



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Radio Cartolina

3 May: Simone Scaringi is a recently-arrived astrophysicist at the University of Canterbury, and an amateur drum player. We talk about stars, telescopes, and people studying how to use them. We play: *Quelli che benpensano*, by Frankie HI-NRG MC, and the original 1986 soundtrack from the animation film *Ken il Guerriero*.

17 May: Domenico Nordio is an international violinist who will be playing in Christchurch on the 30th of May. Nordio is lead violin of the Orchestra Giuseppe Verdi of La Scala. Born in Venice in 1971, he started his career of prize-winner and solo recitalist at the age of 10. Presently he divides his time between the orchestra and his solo career. Nordio is recording exclusively for Sony Classical. He will play in Christchurch on the May 30 at St Mary's Pro-Cathedral, at 6 pm (another concert in Auckland will follow). To celebrate the Italian Republic Day, this concert is offered by the Italian Embassy and by the Italian Cultural Institute in Sydney, with the local support of the Christchurch Dante Society. Free entry.

31 May: Irene Boles is an architect from Milan, teaching at the ARA in Christchurch. Irene talks of her career and explains how, in designing and realizing (with her partner, also an architect) their house on the sea in New Brighton, they used the New Zealand concept of bach filtered through a Mediterranean sensibility, to achieve a rewarding result. We play *Rosalina* by Fabio Concato, and *Più bella cosa* by Eros Ramazzotti.

Visit the new pages of Radio Cartolina on the website of the Christchurch Dante Society: <http://www.dantechch.com> with info, photos and the contents of each episode. <http://plainsfm.org.nz> is where you can find all recent programmes in podcast.

Buon Ascolto from the producer Wilma Laryn.

Citazioni del mese

Di Giovanni Guareschi

"Non mi sono mai pentito di aver fatto domani quello che avrei potuto fare ieri o un mese prima. Spesso mi rattristo rileggendo le cose che ho fatto: ma in fondo non me ne cruccio mai soverchiamente perché posso dire, in piena coscienza, che mi sono sempre arrabattato per non farle. Sempre mi sono sforzato di rimandarle al domani." (dalla prefazione di Don Camillo e il suo gregge, Rizzoli, 1953).

"Chi lotta duramente per racimolare l'indispensabile, ha bisogno di evadere dalla sua miseria conquistando qualcosa di superfluo". (da Vita con Giò, Rizzoli, 1995)

"Io, anche in prigionia conservai la mia testardaggine di emiliano della Bassa: e così strinsi i denti e dissi: "Non muoio neanche se mi ammazzano!". (da Istruzioni per l'uso, prefazione).

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