

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD



Dear ICS Members,

As we welcome Fall into our lives, with its bounty of colors, flavors, and spices, we at the ICS are preparing to celebrate the Italian excellency in the world, with starchitect Stefano Boeri.

Excellency is a word that I would like to stress because we strive for it in everything we do.

With the massive proliferation of Italian tutors, online schools, and captivating ads, we not only deliver a superior product, but we have it as a mission to educate the public to differentiate among all of the choices available. When programs are reputable, we can recommend them but sadly many of them are not. For the discerning learner it makes all the difference to attend classes that bear the mark of high quality with carefully selected experienced teachers and with continuing ongoing education.

The pursuit of excellency is what makes Italy and Italian

products so special, from food to design, from art and architecture.

Those of you who have come to love and travel to Italy over again, do so because what you find there is the best. One of my students once told me that he did not stop going back because each time he found the perfect food in a perfect setting and each time it was different and magnificent.

It is my hope that you all, lovers of Italy and everything Italian will join me and the board of directors on October 18th at the Embassy of Italy to meet the challenge of the future in livable cities, green cities where humans and nature can coexist in harmony. It is a challenge that our honorary guest, Stefano Boeri has been working towards all his life. Come and meet him and help us support our passionate commitment of continuing to bring the marvel of Italy to the US.

Annelise Brody Morani
Chair of the ICS Board of Directors



ITALIAN LANGUAGE PROGRAM & MORE

Dear ICS Friends,

This fall is extremely busy at the ICS, with our upcoming Gala, on Wednesday, the 18th, and many other events on the Calendar: you can read about them and enjoy the pictures on the next pages. Plus, our most important program, our language and culture courses, started at the end of September with a great participation, including many online students.

Fall session 2 starts on October 30th. Among the classes listed on our [schedule](#), a Beginner course in the morning, in person is about to start! With the several courses online at various times of day, we have space again to welcome new students at our headquarters... Except on Saturdays, where students of all ages keep the ICS and its energetic teachers and staff very alive! **Cooking classes** are growing in popularity. We are now offering typical fall menus, of course. We recommend to reserve your spot in advance.

The first **Kids Workshop/Parents night out** - celebrating "Fall and La Festa dei nonni" - took place last Friday, and the next

one will be "L'inverno e il Natale" – venerdì 8 dicembre 2023.

We are thrilled to announce that our **Music School** found again a wonderful Maestro, a distinguished musician, and a great person: Professor Diego Rodriguez, graduated from Conservatorio di Ferrara, master in Didattica della Musica from Conservatorio di Bolzano, and master in Musicologia from Libera Università di Bolzano. CORO for children, PIANO LESSONS and LABORATORIO MUSICALE will start again in November, as well as other initiatives. Stay tuned!

We look forward to seeing you at school, at the Friday concert, and at the Gala over the next few days.

Enjoy the wonderful foliage and keep learning Italian!

Francesca Casazza

CEO & Executive Director



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ITALIAN LANGUAGE PROGRAM

Valentina Asciutti, Annelise Brody, Sofia Caligiuri, Fiorenza Castelli, Tarita Colella, Carlo Ellena, Silvana De Luca, Francesco Da Vela, Cristiana Fabiani, Laura Granata, Kristin Cassola, Laura Loddo, Samantha Mattochi, Tsehay Benyam Mesfin, Nicoletta Nencioli, Mariana Petrova Tacheva, Claudio Pedone, Antonella Salvatore Pellegrino, Camilla Presti, Vera Sogoian, Irene Sorensen, Claudio Tanca, Samantha Vergassola; Diego Rodriguez - Piano, Violin & Chorus Director, Caterina Vannucci - violin teacher.

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Single:

Matthew Sacco, Monica Longo, Robert McCartney, Tracey Moorhead, Marie Choppin, Christine Rocchio, Beth Ivey, Carolyn Grillo, Alex Iorio, Patricia Gagliano

Couple/Family:

The families of: Scott Parsons, Camille and Walter Haberland, Claire Servini-Nahzi, Krista Ammirato,

Laura Dessena, Alex Tanzi, Bridie Croucher, Aldo D'Ottavio, Mary Jo Harvey-Reidt, Kevin Rosier, Nancy Norman, Maria Tito, Vincent Doria-Rose, Carla Pettinelli, and Jack Flanagan

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We Are Social!



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PAST EVENTS

"THE CONSTITUTION OF ITALY, A CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS" AT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW

On September 19, 2023, at the American University's College of Law, the ICS co-sponsored the conference and book presentation *The Constitution of Italy*, written by Marta Cartabia, Professor at Università Bocconi in Milano and Nicola Lupo, Professor at the LUISS University in Rome. The authors presented their work in a panel that included Professor Bill Davis, Prof. Francesca Bignami, and Professor Fernanda Nicola. Afterward, a pleasant reception was offered in the outdoor area of American University.



"PEACE ON EARTH – THE ART OF NATURE" AT THE NATIONAL MALL

Proudly sponsored by the ICS - among other contributors - the event "Peace on Earth – the Art of Nature," held on September 21, 2023, left a lasting impression on all who attended. Set against the backdrop of the Lincoln Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., this event celebrated the "International Day of Peace" through opera music. Among the evening's highlights were Italian conductor Alvis Casellati's *Opera Italiana is in the Air* tour performance; and internationally acclaimed tenor Michael Fabiano's performance. Joining Fabiano were the rising stars basso George Andguladze and tenor Lydia Grindatto. But it wasn't just the world-class headliners who made this event exceptional. The collaboration with the Washington National Opera Orchestra and the gifted young composer Isaac Thomas added a unique dimension to the evening. Their collective harmony and passion for music were evident in every note played and sung. See event pictures on the first and second pages.



PAST EVENTS

"ZHERO: A GREEN ITALIAN COMPANY TO ACCELERATE ENERGY TRANSITION" AT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

At this engaging event held on October 1, 2023, at the American University, Andrea Braccialarghe, CEO of Zhero, presented the story of his Italian start-up, which focuses on developing green and clean energy projects, such as renewables, H2 and derivatives, and repurposing. Zhero's mission is to deliver net zero solutions and lower energy production costs to promote the development of new infrastructures and support local environments and governments. Professor Fernanda G. Nicola from the American University College of Law gave opening remarks. Arianna Ugliano, Senior Climate Change Policy Advisor at the Center for Climate Strategies, facilitated the event.



"ELENA BUTTIERO & ANITA FRUMENTO PIANO FOUR HANDS CONCERT" AT THE GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

At this beautiful concert held on October 10, 2023, at the Georgetown University, pianists Elena Buttiero and Anita Frumento revived "The Divine Comedy for Piano Four Hands, a piano score forgotten for over 100 years. Composed by 19th-century musician Cesare San Fiorenzo, the score offered evocative melodies reminiscent of the opera world. To accompany each score, Professor Francesco Ciabattini and undergraduate students of Italian read excerpts from Dante's Divine Comedy, illustrating the interplay of music and literature in San Fiorenzo's work.



UPCOMING EVENTS

WOMEN'S MUSIC TALKS ABOUT WOMEN FEATURING ELENA BUTTIERO & ANITA FRUMENTO

Friday, October 13th at 6:30pm

Westmoreland Congregational United Church, 1 Westmoreland Cir NW, Bethesda, MD 20816

Le D.I.V.E. (Donne Italiane che vivono all'estero) & The Italian Cultural Society of Washington DC present:

Four Hand Piano Concert "Women's Music Talks About Women" featuring Elena Buttiero & Anita Frumento.

In the 19th and 20th centuries, women's emancipation in the music field was championed by remarkable figures like Teresa Carreño, Amy Beach, Mel Bonis, Cécile Chaminade, Marie Jaëll, and Fanny Hensel Mendelssohn. Despite societal challenges, these immensely talented women courageously paved the way for their own success and the recognition of women in music. The recital pays tribute to these pioneers, highlighting their music and stories as important milestones in the journey towards women's rights.

Join us for a mesmerizing evening of music at the Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ in Bethesda. Get ready to be enchanted by the harmonious melodies created by four hands on the piano. Come and experience the power and beauty of women's music as it tells stories and evokes emotions!

Tickets are available for purchase [here](#).

 The Italian
Cultural Society
of Washington D.C.

Le D.I.V.E. & The Italian Cultural Society

present:

WOMEN'S MUSIC TALKS ABOUT WOMEN

Elena Buttiero & Anita Frumento

Piano Four Hands



Music by

Fanny Hensel Mendelssohn (1805-1847)

Marie Jaëll (1846-1925) **Teresa Carreño** (1857-1917)

Cécile Chaminade (1857-1944) **Mel Bonis** (1858-1937)

Amy Beach (1867-1944) **Teresa Procaccini** (1934)

RSVP: <https://italianculturalsociety.org/events>

 The Italian
Cultural Society
of Washington D.C.

 **D.I.V.E.**
WASHINGTON D.C.

Friday, October 13th at 6:30 pm

Westmoreland Congregational United Church, 1 Westmoreland Cir NW, Bethesda, MD



The Board of Directors of the ICS cordially invites you to

GALA AWARDS DINNER 2023

GREEN OBSESSION

HONORARY GUEST

Stefano Boeri

URBAN FORESTRY PIONEER

Founding Partner at Stefano Boeri Architetti

In conversation with

Lavinia Fici Pasquina

Professor of Architecture and Planning,
CUA Washington D.C.

Wednesday October 18th
6:30PM

Embassy of Italy - 3000 Whitehaven St. NW,
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Awards Ceremony for Scholarship Recipients
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COCKTAIL ATTIRE

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WHAT'S BEHIND THE NAME OF THIS YEAR'S GALA?

By Eugenia Lollini



Forest City Manifesto Visualization by Stefano Boeri Architetti Shanghai, 2021

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V. Kaleidoscopic Futures

V.XIV Forest City Manifesto

365

At this year's Gala, the Italian Cultural Society is honored to welcome Stefano Boeri, architect, professor, urban planner, and international advocate for greener, more sustainable cities. The work of Stefano Boeri Architetti, his esteemed firm, ranges from producing urban and architectural visions to product and interior design, focusing on the geopolitical and environmental implications of metropolitan centers.

"Green Obsession" comes from "Green Obsession: Trees Towards Cities, Humans Towards Forests," a campaign Boeri's firm launched to illustrate its unique approach to improving the relationship between nature and design through urban forestation projects. Boeri's campaign won the SDG Action Awards, the most important recognition of projects that support the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The initiative was selected from over 5,000 entries from 190 countries for its efforts to employ a creative approach to urban planning, ecological connectivity, and urban forestry, demonstrating a prioritization of human well-being and climate-conscious design. Not just a campaign, "Green Obsession" represents a series of conferences, a public program, and a book published in 2021.

During his visit to Washington, Boeri will attend the World Forum on Urban Forests (WFUF), of which he is co-chair of the scientific committee. Jointly developed by the Food and Agricultural Organization and the Politecnico di Milano, the WFUF aims to support cities worldwide towards a more sustainable and resilient model of urban development. At the conference, as well as at the ICS's Gala, Boeri will continue to advocate for his "Green Obsession" campaign by giving multiple presentations.

As more and more cities worldwide report record-breaking high temperatures, urban green spaces have been proven to be one of the most accessible ways to lower the effects of urban heat islands and create safe and comfortable environments for metropolitan dwellers. Stefano Boeri Architetti has been at the forefront of this effort, endorsing "the need for a new proximity to nature," with vertical forests under construction throughout Europe.

COSA C'È ALLA BASE DEL NOME DEL GALA DI QUEST'ANNO?

By Eugenia Lollini



In occasione del Gala di quest'anno, la Società Italiana di Cultura è onorata di accogliere Stefano Boeri, architetto, professore, urbanista e promotore internazionale di città più verdi e sostenibili. I lavori di Stefano Boeri Architetti, il suo stimato studio, spaziano dalla produzione di visioni urbane e architettoniche al design di prodotti e interni, concentrandosi sulle implicazioni geopolitiche e ambientali dei centri metropolitani.

"Green Obsession" deriva da "Green Obsession: Trees Towards Cities, Humans Towards Forests", una campagna che lo studio Boeri ha lanciato per illustrare il suo approccio univoco al miglioramento del rapporto tra natura e design mediante progetti di forestazione urbana. La campagna di Boeri ha vinto gli SDG Action Awards, il più importante riconoscimento dei progetti che sostengono i 17 Obiettivi di Sviluppo Sostenibile delle Nazioni Unite. L'iniziativa è stata selezionata tra oltre 5.000 candidature provenienti da 190 Paesi per i suoi impegni nell'impiego di un approccio creativo alla pianificazione urbana, alla connettività ecologica e alla forestazione urbana, dimostrando di dare priorità al benessere umano e a una design attento al clima. Non si tratta solo di una campagna, ma di una serie di conferenze, di un programma pubblico e di un libro pubblicato nel 2021.

Durante la sua visita a Washington, Boeri parteciperà al World Forum on Urban Forests (WFUF), di cui è co-chair del comitato scientifico. Sviluppato congiuntamente dall'Organizzazione delle Nazioni Unite per l'Alimentazione e l'Agricoltura e dal Politecnico di Milano, il WFUF mira a sostenere le città del mondo verso un modello di sviluppo urbano più sostenibile e resiliente. Alla conferenza, così come al Gala dell'ICS, Boeri continuerà a sostenere la sua campagna "Green Obsession" con diverse presentazioni.

A fronte di un numero crescente di città in tutto il mondo che registrano temperature record, gli spazi verdi urbani si sono dimostrati uno dei modi più accessibili per ridurre gli effetti delle isole termiche urbane e creare ambienti sicuri e confortevoli per gli abitanti dei centri metropolitani. Lo studio Stefano Boeri Architetti è stato in prima linea in questo sforzo, sostenendo "la necessità di una nuova vicinanza alla natura", con la costruzione di foreste verticali in tutta Europa.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS 2023

Winners will be presented at the Gala 2023

MAURA GUIDA MAFFIA AWARD

Dylan Rhein – Norwood School

MARIA WILMETH AWARDS

Amarantha Flachs-Hernandez - Duke Ellington School of the Arts
Katie Stroot - Brookewood School
Monica Stohlman - Brookewood School

LUCIANA MONTANARI-MENDOLA AWARDS

University pianist:

Marcelo Ratzkowski - The Catholic University of America

High School pianist:

Julia Young - Georgetown Day School

YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARD

Dr. Paola Oliva - NIH

Dr. Igor Andreoni - University of Maryland, College Park

University Students awarded in May 2023 by their Italian Department, thanks to our CESARINA HORING AWARD ARE:

Major & Master in Italian:

Georgetown University : *Thomas Ronan, Elise Gallentine, Derek Ginoris*

University of Maryland: *Ian Emanuel, Yuna Jessica Higgs*

Catholic University: *Kathleen Zarembo*

Minor in Italian:

American University: *William Barlowe, Michael Poulin*

George Washington University: *Leonela Tase Sueiro*

George Mason University: *Ximena Espinoza, Stephen Boakye*

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