For Anthony Maiello

Viva Italia!

Arranged by JACK BULLOCK (ASCAP)

PROGRAM NOTES

This arrangement was written for Anthony Maiello, an outstanding musician—performer, conductor, educator and author—of Italian heritage, who exemplifies the charm and grace of this wonderful music.

The music of Italy is rich in melody, spirit and vibrance, nationalistic in character and steeped in tradition. Italian composers have been favorites of concert goers for centuries, and Italian folk songs (the music of the people) have become lasting national treasures.

The musical salute to Italy consists of five melodies, all best-loved and known by everyone. The chorus of “O Sole Mio” by DiCapua serves as the introduction. “Tarantella,” a popular Italian dance tune and an example of the rhythmic pulse of Italy, follows. With the operatic legacy of Monteverdi, Rossini, Verdi and Puccini, a melody of one of their productions is fitting, and I chose the music from “Prelude to Act III of La Traviata” by Giuseppe Verdi, which is a simple but moving melody. “The Carnival of Venice” by Benedict is generally heard with melodic variations because of its brevity and simple melodic line. I kept the melody in a natural form without variations, but with a twist. The rousing “Funiculi, Funicula” by Denza completes the medley in a wonderfully cheerful way.

Enjoy the sparkle and the verve of the music of Italy, Viva Italia!

Jack Bullock