

WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE BRACCO FOUNDATION, AFTER CANALETTO'S PAINTINGS THE GREAT MUSIC OF VERDI, PUCCINI AND ROSSINI IS NOW ON ITS WAY TO WASHINGTON

First Canaletto and the eighteenth-century Venetian view painters at the National Gallery in Washington, then support for the great concert by Petruzzelli Opera and Symphony Orchestra of Bari promoted by the Italian Embassy in the United States on March 17 2011: the Bracco Foundation celebrates the 150th anniversary of Italian Unity all over the world.

Bari, March 14 2011 – The Bracco Foundation confirms its commitment to Italian culture all over the world on the occasion of the official celebrations marking the 150th Anniversary of Italian Unity in the United States. After supporting the exhibition “Venice: Canaletto and his rivals” at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, the Bracco Foundation is Institutional Partner of the Italian Embassy in the United States and of “Compagnia per la Musica in Roma” in the organization of a Concert to be held in Washington on March 17.

Petruzzelli Opera and Symphony Orchestra of Bari will be conducted by Lorin Maazel, whom the Bracco Foundation has the honor of including on its Advisory Board, and will play great pieces by Italian composers – Verdi, Rossini, Respighi and Puccini – in addition to a new piece for orchestra commissioned of composer Giorgio Battistelli. The Concert, to be held in the new seat of the Italian Embassy in Washington, will be attended by illustrious guests as well as numerous ambassadors, Supreme Court judges and representatives of the Italian community in America.

“The Bracco Foundation is proud and honored to help celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Italian Unity in the United States”, says the President of Bracco Foundation Diana Bracco, “and considers it the best way to strengthen the historic friendship between the two countries. The message conveyed by culture transcends all geographic barriers, as it is expressed in a universal language comprehensible to all”.

The event is part of a series of initiatives focusing on Italy in the US capital, entitled *La Dolce DC*: a packed calendar of events inspired by the Italian “dolce vita” the whole world dreams of. During the three-month exhibition “Venice: Canaletto and his rivals”, for instance, the National Gallery organized a series of concerts of Venetian Baroque music

and a film series focusing on Italian Neo-realism and films connected with the unification of Italy.

“The Bracco Foundation has a strong international vocation”, adds Diana Bracco, “and its mission is promotion of Italian culture, science and art all over the world. The performance by the Orchestra from Petruzzelli Theatre conducted by Lorin Maazel, which we decided to support, enriches our partnership with the National Gallery of Art in Washington, one of the most prestigious, most-visited museums in the United States. The bond dates back to 2006, when Bracco had an opportunity to support an exhibition focusing on the great Renaissance masters Bellini, Giorgione and Titian, and continues with the Canaletto exhibition open until May 30: an extraordinary exhibition which Maestro Lorin Maazel, the Mayor of Bari Michele Emiliano and other authorities from Puglia will have the pleasure of visiting on the eve of the concert”.

The Bracco Foundation focuses on creating and spreading expressions of culture, science and art, also as a means to improve the quality of life and social cohesion. In this context, the Foundation promotes appreciation of Italy’s cultural, historical and artistic heritage, encourages awareness of environmental issues, promotes scientific research and protection of human health, favors education, instruction and professional training for young people, and implements initiatives in support of the well-being of the community as a whole.

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