

Bella Notte

MaryLee Sunseri

I've always loved Italian songs! When I was a little girl, singing along to 1950's radio, every pop singer had an Italian-style hit song! So, when I moved to Monterey in 1983 and was asked to become the lead singer for Mike Marotta, Jr's dance band—I was thrilled to sing these wonderful melodies at big Italian weddings and international gatherings at Pebble Beach & the Navy Postgraduate School! Mike's mother, Phyllis, helped me with Italian pronunciation and his daughters, Kristi and Rachel, sang with me at festival performances. We made a lot of wonderful music together! In 1984, I met my husband, Frank Sunseri, and became, officially, ITALIAN—by marriage! While creating this album, Frank and I checked as many pronunciations with as many sources as possible. Because of regional dialects, very few sources agreed with each other! But that's all part of the fun! Some of these songs were learned by "ear" and others were interpreted with the help of an Italian/English dictionary. Hopefully, the music speaks the universal language of joy, love and kindness that so many people of the Italian/American community have shown me.

*Mille Grazie,
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Italian Children's Songs & Lullabies

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THE CHICKEN DANCE (traditional) (transcribed phonetically from a recording)
Gusted ballo di qua qua, e di papa e di sa, Balle sole qua qua qua, i qua qua qua
Mama, papa lo papat, o le mani fo qua, qua, inna fiuma fola da, di quai di a
Legier no chier per un pop, uscha nizzo la cozi, lette foto lette mani, fai qua qua
Un santo la chi la, ma chi grande novita, ch'o ne ra ni anni qua, in qua qua qua!
Re mi so so blacio, la felicità, vasta ve cho raccio, a la re facio, ch'ol qua qua qua

FUNICULI, FUNICULA - Don't Be Sad! (Folk Song from Napoli, Music: L. Denza, Italian Lyrics: G. Turco)
Some think the world is made for fun and frolic, and so do I, and so do I!
Some think it well to be all melancholic, to pine and sigh, to pine and sigh!
But I, I love to spend my time in singing some joyous song, some joyous song!
To set the air with music bravely ringing is far from wrong, is far from wrong!
Hearken, hearken, music sounds afar! Hearken, hearken, music sounds afar!
Funiculi, funicula, funiculi, funicula, joy is everywhere funiculi, funicula!
Jammo, jammo n'coppa jammo ja! Jammo jammo n'coppa jammo ja!
Funiculi, funicula, funiculi, funicula, n'coppa jammo ja, funiculi, funicula!

FRA MICHELE - Brother Michael (Italian Folk Song)
Fra Michele, a ve va un gallo, mezzo rosso, mezzo jallo. Que a ve va una gallina, que di ceva "Co co co te!"
Michael's rooster is a fine fellow, a little bit red and a little bit yellow.
And he has a very fine hen friend and she calls him "Co co co te."

THAT'S AMORÉ - That's Love (Words by Jack Brooks, Music by Harry Warren, ©1953)
When the moon hits your eye like a big pizza pie, that's amoré!
When the world seems to shine like you've had too much wine, that's amoré!
Bells will ring, ting-a-ling-a-ling, ting-a-ling-a-ling, and you'll sing "Vita Bella!"
Hearts will play, tippy-tippy-tay, tippy tippy-tay, like a gay tarantella!
When the stars make you drool just like pasta fazul, that's amoré
When you dance down the street with a cloud at your feet, you're in love!
When you walk in a dream but you know you're not dreaming, signoré!
Scuzza mi, but you see back in old Napoli, that's amoré!

LITTLE GRANDMA MAZURKA (Melody: traditional, Lyrics: Frank Sunseri)
Little grandma, short and wide, serving pasta full of pride (2X)
She won't rest till we're all stuffed, then she'll ask if we have had enough (2X)
Now she's gone where angels dwell, one thing's very sure, they're eating very well (2X)
Little grandma, short and wide, serving pasta full of pride (2X)

MA BELLA BIMBA - My Beautiful Dancing Doll (Italian Folk Song)
Ma come balli, bella bimba, bella bimba, bella bimba, Ma come balli, bella bimba, bella bimba, balli ben! (2X)
Guarda che passa la villanella, Agile e snella sa ben ballar (2X)

GIRO, GIRO TONDO - Turn, Turn Around (Italian Folk Song)
Giro, Giro tondo facciam il giro mondo!
1. *Dal mondo al castello, dal monte al ruscello*
2. *Giriam fin a domani, tochiamoci le mani*
3. *Facciam la pirouetta, facciam la piu in fretta*
E giro, giro tondo, facciam il giral mondo!

Round the world we go now! All turn and don't be slow, now!
We clasp our hands, we're turning, still faster, faster whirling!
So round the world we go now! All turn and don't be slow now!

È, COMPARE! - Hey, Friend! (Italian Folk Song)
È, compare, ti voi sonare, e como ti sono La Chitarra (guitar), *e como ti sono La Chitarra...*
Tippity tippity tah! Da da da dum!
Il Tamburello (tambourine), *L'armonica Bocca* (harmonica),
La Canzonetista (lady singer), *Il Camponello* (bell)
Tippity, tippity, tah! Da da da dum!

NINNA-NANNA - Lullaby (Italian Folk Song)
Ninna-Nanna coco la della mama...coco lo del papa!
Ninna-Nanna coco la della mama...coco lo del papa!

BELLA NOTTE - Beautiful Night (Words & Music by Peggy Lee and Sonny Burke, from Walt Disney's *Lady & The Tramp*, © 1952)
This is the night, it's a beautiful night, and we call it *Bella Notte!*
Look at the skies, they have stars in their eyes, on this lovely *Bella Notte!*
So take this love of your loved one, you'll need it about this time,
To keep from falling like a star when you make that dizzy climb.
For this is the night and the heaven's are right on this lovely *Bella Notte!*

VIENI SUL MAR - Come to the Sea! (Italian Folk Song)
Deh! Desta, fanciulla, la luna, spande un raggio sì chiaro sul mar!
Vieni meco l'aspetta la bruna, fida barca del tuo marinar.
Ma tu dormi e non pensial fido, ma non dorme chi vive d'amor!
Lo la notte a te volo sul lido, ed il giorno a te volo col cuor:
Vieni sul mar, vieni a vo gar, sentira i l'ebrezza, del tuo marinar! (2X)

SANTA LUCIA - My little boat called Santa Lucia (Italian Folk Song)
Sul mare luccica, lastro d'argento, placida e londa, prospero e il vento (2X)
Venite allagile, barchetta mia, Santa Lucia, Santa Lucia! (2X)