



OUR AUDIENCE

There are more than 400,000 people of Italian descent living in Maryland. There are many more who cannot lay claim to an Italian blood line but who have a love for Italian opera, fashion, art and architecture, film and even cars! These are the people who gather with us to learn and experience various aspects of true Italian culture. They study Italian language, view films by Italian directors and actors, and share the excitement of a fashion show featuring Italian designs. They plan tours of Italy for business or pleasure. They learn about current events, government and politics as well as about past events that have shaped Italy's relationships around the world.



ENTERTAINMENT

- Special Concerts and Recitals
- Italian Television
- Italian Video Library
- Opera
- Italian Cinema
- Columbus Parade
- Annual Italian Festival



EDUCATION & CULTURE

- Distinguished Speaker Program
- Italian Language Courses
- Fine Art Exhibits
- Artisan Exhibits
- Italian Library
- Student Exchange
- Information & Referral



CUSTOMS & TRADITIONS

- Natale all'Italiana
- La Befana
- Carnevale
- Fashion
- Italian Cooking



TOURISM

- Books
- Videos
- Magazines
- Maps
- Brochures



OUR MISSION

The mission of the Italian Cultural Center, Inc. is to preserve, communicate and celebrate authentic Italian art and architecture, music, fashion, artisanship, cooking, language and customs for the benefit of the Italian community living in Maryland as well as for the enjoyment and education of individuals who have an interest in Italy but no family roots there. The Center provides a forum for the exchange of ideas of international proportion through language studies, lectures and demonstrations, exhibitions and special holiday events.

Italian Cultural Center, Inc. of Maryland

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OUR COMMITMENT TO TEACHING ITALIAN LANGUAGE & CULTURE

At the foundation of any culture lies its language. Italy is known for its particularly beautiful language, which is the basis for an incredibly rich tradition of literature and song. No attempt to understand and embrace Italian culture is complete without the study of the Italian language. Toward that end, the Italian Cultural Center, Inc. provides significant opportunity to learn Italian and participate in the authentic Italian experience.

The Cultural Center supports the professional development of high school teachers of Italian throughout Maryland. We partner with the State of Maryland Department of Education to provide enhanced learning opportunities to teachers in the State's growing Italian language program. We supported the participation of Italian instructors in the 2005 American Council of Teachers of Foreign Language (ACTFL) Conference in Baltimore. Beginning in 2006, we are also sponsors of Maryland Foreign Language Association professional conferences.

The Italian Cultural Center, Inc. is a financial supporter of the Hospitality, Culinary Arts & Tourism Institute of Anne Arundel Community College. Our contribution to the scholarship fund permits students to participate in a ten-week International Culinary

Internship on Italy's Amalfi Coast.

Together with the Baltimore Opera Company, the Italian Cultural Center makes possible the opera experience for Baltimore County middle school students. The middle schoolers attend a dress rehearsal of an Italian-language opera conducted by an Italian guest conductor.

The Cultural Center brings the richness of Italian instrumental music and traditional pageantry to Maryland. In years past, we have co-sponsored performances by the Venetian Baroque Orchestra and the Sbandieratori San Quirico d'Orcia. We join An Die Musik in welcoming Maestro Andrea Centazzo, famed contemporary composer and percussionist, for his first Baltimore concert.

The Cultural Center's own Language School runs concurrent with the academic year, offering university-level Italian language classes in small group settings with personal attention. We offer *Elementary Italian I and II, Intermediate Italian I and II, Conversation & Composition I and II, and Special Topics/Literature*. Classes are held at the Bykota Center in Towson.



The Italian Cultural Center, Inc. is the official American sponsor of Pope John Paul II Peak on Italy's Gran Sasso, the highest mountain range in the Apennines (Abruzzo).



The Italian Cultural Center, Inc. of Maryland is a nonprofit educational organization with special tax status as determined by the US Internal Revenue Service. We welcome personal and corporate donations and foundation grants to support our mission.



The Italian Cultural Center, Inc. joined the Shriver Hall Concert Series of the Johns Hopkins University in welcoming the Venice Baroque Orchestra to Baltimore. After the well-received concert, the Cultural Center hosted a reception featuring Italian food specialties and wine.



For the past few years, the Italian Cultural Center has had prize-winning entries in Baltimore's Columbus Parade, the longest running Columbus Day celebration parade in the United States. Our "Italy's Past Meets Italy's Present" unit consists of 15th-century Commedia dell'Arte characters, vintage and new automobiles and motorbikes, and more!



The Italian Cultural Center's Pavilion at the annual Italian Festival is a huge draw. Kids of all ages create Venetian-style Carnevale masks.