

# IDEA BOSTON

*An Italian-inspired festival of books,  
— authors and culture —*



NOV. 2<sup>nd</sup> and NOV. 3<sup>rd</sup> 2018

# GRAZIE MILLE

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# EXPLORING NEW IDEAS

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Picture this: a small, independent bookstore focusing on Italian and Italian American literature launching an Italian-inspired festival of books, authors and culture. That pretty much sums up who's behind IDEA Boston.

At the heart of the festival is I AM Books, the bookstore I co-founded alongside Jim Pinzino in 2015. Every day, at I AM Books, we strive to bring as much of Italy as possible to the people who walk through our doors on North Street, in Boston's North End neighborhood.

The bookstore has become a laboratory of sorts – a place where words, both spoken and in print, can find new avenues and a new audience. But, like most laboratories, it is rather small and can only do one or two events at a time. So how could we celebrate Italian and Italian American culture on a larger scale that could also highlight the wonderful work and individuals that have come to I AM Books over the years? We needed a festival.

IDEA Boston is that festival. Its mission is to spark a conversation, light up ideas and thoughts, get the ball rolling on collaborative projects. We live in a world that is hyper-connected, yet it seems there are less spaces and occasions to get together and share experiences and ideas.

Hopefully IDEA Boston can provide this space, and provide a lasting contribution to the community. I hope it can be the beginning of something we can all look forward to, year after year, idea after idea.

*Nicola Orichuia*



I AM Books is an independent bookstore, located at 189 North St. in Boston's North End neighborhood. It was opened in Oct. 2015 by Nicola Orichuia and Jim Pinzino. Specializing in Italian and Italian-American literature and culture, the bookstore also offers numerous events year-round, including readings, presentations, concerts, and language classes.

@IAMBOOKSBOSTON  
IAMBOOKSBOSTON.COM



IDEA Boston is an Italian-inspired festival, celebrating literature, history, art and many other aspects of Italian and Italian-American culture. The first annual event organized by Boston's I AM Books and directed by Nicola Orichuia takes place Nov. 2-3, 2018, at the Dante Alighieri Cultural Center in Cambridge, Mass.

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#### MAIN SPONSOR

##### FRIENDS OF THE ITALIAN CULTURAL CENTER OF BOSTON

Founded in Dec. 2012, the public charity Friends of the Italian Cultural Center of Boston, Inc. is fueled by "love of all things Italian:" Italian art, culture, language, tradition, entrepreneurship, scientific achievement, innovation, creativity and lifestyle. FICCB is committed to planning and executing subject-oriented programming for the Italian and Italian-American communities in Boston and New England.

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##### DANTE ALIGHIERI SOCIETY OF MASSACHUSETTS

The Dante Alighieri Society of Massachusetts has been promoting Italian language and culture since 1911. Located at 41 Hampshire St., Cambridge, Mass., it offers monthly cultural events, as well as Italian language classes.

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##### CONSULATE GENERAL OF ITALY BOSTON

The Consulate General of Italy in Boston strongly supports the promotion and teaching of the Italian language. We believe that language is a fundamental tool in understanding the culture of our country and support local cultural initiatives that strengthen and deepen the ties between Italy and the Italian American communities in the US.

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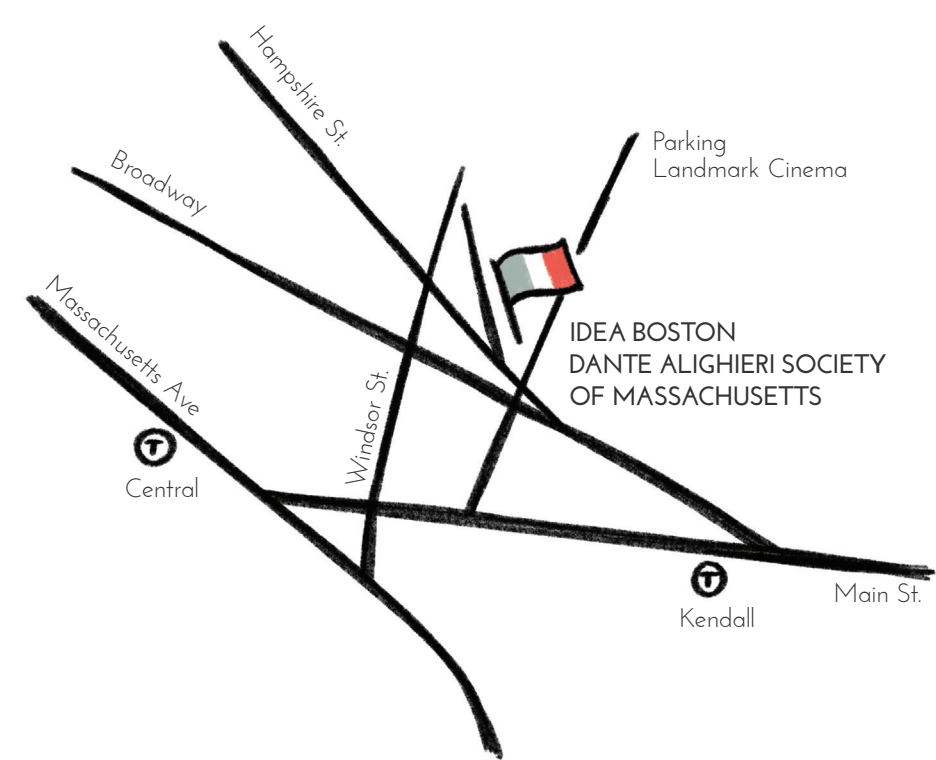
Matteo Gullà is the owner of Gullà Studio, a full-service branding, design and advertising studio. His work is inspired by having grown up in Calabria, Italy, combining Italian design with American aesthetics.

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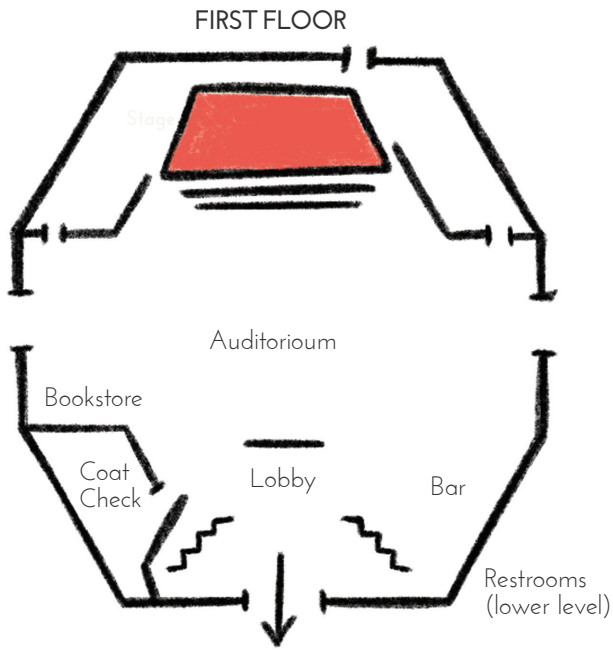
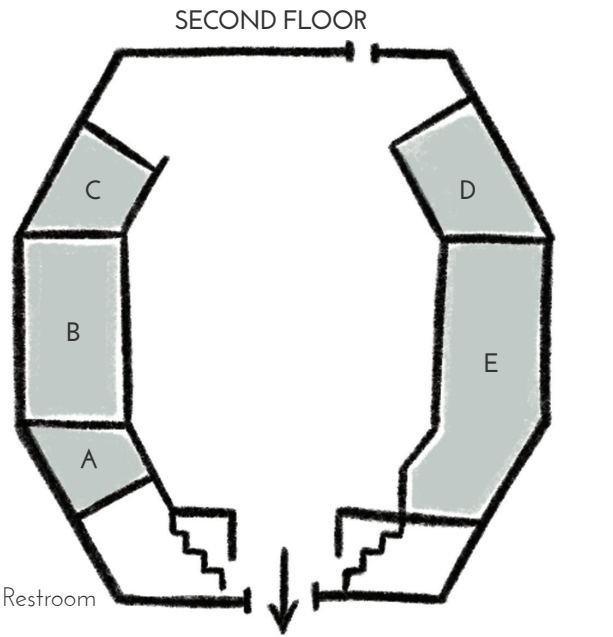


# DANTE ALIGHIERI CULTURAL CENTER

41 HAMPSHIRE ST., CAMBRIDGE, MASS.



# FESTIVAL MAP



1:30-2:30 P.M. | ROOM C

**RIGHT YOU ARE (IF YOU THINK SO): LUIGI PIRANDELLO'S  
RELATIVISM OF PERCEPTION AND THE BREAK WITH TRADI-  
TIONAL THEATRE FORM**

A comprehensive presentation addressing the philosophical concepts of the relativism of perception inherent in Luigi Pirandello's *Right You Are (If You Think So)*, a creative comedy with a profound message. The play represented a radical change in the theater form of the past and the emergence of a theater genre of doubt, requiring an interpretation of the diverse realities existent in life. The work is presented in a multi-media format illustrating the work's dialogue and characters.

**Speaker: Marco Remo Zanelli**

2:45-3:45 P.M. | ROOM A

**WORKSHOP: MEMOIR WRITING**

Explore how memory and memoir writing are intertwined; learn how to best seek, find, and use memory triggers, ways to access and work with incomplete, fuzzy memories, and how memory fuels memoir. Includes in-class writing exercises and time for questions and answers.

**Speaker: Lisa Romeo**

2:45-3:45 P.M. | ROOM C

**WHY STUDY THE ITALIAN CLASSICS?**

Long considered essential pillars of the cultural and moral formation of Italian youth, certain of the classic authors of the Italian literary "canon" – including Dante, Foscolo, Leopardi and Manzoni – have recently seen a decline in their status within the scholastic curriculum. Have these classics ceased to be relevant in the 21st-century? Italian novelist Italo Calvino described a "classic" as a text (or author) that continues to reveal new meanings -- year after year, reading after

reading -- about society, ourselves, and our world. A panel of Italian professors and students from Boston College will describe their experience with teaching and studying these classic authors, discussing and debating what is still alive in these "classics" for young people today.

**Speakers: Mattia Acetoso | Chiara Barni  
Laurie Shepard | Alessio Tognetti**

2:45-3:45 P.M. | ROOM E

**AUTISM: TOWARDS A FUTURE OF SOCIAL UNDERSTANDING**

Where do we want to be as a society – today but even more tomorrow – when talking about, dealing with and understanding autism and its many different manifestations? A discussion between a scientist and a mother of an autistic child, the panel co-organized by Professionisti Italiani a Boston will try to explain autism and debunk certain myths surrounding this condition.

**Speakers: Michela Fagiolini | Marina Viola | Carolina Cefaliello**

4:00-5:00 P.M. | ROOM B

**RENAISSANCE WOMAN: VITTORIA COLONNA**

Ramie Targoff's *Renaissance Woman: The Life of Vittoria Colonna* is a biography, but it's also one of those books that dissects an entire culture. A close friend of Michelangelo, and the first woman poet ever to be published in Italy, Vittoria Colonna was both an extraordinary outlier and a woman who still chafed against the confines of the era.

**Speaker: Ramie Targoff**

4:00-5:00 P.M. | ROOM D

**CREATING AND SUSTAINING THE CAPACITY TO INNOVATE: NEW RESEARCH ON THE ROLE OF TALENT, CULTURE AND SCALE**

In companies big and small, creating and sustaining innovation is key to staying competitive. But it is also no easy task. This panel co-organized by Professionisti Italiani a Boston focuses on strategies leaders can use to assure their workplaces are full of people who are eager and able to contribute their creative ideas.

**Speakers:** Francesca Gino | Gary Pisano | Giovanni Abbadessa

5:15-6:15 P.M. | ROOM A

**WORKSHOP: L'ITALIANO ATTRAVERSO L'OPERA E LA MUSICA POPOLARE (TEACHING ITALIAN THROUGH OPERA AND POPULAR MUSIC)**

A workshop introducing students to the traditional Italian Operas of the 18th and 19th centuries, as well as modern Italian popular music. By learning about characters, plots, settings, and themes of the Operas, students will acquire the ability to fluently express their opinion on these multifaceted works while at the same time learning to appreciate this fine traditional art.

**Speaker:** Maria Felicita Fichera

5:15-6:15 P.M. | ROOM E

**ITALIAN PARENTS, AMERICAN CHILDREN: CULTURAL DIFFERENCES, RELATIONAL BONDS, AND NEGOTIATING IDENTITIES**

Families hold a place of great significance for Italians, yet family ties and traditions can be challenged through immigration and acculturation, as well as loss and separation. In this panel that includes novelists, memoirists, essayists, and a psychologist, we will explore the deep bonds, values, and relationships in families, looking further than the typical interpretations.

**Speakers:** Marisa Labozzetta | Marianne Leone  
Lorraine Mangione | Lisa Romeo

5:15-6:45 P.M. | ROOM C

**ASSUNTA SPINA: 1915 SILENT FILM WITH LIVE MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT**

Salvatore Di Giacomo's silent film *Assunta Spina* (1915), starring the queen of the Italian silent screen, Francesca Bertini, has been paired with a newly-composed musical score by John T. La Barbera. The new film music is performed live to screen.

**Performers:** John T. La Barbera (guitar)  
August Watters (mandolin)

6:30-7:30 P.M. | ROOM D

**AGAINST THE GRAIN: THE STORY BEHIND TV'S LONGEST-RUNNING COOK SHOW**

Authenticity, history, tradition. These three words define Mary Ann Esposito and the signature cooking style that has made her one of America's most loved television chefs. She is also the author of 12 cookbooks, including the newly published *Ciao Italia: My Lifelong Food Adventures in Italy*. As the creator and host of the nationally televised PBS series, *Ciao Italia* with Mary Ann Esposito, she has brought those values to millions of Americans. This year, the series celebrates its milestone 28th season, making it the longest running cooking series in television history.

**Speaker: Mary Ann Esposito**

6:30-7:30 P.M. | ROOM B

**THE BRAIN: A USER'S MANUAL**

A conversation about the most important of all organs, but not a whole lot is known about how it functions. Author Marco Magrini, who recently published a book explaining the many mysteries of the brain (*Cervello - Manuale dell'Utente*, Giunti), will discuss with MIT Prof. Tomaso Poggio about what we know, what we're trying to understand and what is still a total mystery.

**Speakers: Marco Magrini | Tomaso Poggio**

8:00-10:15 P.M. | AUDITORIUM

**QUESTI FANTASMI (OH, THESE GHOSTS)**

ImproNati in collaboration with Pazzi Lazzi present *Questi Fantasmi* (Oh, These Ghosts!), a comedy in three acts based on the original play by Eduardo De Filippo. Performed in Italian, with English libretto.

**QUESTI FANTASMI! (OH, THESE GHOSTS!)**

A Comedy in Three Acts

**Performed in Italian by: ImproNati**

**PLOT**

The scene opens in post-World War II Naples, Italy. Pasquale Lojacono, married to Maria, a woman much younger than him, is a classic "buono a nulla" (good-for-nothing), always looking for a chance to win in life. When he is offered a huge 17th-century mansion rent-free, Pasquale thinks he has finally gotten the opportunity of a lifetime. However, there's a catch: it is rumored the mansion is haunted by the ghosts of a Spanish duke and his lover, a maid who suffered a terrible death. Pasquale will be able to live in the mansion for free, but he has to disprove this legend in the eyes of others. What could possibly go wrong? Pasquale accepts, planning to set up a small pension to earn some money and win back the affections of Maria, who, on the other hand, has found love in Alfredo, a successful businessman, and is completely unaware of the legend that surrounds the mansion. When Pasquale encounters Alfredo in the mansion, he believes he has met the Spanish duke and that the mansion is, in fact, inhabited by haunted souls. What happens when you can't tell the difference between the dead and the living? A series of misunderstandings and a farcical, bittersweet comedy of errors.



## THE AUTHOR

Eduardo De Filippo (1900–1984), often referred to simply as “Eduardo”, is widely regarded as one of the most influential playwrights and actors of 20th-century Italy. Born in Naples to playwright Eduardo Scarpetta and theater seamstress and costumier Luisa De Filippo, he began acting at the age of five, and has mastered all forms of dramatic media in his long career, from theater writing to tv production, capturing the essence of post-WW2 Italy, and, particularly, the Neapolitan lower class milieu. Plays and movies, such as “Natale in Casa Cupiello” (“Christmas at the Cupiello’s”, 1931), “Napoli milionaria” (“Side Street Story”, 1950), or “Filumena Marturano” (1951) have received countless awards, and have been translated and played abroad (e.g., under the direction of Franco Zeffirelli and Laurence Olivier).

## THE TROUPE

Founded in Boston in 2016, ImproNati is a non-professional theater company that performs mainly in Italian. The actors, who come from widely different backgrounds, such as medical science, computer science, the humanities, and mathematics, found in theatrical acting an exciting way to express their creativity and love for the Italian culture, tell stories, and nurture critical thinking. During their first year of activity, ImproNati has experimented with improvisational theater and performed improv comedy shows at the Center for Life Science (Longwood) and at I AM Books (North End), gathering a large crowd of Italian speakers. The group meets every Tuesday in Longwood and is open to new members and theater lovers.

## THE CAST

**Emanuele Pigantti** as Pasquale Lojacono

**Alessandro Di Gioia** as Raffaele

**Nicoletta Sorvillo** as Maria

**Nicola Spiniello** as Alfredo

**Mauro Tedeschi** as Gastone

**Chiara Durazzini** as Armida and Carmela

**Andrea Zingaro** as First Porter

**Andrea D’Amico** as Second Porter

**Gabriel Weiner** as Armida’s Child

**Michael Weiner** as Armida’s Child

## DIRECTED BY

**Alessandro Di Gioia | Marco Remo Zanelli**

10 A.M.-1 P.M. | AUDITORIUM

**TOMIE DEPAOLA**

Tomie dePaola is best known for his books for children. He's been published for over 50 years and has written and/or illustrated over 260 books. Among his latest books, *In a Small Kingdom*, illustrated by Doug Salati, and *Quiet*, published by Simon & Schuster in Oct. 2018. Tomie dePaola and his work have been recognized with the Caldecott Honor and Newbery Honor awards.

1:30-2:30 P.M. | ROOM B

**FROM ITALY TO THE NORTH END - PHOTOGRAPHS AND STORIES FROM 1972-1982**

As a young boy, Anthony V. Riccio listened to his grandparents' stories of life in the small Italian villages where they had grown up and which they had left in order to emigrate to the United States. In the early 1970s, he traveled to those villages—Alvignano and Sippiciano—and elsewhere in Italy, taking photographs of a way of life that had persisted for centuries and meeting the relatives who had stayed behind. Several years later, he found himself in Boston's North End, again with camera in hand, photographing an Italian American immigrant neighborhood that was fast succumbing to the forces of gentrification. In a race against time, Riccio photographed the neighborhood and its residents, capturing images of street life, religious festivals, and colorful storefronts along with cellar winemaking sessions, rooftop gardens, and the stark interiors of cold-water flats.

**Speaker: Anthony V. Riccio**

1:30-2:30 P.M. | ROOM D

**ITALIAN JEWISH WRITERS: EMANCIPATION, PERSECUTION, MEMORY**

The panel is dedicated to the works of Primo Levi, Giorgio Bassani, Natalia Ginzburg, Umberto Saba and other twentieth-century Italian writers whose works testify to the complexity of Jewish life in Italy during fascism and the Shoah. Our reflections will encompass themes that are still prevalent in today's historical debate, such as emancipation and persecution, marginalization and integration, as well as the challenge of religious and cultural identity.

**Speakers: Nancy Harrowitz | Sergio Parussa**

2:45-3:45 P.M. | ROOM C

**THE BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES OF DUAL LANGUAGE EDUCATION**

Providing a discussion platform for K-16 teachers, administrators, university professors and the general public to consider the potential and challenges of Italian immersion programs, this session includes a consideration about the effectiveness of a U.S. preK-5 Italian immersion program. Preliminary findings in this field suggest that the Italian immersion program: (a) contributes to students' vocabulary and cross-language connections; (b) sustains critical thinking skills related to STEM field; and (c) supports the development of hybrid and fluid identities. This session's implications include instructional strategies for future Italian teachers, teacher preparation, and educators' licensure.

**Speaker: Marialuisa Di Stefano**

2:45-3:45 P.M. | ROOM E

**GETTING ITALIAN AMERICANS INTO PRINT: PUBLISHERS AND EDITORS TALK**

Learn what leading editors and publishers have to say about what they're looking for, how they choose to publish what they publish, and more about the current publishing landscape for Italian American writers today. This roundtable discussion will introduce participants to some of the major outlets for Italian American writers today.

**Speakers:** Peter Covino | Luisa Del Giudice | Nicholas Grosso  
Julia Lisella | Fredric Nachbaur

4:00-5:00 P.M. | ROOM B

**FROM ELLIS ISLAND TO THE NORTH END: TALES OF ITALIAN IMMIGRATION**

The question of who should be allowed to enter the United States is as old as the country itself. Sorting, testing, and ultimately restricting immigrants, still an open debate, directly impacted the lives of Italians attempting to enter this country at the turn of the last century. In this panel, we will discuss some of the public concerns, myths, and realities surrounding Italian immigration.

**Speakers:** Vincent Cannato | Alex Goldfeld

4:00-5:00 P.M. | ROOM D

**ITALIAN AMERICAN POETRY**

Who are our teachers? Please join us for a reading by five Italian-American poets all working and thriving in the literary world, who'll also discuss how they entwine their rich culture and heritage with their art.

**Speakers:** Mary Bonina | Laurette Folk | Julia Lisella  
Jennifer Martelli | Carla Panciera

5:15-6:15 P.M. | ROOM C

**WORKSHOP: PRESERVING AND RETELLING LOCAL CULTURE AND TRADITIONS**

Have you ever wanted to preserve Italian-American history in a written or graphic format? This workshop discusses and provides tips and tricks to research, record and write ethnic history from the idea phase to final creation and beyond.

**Speaker:** Stephanie Longo

5:15-6:15 P.M. | ROOM E

**MY BRILLIANT FRIEND:  
THE ELENA FERRANTE PHENOMENON**

No other contemporary Italian author has been able to capture the attention of U.S. readers as much as Elena Ferrante, whose Neapolitan Novels are soon to become a TV series on HBO. What makes Ferrante's writing so compelling and her characters so vivid? Or is it perhaps a tumultuous Naples and Italy on the background that has turned the relationship between Lila and Lenù into a timeless classic of contemporary fiction?

**Speakers:** Danielle Oteri | Michael Reynolds | Nicola Orichuia

6:30-7:30 P.M. | ROOM B

**OUR ANCESTRAL ROOTS AND AMERICA'S  
IMMIGRATION CRISIS TODAY**

Highlighting the similarities that exist between historical and contemporary immigration in America, Italian-American authors, poets, educators, photographers and historians discuss the value of sharing and articulating the social and political realities that affected their immigrant ancestors in comparison with the challenges that immigrants and refugees face today.

**Speakers:** Olivia Kate Cerrone | Luisa Del Giudice  
Diana Lynch | Anthony V. Riccio

6:30-7:30 P.M. | ROOM D

**MASKS IN MOTION: THE WORLD OF  
COMMEDIA DELL'ARTE**

Pazzi Lazzi presents the world of Commedia dell'Arte: a visual presentation about its history and characteristics. In addition, the new book "Arlecchino e il Profumo dei Soldi" by Walter Valeri and translated by Marco Zanelli will be presented. Marco Zanelli and Chiara Durazzini will read some excerpts. Pazzi Lazzi co-founder Emanuele Caprano will perform some scenes.

**Speakers:** Emanuele Caprano | Chiara Durazzini  
Marco Remo Zanelli

8-11 P.M. | AUDITORIUM

**GRAND FINALE PARTY**

Celebrating all of the wonderful events, people and discussions that made up IDEA Boston's first edition! Featuring live music by the D'Agostino-Marchese Ensemble and food provided by Eataly Boston.

**SPEAKERS**

Giovanni Abbadesse

Mattia Acetoso

Chiara Barni

Mary Bonina

Vincent Cannato

Emanuele Caprano

Carolina Cefaliello

Olivia Kate Cerrone

Peter Covino

Tomie dePaola

Luisa Del Giudice

Marialisa Di Stefano

Chiara Durazzini

Mary Ann Esposito

Michela Fagiolini

Maria Felicità Fichera

Laurette Folk

Francesca Gino

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Marianne Leone

Julia Lisella

Stephanie Longo

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Marco Magrini

Lorraine Mangione

Jennifer Martelli

Fredric Nachbaur

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Danielle Oteri

Carla Panciera

Sergio Parussa

Gary Pisano

Tomaso Poggio

Michael Reynolds

Anthony V. Riccio

Lisa Romeo

Laurie Shepard

Ramie Targoff

Alessio Tognetti

Marina Viola

August Watters

Marco Remo Zanelli

**MUSICIANS**

Tino D'Agostino

Maxim Lubarsky

Stefano Marchese

Renato Milone

## THANK YOU

There are a few people behind the scenes whose contributions and help have been fundamental to making IDEA Boston a reality, and who we'd like to mention: Matteo Gullà, Marco Mancassola, Julia Lisella, Jennifer Martelli, Olivia Kate Cerrone, Paul Basile, Susan Angelastro, Ettore Santucci, Anthony Pangaro, Chiara Durazzini, Sal Bramante, Lisa Cappuccio, and Stefano Marchese. Our eternal gratitude to the amazing staff at I AM Books: Susan Cunningham, Pascal Gangi, Rachel Laquidara, Livia Meneghin, Alison Poulin, and Rebecca Schaub.

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Grazie a tutti.

