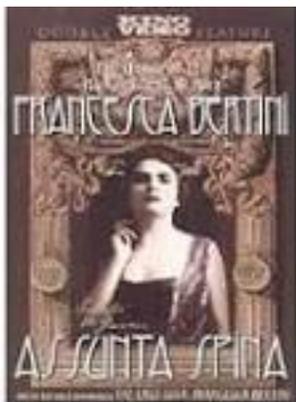


John T. La Barbera Concerts and Lectures

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John T. La Barbera, composer, arranger, guitarist, multi-instrumentalist, educator and author.

Concerts and silent film screenings

Italian Silent Film Classic - Assunta Spina (1915). Performed live with new original score by John T. La Barbera.

Assunta Spina, starring Italy's first important film actress Francesca Bertini, can be considered to be the first film that invented realism. Filmed in Naples, Bertini's performance set a new standard for Italian cinema. La Barbera's new music performed live, enhances the realism experience.

The Immigrant- 1917- Charlie Chaplin's classic film with new score performed live.

John T. La Barbera's "The World On A String: Mediterranean Diaspora"

A global array of music and song played on plucked stringed instruments from around the world and through time, directed by composer/multi-instrumentalist, and author, John T. La Barbera. It highlights a wide range of music with deep roots steeped in the Mediterranean featuring Italian traditional string instruments including the chitarra battente from Calabria and the Neapolitan mandolin as well as the oud from the Arab/Andalusian traditions, and the cura from Turkey. It also spotlights rarely seen instruments in the U.S. like the viola de cocho from the interior of Brazil and the cavaquinho. The concert is both a high energy and educational experience for all age group audiences

Stabat Mater- Donna di Paradiso

A musical setting, composed by John T La Barbera, of the thirteenth century text of Jacopone Da Todi's (1230-1306) sacred hymn, *Stabat Mater*, combined with text from Jacopone's dramatic laude, *Donna de Paradiso*. Composed in a style using contrasting texture inspired by the forms of medieval lauds, motets, and Sicilian laments for Holy Week, together with strong emphasis on melody, and rhythms drawn from Mediterranean styles. The music is sung in Latin, Italian, Neapolitan and Sicilian.

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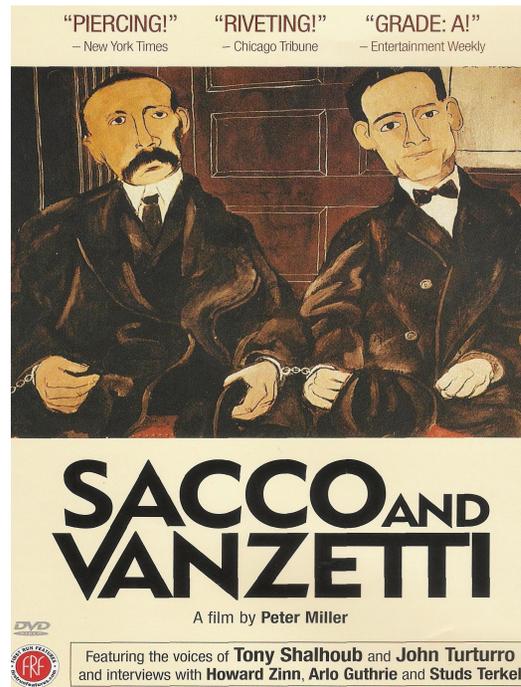
"John La Barbera kicks things into overdrive with his hand- driving contributions on oud, mandocello and guitar.."**** -J.Poet, Pulse Magazine

JOHN T. La BARBERA LECTURES-PERFORMANCES

Scoring for Italian and Italian American Films

This lecture discusses composing for films with Italian and Italian American subjects. Highlighting thematic development, harmonic and rhythmic vocabulary, and influences from traditional Italian folk music, La Barbera discusses how some of these elements can be integrated into a score to create an Italian atmosphere adding authenticity to the film.

Scenes from the Academy Award nominated film *Children of Fate*; *Sacco and Vanzetti*; *Pane Amaro*; *Finding The Mother Lode- Italian Immigrants in California*; *Tarantella*; *Neapolitan Heart* and *Sister Italy*, will be shown and will include a live performance from a few of the original scores to some of these films.

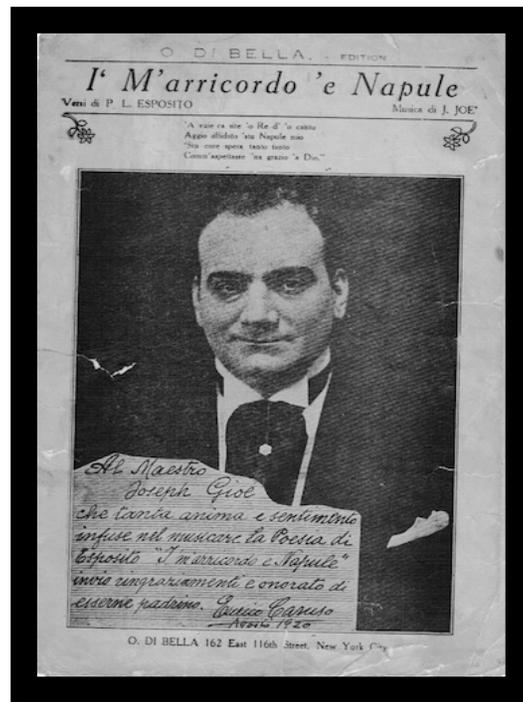


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JOHN T. La BARBERA LECTURE-PERFORMANCES

From The Echoes Of Mulberry Street To The First Italian Folk Revival Of The Nineteen Seventies

This lecture highlights the vast repertoire of Italian immigrant music composed and published in New York City in the early part of the 20th century, drawing parallels to Tin Pan Alley as well as examine the Italian folk music revival of the nineteen sixties and seventies and the transnational exchange between Italian and Italian American musicians in Italy and New York. It will illuminate the relationship between the written music of immigrants who had a growing demand of preserving the musical heritage left behind in Italy to oral traditions, and the *how* and *why* a demand for the reviving of a cultural heritage became a powerful movement during a tumultuous transitional period in Italy. The lecture includes a live performance illustrating some examples of the immigrant music published in New York City, together with regional traditional folk songs from La Barbera's books *Traditional Southern Italian Folk Music* and *Italian Folk Music for Mandolin* (Mel Bay Publications). Together with artifacts, including some of the original sheet music, readings from *That's Not Italian Music: My Musical Journey From New York to Italy and Back Again* (Palgrave MacMillan). Illustrated with a power point presentation, this lecture offers valuable information on Italian and Italian American studies.



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JOHN T. La BARBERA -Composing Music For Traditional Forms of Italian Theater: From Commedia Dell Arte to Stabat Mater

Music's role in traditional folk theater in Italy, tracing it's roots as far back as Ancient Greece and Rome, has always been to enhance an audience's emotional experience and to characterize certain settings for dances, rituals and ceremonies.

In this lecture, composer John La Barbera focuses on several folk operas that he scored, demonstrating his way of keeping close to the particular characteristics of style and instrumentation derived from Italian folk and classical traditions. By examining some of the music used to accompany 16th century Commedia dell'Arte, traditional folk music used for sacred rituals, and teatro popolare, he will demonstrate some of the authentic music from the period and regions of Italy and music he composed for theatrical productions he scored including music for Giovanni Verga's La Lupa, The Adventures of Don Giovanni and his Servant Pulcinella, La Cantata dei Pastori (based on Perucci's 17th century Commedia), Music for the Voyage of the Black Madonna, and music for Stabat Mater-Donna di Paradiso. This lecture is supplemented by recorded examples, score illustrations and live performance.



**STABAT
MATER**
DONNA DE PARADISO

A WORLD FOLK OPERA
BASED UPON AN ITALIAN MEDIEVAL PASSION PLAY
MUSIC BY JOHN LA BARBERA

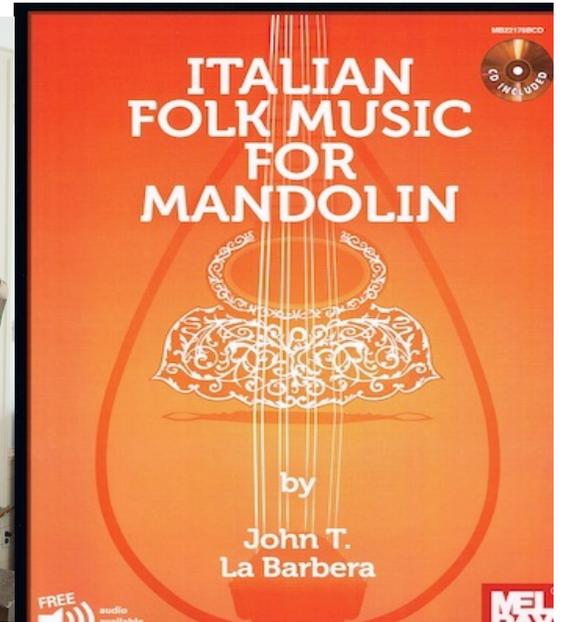
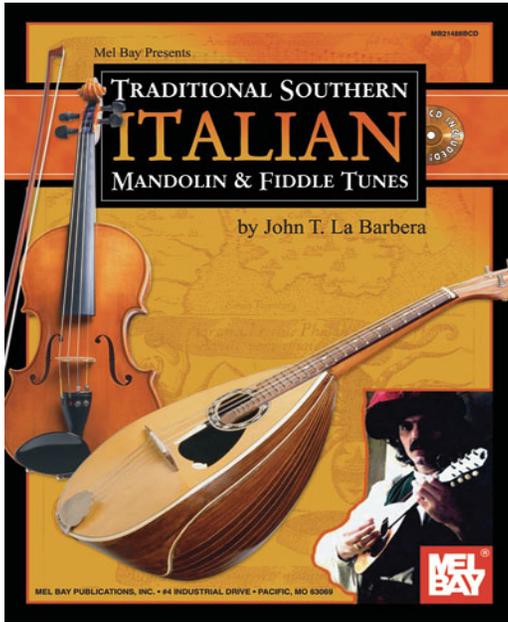
PERFORMED AT THE HIGH ALTAR

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 13 AT 7:30PM

Tickets \$20
(\$15 for students & seniors)
Information 212-662-2133

THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE

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Workshops:

Traditional Italian Folk Music, Renaissance Neapolitan Villanelle and Classical Mandolin Music

- Based on the first and foremost comprehensive mandolin books *Traditional Southern Italian Mandolin and Fiddle Tunes*, and *Italian Folk Music for Mandolin*, by John La Barbera and published by Mel Bay Publications. This workshop is offered to beginners, intermediate, professional musicians and all those interested in learning more about traditional Southern Italian folk music. A hands on workshop that includes the historical background on the music, interpretive techniques and repertoire of the songs, ballads, serenades, Neapolitan villanelle and authentic tarantella from the 16th century.
- Ensemble playing workshop, together with historical and technical information based on the songs from his books, focuses on traditional Italian folk music from various regions and how to work on arrangements for small or large mixed ensembles.
- Playing Southern Italian folk music styles from medieval, renaissance including the 16th century Neapolitan Villanelle, and baroque periods.
- Chitarra Battente: Accompaniment strumming and finger picking styles and rhythms for Italian folk music played on the 16th century chitarra battente, with historical background on the instrument. It can also be adapted on acoustic guitar.
- Mandolin techniques with preparatory technical studies, the student will learn the Italian style of tremolo, picking, and rhythms that accentuate the music.

Classical Mandolin: Explore the rich and extensive repertoire for the classical mandolin from baroque to modern times by way of repertoire, history, technique, ornamentation and ensemble playing A selection of solo and ensemble pieces will be distributed which will offer a full range of opportunities for musical advancement.

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JOHN T La BARBERA BIO-

For more than four decades, guitarist, mandolinist, composer arranger, educator and author, John T. La Barbera, has enchanted audiences throughout the United States, Europe and South America. As a pioneer of the music that shaped the great Italian folk revival in Italy in the 1970s, in which he was an active member working with the Pugliese folk group *Pupi e Fresedde*, John learned the music by oral tradition while touring with the group's theatrical and musical productions throughout Europe. He continued to do extensive research in Southern Italian music and traditions and in 1977 presented the music for the first time in New York City bringing the rich traditions back to the United States. He was awarded in 2005 for the extraordinary role of the transmission and translation of Italian oral traditions from **The Italian Oral History Institute**, and recognized as one of the first transcribers of Southern Italian folk music in America and in 2016 is a recipient of the **John and Mary Esposito Fellowship Award in Italian American Culture and History** from **UMass at Dartmouth**. He is the author of the first and foremost book published in the U.S. on the Italian mandolin called *Traditional Southern Italian Mandolin and Fiddle Tunes* (2009) and *Italian Folk Music For Mandolin* (2012), with Mel Bay Publications. As a composer, La Barbera has won several awards and commissions from: The Jerome Foundation, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, The Martin Gruss Foundation and the New York State Council on the Arts, Meet the Composer, numerous composer awards from ASCAP and finalist in the John Lennon Songwriting Competition. Because of his expertise in Italian traditional music, LaBarbera has been a valuable resource for both film and theater directors. His film scores often include mandolin as the principal instrument, as in the Academy Award Nominated feature documentary: *Children of Fate*, (1992); *Finding The Mother Lode: Italian Immigrants in California* (2015); *Sister Italy* (2012); *Sacco and Vanzetti* (2007); *Pane Amaro* (2007); *What's up Scarlet* (2005) *Neapolitan Heart -Cuore Napolitano* (2000); *La Festa* (1996) and *Tarantella* (1994). In Theater, his expertise as composer, arranger and musical director was valuable in the off-Broadway productions of *Souls of Naples*, 2003, (Theater for a New Audience) starring John Turturro and the stage adaptation of Sicilian playwright Luigi Pirandello's short stories in *Kaos*, 2006 (New York Theater Workshop) directed by Marta Clarke. He has composed and produced seven albums, and theatrical productions. His percussion music has been performed and recorded by the Ethos Percussion group and Grammy Award winning percussionist Joseph Gramley.

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Published works include: *Traditional Southern Italian Mandolin and Fiddle Tunes*, and *Italian Folk Music for Mandolin*, Mel Bay Publications, 2009 and 2012; *The Marimbaba Suite*- for percussion quartet and *Danza del Fuego* for solo marimba, both published with Bachovich Music Publications, 2009; and “That’s Not Italian Music” from *Oral History, Oral Culture, and Italian Americans*, Palgrave-MacMillan, 2009. His compositions and arrangements have been performed for the Bloomfield Mandolin Orchestra in Bloomfield, New Jersey. As a concert artist, he performs to audiences throughout the United States, Europe and South America including: The Montreal Jazz Festival, Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall-Lincoln Center, The Felt Forum, the San Francisco World Music Festival, Central Park Summer Stage, the Jones Beach Theater, and the Banco do Brasil’s, Brasil Festeiro and SESC, in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Composer of original Folk Operas: *Stabat Mater: Donna di Paradiso* 1995; *The Voyage of the Black Madonna* 1990; *The Dance Of The Ancient Spider* 1996; *La Lupa-The She-Wolf* 1987; *The Adventures Of Don Giovanni And His Servant Pulchinella* 1987.

He holds a M.Mus. from The William Paterson University in Jazz Studies and Arranging and a B.Mus. from The Hartt School of Music in Classical Guitar. He is currently a faculty member at Bergen Community College in Paramus, New Jersey and has taught at The Julius Hartt School of Music (University of Hartford); The Guitar Study Center of the New School in N.Y.; Sessione Sienese in Siena, Italy; SASI in Bratislava, Slovakia; and SESC in Sao Paulo, Brazil. He conducts workshops and lectures on mandolin and acoustic guitar styles, ethnomusicology, world music, and has written for Acoustic Guitar magazine. His music has been recorded on Shanachie records, Meadowlark, Rounder Records, Lyrichord Disks, Ellipsis Arts, and Bribie records.

For more info visit John’s web sites at: www.johntlabarbera.com

For info on pricing contact: Cell: 917-488-3692 or email: labmambo@aol.com;

Facebook; YouTube; cd’s sold at iTunes and cd baby

www.cdbaby.com/cd/inthelabyrinth2

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JOHN T La BARBERA Reviews

“The ensemble led by John La Barbera, Musical Director, produced non-stop theatrical and musical energy”. **N.Y. Times, Alex Ross**

“The music, directed by John La Barbera is folkish aiming for vitality above precision and often achieving both”. **New York Times, John Pareles**

“John LaBarbera, kicks things into overdrive with his hand-driving contributions on oud, mandocello and guitar..”**Pulse Magazine, -J.Poet,**

“La Barbera fitted all of this (Stabat Mater) out with a kinky new score...it was slickly produced and smoothly executed...his 4 part setting of the ancient Stabat Mater text made for a touching light motif”. **New York Times, James Oestreich**“

“Mr. LaBarbera’s “Marimbaba Suite” was a set of three cheerful homages to Brazilian folk music: bouncy, dreamy and bouncy again..This was music you wanted to be dancing to.”..**New York Times, Paul Griffiths.**

“This CD (Earth, Sun, And Moon) is highly recommended for a powerful blend of traditional rhythms, instruments and themes from various ages and cultures”. **Rhythm Music Magazine**

“..John’s immense knowledge of traditional Italian music was a great asset to the production. It gave his original compositions a feeling of authenticity that supported the story of the film..” (Children of Fate), **Archipelago Films. Andrew L.Young, Director**

“John La Barbera’s stunning compositions and phenomenal playing, along with the entire ensemble’s spirited performance, put this recording in a class by itself”. **Lyrichord Discs**

“John La Barbera’s original music marks him as a contemporary Kurt Weill.” **Backstage.com, Victor Gluck**

“The momentum builds to a pitch in both acts thanks to the haunting and feverish score by John La Barbera”. **Village Voice, Robert Massa**

“Congratulations on the wonderful work created by John La Barbera”. **Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Jenneth Webster, producer**

“...Stabat Mater is one of the best productions at the Cathedral in the last 23 years”. **The Very Reverend Dean James Parks Morton, former Dean of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, NYC.**

“...The production values are high... and the striking use of music, and a haunting score, were composed and performed by John La Barbera”. **The Herald, Edinburgh, Scotland**

“ The Collection of Songs on In The Labyrinth will carry you across several continents as guitarist John LaBarbera rightfully proclaims his virtuosity.” **to the bone.com, Tracy Romoser**

For booking: Itri Music Productions-
labmambo@aol.com 917-488-3692

www.johntlabarbera.com