



Orchestra Italiana London is a group of talented Italian-Canadian musicians who get together once a year to perform at Festa Italiana and celebrate their Italian heritage and culture through music. In the last twenty-five years, the ten members of Orchestra Italiana London, affectionately known as O.I.L., have entertained people in Southwestern Ontario in a number of different bands. Together, their particular talents and styles blend at Festa Italiana. Over the three nights of Festa Italiana, this ten-piece, crowd-pleasing ensemble will play beloved traditional and modern Italian melodies for audiences who come back from year to year to waltz, tango or tarantella the night away. Every year, OIL is asked to come back as they embody what many festival goers really want: a nostalgic sound that brings back memories of the music of Italy experienced in their period of settlement in Canada as new immigrants.

No one can deny that when "Volare" kicks off the Friday evening, as the first of their extensive repertoire, it's going to be a night to remember. Dancing under the stars ends on Sunday night with a call to "Arrivederci" London, letting revelers know that we'll meet again next summer on the last weekend of August.

The Artists:

Joseph Raffa – (saxophone, vocalist, Band Leader).

Educator, poet, and songwriter, his musical formation started in Sicily, at the age of 10, as a member of the marching band of the college “Città del Ragazzo” in Messina. Founding member of *BACH*, he is also Professor of Italian, University of Windsor. Recently Joseph Raffa has been noted as lyricist of “Notti Magiche” sung by Rosanna Verso, selected by EMI Netherlands to be included on their just released *Romantic Voices Compilation Album* among world famous artists such as Il Divo, Placido Domingo, Paul Potts, Susan Boyle and Sarah Brightman. He has also collaborated with Charles Di Raimondo on a number of songs, which include “Amore Mio” released in 2003 and three more songs to be released in the autumn on Charles Di Raimondo’s new album.

<http://www.mega-media.nl/info.php?lid=538086>

Santino Raffa – (trumpet, vocalist)

Santino began his musical career as a young man at the college “Città del Ragazzo” in Messina, Sicily. Santino was also a founding member of *BACH*. He brings a fine trumpet sound and a versatility of style to his musical interpretation. *O.I.L* welcomes the incomparable sound of brass. Santino is a Certified Welder for Electro-Motive Diesel, a premier builder of locomotives in the world.

Tony D’Oria – (drums)

An accomplished drummer, Tony has played a number of years in various bands, *I Giramondi* being one of them. A seasoned percussionist, he has a diversity of styles in his repertoire. Tony is a Master Electrician, Owner of Angton Electric Inc.

Mike De Rita – (saxophone)

Enthusiastic educator and musician, Mike taught music and dance in various local Master Class settings. He runs his own School of Musical Arts. Mike brings a jazz flavour to his musical interpretation on saxophone.

Marc Raffa – (piano)

Marc is a Media graduate, University of Western Ontario, Fanshawe College and an aspiring producer. This young enthusiastic member of *O.I.L* is an accomplished keyboard musician whom we welcome back to the stage again this year. Marc Raffa is working as a Digital Media Specialist at the Stratford Shakespeare Festival.

Rob Riccardi – (lead guitar – vocalist)

Rob started playing professionally at the age of 12. Rob has played drums, guitar, bass, and keyboards in various bands, styles, and occasions. He was also the lead singer of the 80's band *Radio*. Rob's musical adventures have taken him all through Ontario, Quebec, and a six-month tour through Florida and Georgia. Rob is also part of the Rolling Stones Tribute band "*Voodoo Lounge*." Rob is an educator of Media Computer Technology at Mother Teresa in London, Ontario.

Giulio D'Oria – (bass guitar – vocalist)

He began his musical career at the age of 11 when asked to play bass guitar with his brothers in the band *I Giramondi*. Since then he has played with numerous musicians and bands throughout Southwestern Ontario. Giulio is an educator at St. Catherine of Siena in London with an interest in Theatre Arts, Ontario and a DJ Artist on the weekends.

John Rondinelli – (rhythm guitar)

John started to play professionally at the age of 17. As a young musician in London he brought his skills to a number of rock bands. John was also a founding member of *BACH*. We are pleased to welcome his talents to *O.I.L.* John is known as a meticulous project manager of Lorrion Technologies Inc.

Jeff DaCosta – (keyboards, accordeon) Jeffrey acquired musical interest at the age of 4 playing the accordeon. Jeff was taught by his father and trained to play music by ear. He went on to play for a Portuguese cultural band at the age of 10 as an accordionist/keyboardist. Jeff has continued playing in the band *United* for the last 12 years, performing throughout out North American and Portugal. He brings an informal but professional style of music to *Orchestra Italiana London!* Jeff is a partner of the newly revised Joseph's Clothiers.

Gianni Raffa (guitarist, vocalist). As a young musician, Gianni developed his skills as a guitarist in a number of rock bands in Sicily. Formerly a member of *BACH* he brings an authentic sound to the traditional Italian melodies played by O.I.L. Gianni is an innovative businessman.