# Notes from Italy

# By Joan Paddock, Professor of Music

# I want to gratefully acknowledge the professional travel funds from the office of the CAS Dean for $1600 for use in traveling to and staying in Italy, where I was guest conductor of *Banda Musicale Cittá di Staffolo* and combined brass ensembles for the *Musica in Festa 2023 XXIX Edizione* in the Marché Province in Italy. I also performed trumpet in a brass quintet with members from California, Washington and Oregon. Our name: *Amici Americani deli Ottoni.*

# I was honored and humbled to have been invited to conduct the brass and *Banda Musicale Cittá di Staffolo* and perform on trumpet with *Amici Americani deli Ottoni* for the *Musica in Festa 2023 XXIX edizione in Staffolo, Itália*. Music, intergenerational relationships, cultural exchange, and positive, life-enhancing experiences for music makers and music listeners alike is what took place. I proudly represented Linfield University in this cultural and musical celebration. I arrived in Italy to rehearse with band and brass several times between May 19-26 with performances of the *Americani deli Ottoni* both in Petriolo, Italy on May 28, and in Staffolo on June 2, Italy’s Republic Day.

# I have conducted bands for over 30 years. Through my professional and educational experiences in music, I have made many connections throughout the music world. For two decades I have coached chamber brass music at Humboldt State University during summers and enjoyed international connections through my professional activity there. I am active as a clinician with bands and am a certified adjudicator for instrumental ensembles in contests and festivals. I am invited to guest conduct high school honor bands, semi-professional bands, and community bands. Making music and bringing people together in music gives me joy, and in turn, this joy is shared. My performance abilities and reputation as fine trumpeter are what first opened the door for me to perform in Italy with the brass quintet, *Amici Americani deli Ottoni* for the *Musica in Festa 2023 XXIX edizione in Staffolo, Itália.* When the leaders of *Banda Musicale Cittá di Staffolo* received my Curriculum Vita and biography, they invited me to guest conduct the band and serve as conductor for the complete brass choir program during the *Festival Internacional de Música*. Together with Maestro Samuele Faini, we planned repertoire for both brass and band for festival performances. The Festival is advertised on the band’s Facebook page and website at <https://www.bandamusicalestaffolo.info/blog/musica-in-festa-2023-xxix-edizione> where my biography and picture are listed prominently along with the other members of *Amici Americani deli Ottoni.*

# My profession in performance, conducting bands, and bringing people together in music is what gives me joy and enriches my growth as musician and world citizen. The invitation from Banda Musicale Cittá di Staffolo is one of the culminating points in my career as musician, trumpeter, conductor, and teacher.

# Memories of the experiences, places, and people are seen in the following YouTube video:<https://youtu.be/VqbVgwTJ4tY?si=SXMIyV3bcdmECXTi>.

*Find the article on the online magazine in Italian here:*

[*https://www.qdmnotizie.it/staffolo-grande-successo-per-musica-in-festa/*](https://www.qdmnotizie.it/staffolo-grande-successo-per-musica-in-festa/) *(below translated by google translate)*

## REPORT OF the first events - PREVIEW OF THE XXIX EDITION OF MUSICA IN FESTIVAL

*The preview of the XXIX edition of Musica in festa has officially ended, leaving we organizers with that mix of nostalgia and happiness that one feels after intense days of work and celebration. The visit of several guests and friends has made the #BMStaffolo agenda quite busy in recent weeks. The Music from the United States concert, performed together with the American Friends of Brass quintet and conducted by the teacher Joan Haaland Paddock and the Maestro Samuele Faini, had been scheduled for some time on June 2, the day of the Republic Day. Joan, who arrived in Staffolo in the second half of May, was able to direct the band group for various weekly rehearsals and she did so with humanity, humility and with a sincere and contagious joy. She who – professional trumpeter and music teacher at Linfield University in McMinnville (Oregon) – has experience and competence to sell, put herself on the line and, not letting herself be frightened by the language barrier, directed a non-professional band making them explore musical genres and conducting methods different from those to which they are accustomed. Her coming to Italy therefore represented the perfect opportunity to organize the second meeting of “A new digital musical culture for the postcovid-19 reality” in those days, again in Staffolo.*

*The project – developed by four European musical institutions, which are CIM BENIMACLET (Spain), SMRO OBIDENSE (Portugal), APSAM (Belgium), BMStaffolo (Italy) – aims to investigate the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on musical realities of the acceding countries and to develop a new musical culture that takes into account gender inclusion, digitization and innovation of educational methods. As project managers, we welcomed to Staffolo the vice-president and the new director of the band of Óbidos (medieval village in the district of Leiria, in Extremadura), two teachers from the music school of Benimaclet (district of Valencia) and two APSAM of Montzen (village in the municipality of Plombières, in the province of Liège), who arrived in Italy with their own musical instruments to develop the project - after a first meeting held in Valencia last October - and to play with us and friends Americans.*

*June 1st was entirely dedicated to travel and general rehearsals for the following day's concert. On June 2, however, there was a visit to the music school together with the teachers of the musical orientation courses (Mattia Zepponi, Alice Bastari and Paride Fiorani) during which, with an interesting cultural exchange, we discussed the various schools in our respective countries and on the ground and the role that music education plays in each of them; after which we moved to the town square and to the monument dedicated to the victims of terrorism and massacres for the official celebration of the Republic Day - in the presence of the authorities, citizens and village associations -, which was followed by a community lunch and then the evening concert.*

*The 3rd of June was the real meeting day: in the hall of the municipal council, welcomed by the mayor Sauro Ragni, we gathered to introduce the other representatives of the Erasmus project to the historical reality of Staffolo and its musical tradition and to discuss the progress of the project. In this case, we took stock of the sociological study that we will conduct around musical realities in the post-covid era through a questionnaire that will be disseminated in all four countries and on the regulation of the international music composition contest aimed only at female teachers who will most likely be managed by the Spanish office. We discussed all the issues, taking advantage of a physical proximity that we don't usually have at our disposal. We have listened without prejudice to the thoughts of others and exposed our own in an equally frank manner, aware that only a true exchange of ideas can lead to brilliant, quality results.*

*We have invested our energies so that our friends' stay in Staffolo was as comfortable as possible (we admit that verdicchio and good food helped us in this!), but also coherent and in line with the principles of the project. We supported gender inclusion, hosting an American conductor and musician who enlightened us on the warm-up and musical conducting techniques she used; we ensured that the concert on 2 June was professionally filmed and recorded so that, in line with the new European digitization and digitization principles, it can be uploaded to our Youtube channel; we have described our teaching methods, fully aware that these are still quite traditional and analogical and require more investment and updates on our part.*

*We played, we had fun, we got to know different cultures from ours and every difficulty was overcome in the name of music and friendship. However, we could never have done it alone. We would therefore like to thank Damiano Cerioni and Simona Bastari, for their help in organizing these intense days; Mirko Donninelli, for accompanying our American friends both before and during the concert; President Monia Marchegiani and the whole #BMStaffolo committee, for working at the stove and for indulging in our every need. Finally, thanks to our hosts: Joan, Mark, John, Tom, Tyler, Sandra, Joana, Luz, Fernando, Benjamin and Jean-Marie. To the tenor Massimiliano Luciani and the Petriolo Band and the Petriolo Municipal Administration, for having hosted "The American Friends of the Brass" who performed a concert in the main square of Petriolo. See you soon...in Portugal!*

Linfield University and I are both mentioned in the article below:

<https://www.qdmnotizie.it/staffolo-musica-in-festa-scambi-culturali-e-buone-note/>

A few days before the concert I had an opportunity to visit an Abbey about two hours’ drive from Staffolo. Once a year, the light enters the Abbey in a very special way described in this article. I brought my trumpet and played a little for the occasion. Pictures were taken and video recorded. See <https://www.qdmnotizie.it/apiro-locchio-luminoso-torna-a-dare-luce-allabbazia-di-santurbano-video/>

June 2 is a national holiday in Italy - Festa Della Repubblica. I played taps with Tom Hyde in Echo at two locations, one in the town square for fallen Italian soldiers of WWI and WWII (*Pietra della memoria*) and secondly at the monument in memory of terrorism victims (*Vittime del terrorismo*).

These have been posted on YouTube at the following links:

* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_nNOWOyU_Ts> – Taps with Echo for Festa Della Repubblica; Pietra della memoria
* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xoj3Ox3a2Cc> Taps with Echo for Festa Della Repubblica, Vittime del terrorismo.