

For Immediate Release

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THE COCCIA FOUNDATION AND ST. THOMAS TO HOST ITALIAN MUSIC CONCERT

(SPARKILL, NY – March 13, 2009) – The Coccia Foundation and St. Thomas Aquinas College's Performing Arts Department will host its 3rd annual Italian Music Concert: Festeggiamento Italiano on Thursday, March 26th at 8:00 p.m., in the Sullivan Theatre, announced Dr. Evan Matthews, Assistant Professor of Music at the College.

The Joseph Coccia Foundation recently made a donation to the College's study abroad program in Italy. The concert is presented as a fundraising event for the study-abroad program at the College.

The concert will include students, faculty and alumni performing music from the vast repertoire of Italian music. Featured performers include Kathleen Roepken; Dr. Maria Roglieri, Professor of Foreign Languages, violin; John Aragon, classical guitar; Jennifer Spezzacatina, soprano; Dr. Evan Matthews; and Dr. Sarah Matthews, an accomplished pianist and music teacher, who is the accompanist for the concert.

The Coccia Foundation (Saddle Brook, NJ) is dedicated to preserving Italian Culture in America. One focus of the group is to encourage the Italian Experience through traditions with a focus on youth, especially college students. Currently, the Coccia Foundation is working with 15 higher education institutions to preserve Italian culture through various programs with student groups.

Admission is free with a suggested donation of \$10 which will go to the Coccia Foundation study-abroad scholarship fund at St. Thomas. For more information about the Italian Music Concert contact the Music and Theatre office at 845-398-4144 or e-mail ematthews@stac.edu. For information about making a donation to the College's study abroad program, contact the Advancement Office at 845-398-4020.

MORE ABOUT ST. THOMAS

The College's 2,700 full and part time students can choose from over 97 different majors, minors, specializations, and dual degree programs across five divisions: The Humanities; Business Administration; Social Sciences; Natural Sciences & Mathematics; and Teacher Education or are enrolled in one of our graduate programs. St. Thomas has expanded its offerings to include: a Master of Science in Education with specializations in Literacy, Special Education, and Educational Leadership, a Post Masters Certificate program in Education, a Master of Science in Teaching, a Master of Business Administration program, a Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Science in Education, and an Associate of Arts and an Associate of Science degree, the latter two offered at the West Point Military Academy. For more information on the College visit www.stac.edu.