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## From the Directors

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## From the Directors

*“From the Directors...”*

When the first *AIVS Newsletter*, as our journal was originally titled, appeared some forty years ago, its reach was limited to readers who could get their hands on a copy. Over the years, we have mailed the *AIVS Newsletter*, then the *Verdi Newsletter*, and today *Verdi Forum*, to hundreds of libraries and individual subscribers. But now, like many scholarly organizations, we are transitioning to an exciting new distribution model that offers peer-reviewed scholarship, free of charge, to anyone with access to the internet. In fact, the issue that you hold in your hands—if that is indeed the way that you’re reading it—is the final *Verdi Forum* to be published in print. Thanks to the University of Richmond, which is generously hosting our files, every issue of the *Verdi Forum* (and its previous incarnations) will soon be freely available at <http://scholarship.richmond.edu/vf>. In the first year that we have made our articles available in this manner, they have been downloaded over 1,000 times by readers on nearly every continent! (although we’re still waiting for that first download from Antarctica).

The American Institute for Verdi Studies continues to play a leading role in promoting and facilitating scholarship on Verdi, his works, and his milieu. We recently awarded the second Martin Chusid Award for Verdi Studies to Carlo Romano, who is on the faculty of the Pontificia Università Lateranense in Rome. Dr. Romano’s essay, “Mazzini visto da Verdi: Da modello venerato di patriottismo a profeta esecrato” (“Mazzini Seen by Verdi: From Venerated Model of Patriotism to Loathed Prophet”), examines a new source for a lesser-known work by Verdi, the *Inno popolare* (“Suona la tromba”). This study was originally published in *Giuseppe Verdi e il Risorgimento* (ed. Ester Capuzzo, Antonio Casu, Angelo G. Sabatini [Soveria Mannelli: Rubbettino Editore, 2014]), and it will appear, in English translation, in a future issue of *Verdi Forum*.

And speaking of future endeavors, we are happy to announce that the AIVS is currently collaborating with Sarasota Opera on the organization of a conference to celebrate the conclusion of their Verdi Cycle ([http://www.sarasotaopera.org/about/verdi\\_cycle.aspx](http://www.sarasotaopera.org/about/verdi_cycle.aspx)). The conference, titled *The Score and Beyond: Performing, Staging, and Experiencing Verdi*, will take place in Sarasota, Florida, on 18–19 March 2016. The program and other details will be announced by Sarasota Opera and through our website (<http://www.nyu.edu/projects/verdi/index.html>).

In closing, we sadly acknowledge the passing, on 17 October 2015, of Baronessa Mariuccia Zerilli-Marimò. A Life Trustee and generous benefactor of New York University—she donated the beautiful house on 12<sup>th</sup> Street that became the university’s Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimò—the Baronessa was also a magnanimous and enthusiastic supporter of the AIVS. The AIVS will honor her memory at NYU in the near future; details will be announced through our website and Facebook page. As a first token of gratitude for all the Baronessa did on behalf of Italian culture, opera, and Giuseppe Verdi, we wish to dedicate this final printed issue of *Verdi Forum* to her memory.

Linda B. Fairtile

Francesco Izzo