THE MANDOLIN



- 0. THE MANDOLIN Story Preface
- 1. HITLER AND MUSSOLINI
- 2. PACT OF STEEL
- 3. CEPHALONIA
- 4. CAPTAIN CORELLI
- 5. THE MANDOLIN
- 6. TAKE NO PRISONERS
- 7. PRISONERS OR TRAITORS?
- 8. THE MASSACRE
- 9. MUSSOLINI'S EXECUTION
- 10. MORE TRAGEDY
- 11. CORELLI'S NAMESAKE and CONNECTION to ORPHEUS



This image depicts a Neapolitan Mandolin. The photo, on which this image is based, is by Paul Slater. It is copyright Paul Slater, all rights reserved. Image provided here as fair use for educational purposes. Online via the banjolin.co.uk website.

The <u>mandolin</u> is a stringed instrument that has <u>existed</u>, in various forms, for a very long time. Through the centuries, it has often been associated with love.

Related to the <u>lute</u>, which was an instrument played at parties and at the royal courts, the <u>mandolin's tonal</u> sound is higher than the lute's. (Follow this link to <u>hear</u> music performed on the lute.)

Both the lute and the mandolin have been the subject of famous paintings:

- In 1470, the lute was depicted as a party instrument in The Triumph of Venus by Francesco Cossa;
- Melozzo Da Forli painted Angel with Lute in 1480;
- The Prodigal Son in the Tavern, with his lute-playing companion, was created in 1540; and
- Paul Gauguin's 1885 Still Life with Mandolin is still admired today.

One of the most popular mandolin artists working today is Simon Mayor. <u>Pieds en l'Air</u>, from his <u>English</u> <u>Mandolin</u> CD, is particularly soothing. This U.K. artist has generously placed twelve different samples on his web site, including a traditional piece (<u>Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy from The Nutcracker</u>) and a contemporary Celtic reel.

The mandolin is a versatile instrument. The UK's <u>Fretful Federation</u>, playing Dieter Kreidler's <u>Tango</u>, presents a marked contrast to American Bluegrass, in which pioneering artists like Bill Monroe took mandolin <u>experimentation</u> to a completely new level. An orchestra of these <u>ancient instruments</u> (performing <u>Christmas music</u> like <u>Bring a Torch</u>, <u>Jeannette</u>, <u>Isabella</u>) is captivating.

The fictional Captain Corelli was a <u>mandolin-playing</u> Italian soldier. (Scroll down to hear music from the movie.) The non-fictional events which took the lives of thousands of Italian soldiers on Cephalonia during September, 1943 were shocking but little known before <u>Corelli's Mandolin</u> was published. Recently, two on-the-scene German soldiers have published their diaries.

What they say about the massacre leaves little room for imagination.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/THE-MANDOLIN-Captain-Corelli-s-Mandolin

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/THE-MANDOLIN-Captain-Corelli-s-Mandolin

Media Stream



<u>Mandolin</u>

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The Lute

 $Image\ online,\ courtesy\ \underline{dartmouth.edu}\ website.$

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/The-Lute



Lute: A Party Instrument

Image online, courtesy <u>dartmouth.edu</u> website.

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<u>Da Forli Painting - Angel with Lute</u> Image online, courtesy <u>dartmouth.edu</u> website.

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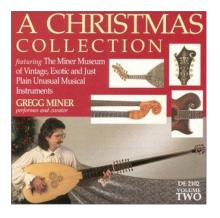


Painting: The Prodigal Son in the Tavern

Image online, courtesy <u>dartmouth.edu</u> website.

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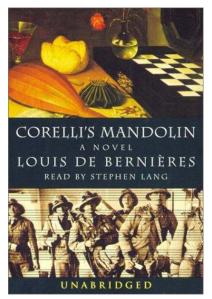


A Christmas Collection

Image online, courtesy <u>cduniverse.com</u> website.

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Correlli's Mandolin - by Louis De Bernieres

Image online, courtesy <u>amazon.com</u> website.

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Mandolin - How it Sounds

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<u>Ancient Instruments - Harp Guitar</u>

Gregg Miner has placed this video clip on line. He says the following about it:

Acoustic Instrumental Christmas Carol on a c.1915 Dyer Harp Guitar by Gregg Miner, from his 1996 promo video. Appears on *A Christmas Collection* and *Christmas Past: Holiday Harp Guitar Classics* - both on the <u>Harp Guitar Music</u> label.

 $\label{thm:courtesy} \mbox{ Greg Miner Channel at YouTube}.$

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