



0. THE MANDOLIN - Story Preface

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

Related to the lute, which was an instrument played at parties and at the royal courts, the mandolin's tonal sound is higher than the lute's. (Follow this link to hear 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. *Pieds en l'Air*, from his *English Mandolin* CD, is particularly soothing. This U.K. artist has generously placed twelve different samples on his web site, including a traditional piece (*Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy* from *The Nutcracker*) and a contemporary Celtic reel.

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

The fictional Captain Corelli was a mandolin-playing 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 *Corelli's Mandolin* 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)

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Mandolin

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The Lute

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Lute: A Party Instrument

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Da Forli Painting - Angel with Lute

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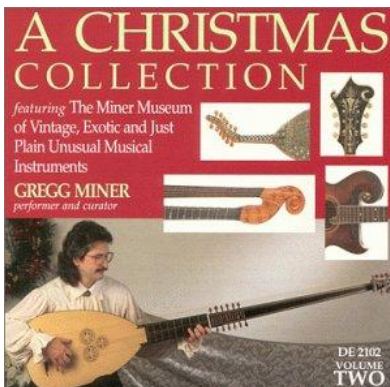


Painting: The Prodigal Son in the Tavern

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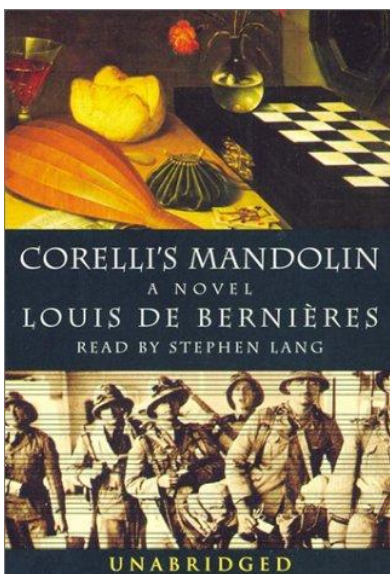


A Christmas Collection

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Correlli's Mandolin - by Louis De Bernieres

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Mandolin - How it Sounds

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Ancient Instruments - Harp Guitar

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 [Harp Guitar Music](#) label.

Video clip online, courtesy Greg Miner Channel at YouTube.

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