



## AMERICAN DELEGATION OF SAVOY ORDERS

### Summer Outing at the 20th Annual Sergio Franchi Music Foundation "Scholarship for the Arts" Concert

Saturday, August 23, 2014

Hosted by Uff. George C. and Betsy White



*Panoramic View of Sergio Franchi Memorial Concert at the Franchi Estate in North Stonington, Connecticut*

On Saturday, August 23, 2014, members and guests of the American Delegation of Savoy Orders enjoyed a magical day of music at a summer concert on the grounds of the 240-acre Franchi Estate in North Stonington, Connecticut. The Sergio Franchi Memorial Concert celebrated its 20th year in style. It was a special social occasion for members of the Savoy Orders and their friends to enjoy the outdoors, superb performances of opera and popular songs, a picnic lunch and great company. Tickets to the concert were graciously underwritten through the generosity of Uff. George C. White.

Eva Franchi, widow of the legendary romantic Italian tenor, was the hostess for the event which benefited the Sergio Franchi Music Foundation. Eva Franchi has been

honoring the memory of her late husband, who died in 1990, with annual concerts for the past 20 years, and it's always a festive, elegant occasion. The foundation provides scholarships for vocal students in affiliation with the National Italian American Foundation and has given more than 540 scholarships over the years. Performers came from around the world - one from St. Petersburg, Russia, and another from Johannesburg, South Africa. This year's show was themed to the '60s with tenor James Valente, a former scholarship recipient, who has sung at the Metropolitan Opera in New York, the People's Tenor" Michael Amante, alongside a roster of past international vocal grand winners and the 2014 winners. Maestro Jeff Domoto conducted the 32-piece orchestra before an audience of thousands.





*(l. to r.) Uff. Richard Salerni, Dr. Steven Siegel, Uff. Dott. Igor Alexandroff, Mr. Robert Villanova, Dama di Comm. Larissa Van Duser, Mr. James Young, Joseph Zeller, Esq., Dama Cmdr. Elizabeth Young, Dama di Comm. Mira Zivkovich, Cav. Gr. Cr. Avv. Carl Morelli, Mrs. Betsy White and Uff. George C. White.*

The Savoy Delegation members and friends were able to enjoy the bucolic estate grounds amidst rolling farm hills, as well as visit the house, chapel and Franchi's antique car collection. Prior to the concert they

enjoyed a private picnic in the garden of the Franchi home, where delicious food, wine and dessert were provided by Uff. George and Betsy White. "Country elegance" was the appropriate attire.



In addition to hosts Betsy and George White, the summer concert social gathering was attended by: Uff. Dott. Igor Alexandroff, Ms. Dalia Maziar, Cav. Gr. Cr. Avv. Carl Morelli, Uff. Richard Salerni, Dr. Steven Siegel, Dama di Comm. Larissa Van Duser, Mr. Robert Villanova, Dama Cmdr. Elizabeth Young, Mr. James Young, Joseph Zeller, Esq. and Dama di Comm. Mira

Zivkovich with her very well-behaved little Maltese dog Milli.

The American Delegation is grateful for the generosity and organization of the event to Betsy and George White. All those who attended relished the opportunity to gather outside in the summer open air to enjoy great food and concert.

*By Dama di Comm. Larissa Van Duser*