PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

THE PICCOLO CORO DELL'ANTONIANO COMES TO NEW YORK FOR THE FIRST TIME

Italy's beloved Zecchino d'Oro children's choir brings the voices and music of Italian children to America

A week of concerts, school visits, and cultural events celebrating music as a universal language of peace, friendship, and solidarity

NEW YORK, October 6–13, 2026 — During the month of **October, dedicated to the celebration of Italian American Heritage**, for the first time in its history, a delegation of the **Piccolo Coro dell'Antoniano**, the renowned children's choir featured on the iconic Italian television program **Zecchino d'Oro**, will travel to the United States for a special week of events in New York, from **October 6–13, 2026**, celebrating **music, the Italian language and culture, education, and solidarity**. This marks the Choir's **second international journey outside Europe**, following its tour in **China**, and its **first-ever visit to the United States**.

Titled **"Generations of Voices – Music for Humanity,"** the tour aims to build a cultural bridge between Italy and the United States through music and the shared experiences of children. The initiative will bring together schools, families, Italian institutions, the Italian-American community, and an international audience, transforming the choir's first American visit into a meaningful opportunity for cultural, educational, and human exchange.

The initiative is promoted by **Incanto Productions** and the **Global EduLanguage Foundation**, in collaboration with the **Antoniano of Bologna**. The project was conceived by **Simona Rodano**, who has been known in American schools for more than 20 years as **"The Italian Fairy."**

The tour is made possible with the support of the **Consulate General of Italy in New York**, the **Italian Cultural Institute of New York**, the **Coccia Foundation**, the **UNICO National Foundation**, the **Italian Caucus of the New York City Council**, as well as prominent members of the Italian and Italian-American business community.

Throughout the week, the young performers will take part in concerts, institutional meetings, educational programs, and cultural activities across New York City.

The program will begin on **October 7** with an official welcome by **Giorgio Marrapodi, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations**, followed by an institutional welcome at **New**

York City Hall by the Italian Caucus of the New York City Council. **On October 8**, the Piccolo Coro will be welcomed by the **Consulate General of Italy in New York** and the **Italian Cultural Institute**, followed by a special concert in **New Jersey** in collaboration with the **Coccia Foundation**. Throughout the week, the choir will also visit **New York City public schools** with Italian dual-language programs, promoting cultural exchange through music and language.

On **October 10**, the choir will be hosted by the **Franciscan Friars** for a special day dedicated to music, community, and solidarity in support of their **Bread Line**.

The centerpiece of the tour will take place on **Sunday, October 11**, with **two special concerts** at **The Sheen Center for Thought & Culture** in Manhattan. Through the timeless songs of **Zecchino d'Oro** and a repertoire dedicated to childhood, brotherhood, and intercultural dialogue, the Piccolo Coro will introduce New York audiences to one of Italy's most cherished musical traditions.

The week will conclude with the choir's participation in the **Columbus Day Parade on Fifth Avenue**, bringing the voices of **Zecchino d'Oro** to the heart of New York City and offering Italian children's music a unique international showcase.

"*When I was six years old, I used to sing the songs of the Zecchino d'Oro, never imagining that one day I would have the privilege of helping bring those very voices to New York. Bringing the choir directly into American schools carries a special meaning: it gives young students in the United States the opportunity to learn the Italian language through the voices, emotions, and shared experiences of children their own age coming from Italy. Bringing the Piccolo Coro to New York means bringing the Italy of children to America, an Italy that speaks to everyone through joy, music, and hope.*"

Simona Rodano, President, Global EduLanguage Foundation

"*For the first time in our history, the Piccolo Coro is crossing the ocean to come to New York. Bringing the voices and songs of the Zecchino d'Oro to America means bringing a piece of the Antoniano and of Bologna to the families and children we will meet, and sharing with them the friendship, joy, and spirit of togetherness that have always been at the heart of our choir. It will be a journey with many dimensions. In the schools, it will be an exchange: our children will sing and listen, discovering that music speaks a language that needs no translation. In our meetings with institutions, it will be a small seed of peace: because when children sing about coming together, dialogue, and welcoming one another, they create something that lasts far beyond the applause. And through our connection with the Franciscan Friars who, in New York just as in Bologna, care for those who have less, it will be a journey of solidarity: the same Franciscan spirit that has been our home at the Antoniano for seventy years, rediscovered in another city, on another continent*."

Fr. Giampaolo Cavalli, CEO, Piccolo Coro dell'Antoniano

"*Coccia Foundation is incredibly excited and honored to be a part of this special initiative to promote and celebrate our Italian heritage. One of the most meaningful aspects of this collaboration with Global EDUlanguage is the opportunity to welcome Il Piccolo Coro from Italy for the first time. Bringing these young voices across the ocean creates a beautiful connection between our two countries and allows our community to experience Italian culture in a special way. For me it is about much more than a performance. It is about building bridges, inspiring our children and "passing the torch" to future generations. Coccia Foundation is proud to be a part of an initiative that celebrates where we came from while creating meaningful cultural experiences for generations to come*."

Elisa Coccia, President, Coccia Foundation

"*On behalf of the thousands of members of UNICO National, we are pleased to support this program as it's a unique way to support Italian American culture. Our goal is to support programs that present a positive image of our heritage through education, thereby enhancing our image for generations to come*."

Chris DiMattio, UNICO Foundation Chairperson

MEDIA CONTACTS

Mary Giuffrè

Incanto Productions

Email: incantopress@gmail.com

Phone: +1 631-482-5633

Incanto Productions

23-11 21 Ave #1D Astoria, NY 11105
Tel. 1.888.300.3357
Direct: +1.347.613.9414
www.incantoproductions.com
Email: incantoitaly@gmail.com
Instagram: @incantoinc