

# The voice of Maria Dolens

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE PEACE BELL FOUNDATION OF ROVERETO



**W**ith the new Statute which came into force in the summer of 2018, the "Fondazione Campana dei Caduti" changed its name, renouncing the term "Opera" previously included in its "identity card".

This occasion led to a more extensive re-examination by the members of the Board of the Foundation logo (two stylized bells, one of which is upside down) going back to the early 2000s. It was deemed by a unanimous decision no longer representative of that image of modernity and integration into the reality of the times which, of course in respecting its illustrious traditions the Foundation intends to transmit.

Consequently, also on the basis of the indications of the Rovereto Council, which is financing the project, a local advertising agency has been commissioned in recent months to develop a new logo; more sensitive, with a far-reaching communication and characterized by the ever more distinct and constant presence of social networks.



LOGO A

fondazione  
Campana  
dei Caduti



LOGO B

fondazione  
Campana  
dei Caduti

In this process, the Foundation immediately became aware of an essential aspect, namely that of wishing to make the final decision regarding the new logo not autonomously but with the involvement of the community thereby proposing the two alternatives shown above.

This is not exactly the usual course of action but the desire to overcome the distancing between institutions and the community, inevitably caused by the restrictions imposed by the fight against the pandemic, has certainly contributed.

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## MALTA BECOMES A MEMBER OF THE MARIA DOLENS PEACE MEMORANDUM

# A poem as the national anthem

**P**erhaps we are not quite “ready to die”; a little more before football matches however the death rate is low. Goffredo Mameli, who entrusted his friend composer Michele Novaro in 1847 with the six stanzas of which we know only the first by heart, was certainly ready for it. The Italian national anthem, as with most others, serves to stir the spirits, and at that time it was justified. Malta’s on the other hand does not. It is a prayer - sweet, passionate, poetic.

Hearing the two songs one after the other on 19 July of last year during Malta’s accession ceremony to the ‘Campana’ Peace Memorandum was like going through two distant eras. One made up of patriotic struggles that require daring and recklessness, the other marked by a reflection on the future rather than the present, on what to do once independence is achieved. One invites us to gather “in cohort” in a spirit of brotherhood necessary to de-

feat a present and real enemy, the other asks God to give “wisdom and mercy to those who govern, health to those who work” and to ensure “Unity and Peace” for the people.

These characteristics emerged perfectly in the performance of the Lizzana Band directed by Maestro Andrea Loss, who for family reasons feels at home in both countries. If you ask him he will tell you that the words of the Maltese anthem, which in this case could only be evoked, were written by a poet priest, DunKarmPsaila, when a world war had just ended and no one expected another. He goes on to explain that it was actually supposed to be a school song but history almost always takes unpredictable paths.

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The text asks God to give «wisdom and mercy to those who govern, health to those who work» and to ensure «unity and peace» for the people

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*The Ambassador of Malta to Italy Carmel Vassallo*



*Reggente Marco Marsilli, Foundation President and Ambassador Carmel Vassallo honor the flag of Malta*

Listening alongside the Foundation President Reggente Marco Marsilli were the Ambassador of Malta to Italy, Carmel Vassallo, and the Mayor of Rovereto, Francesco Valduga who were united in the common aim of promoting dialogue and condemning all forms of conflict.

Together they marched, escorted by a delegation of the National 'Bersaglieri' Association led by Livio Guidolin carrying the flag until the flagpole that rises next to Maria Dolens where two officers of the Municipal Police of Rovereto, in full uniform, hoisted it over the valley. Another declaration of accordance with the values of the Bell has been flying from that moment on at the Colle di Miravalle.

Marsilli explained this by recalling the origins of the Bell, the bronze of cannons cast to create a symbol of peace, and highlighting how "we are all too used to considering Europe as something acquired, while we should do more to preserve the principles that animate it and to strengthen them in our daily actions». At the first affiliation experienced by the president,

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Marsilli did not hide his emotion. In fact, he expressed how happy he was that Malta was the protagonist of this christening, recalling that Valletta and Rome are linked by a strong historical and geographical bond, which takes shape in the Trentino area in a "small yet highly distinguished" Italian-Maltese community present at the event.

"Last November I learned that Malta was one of the few countries within the Council of Europe that did not have its flag on the Colle di Miravalle and I began to work to fill this gap", explained the ambassador Vassallo. "Malta fully adheres to the values of the Council of Europe, promotes human rights, the strengthening of the democratic system and the rule of law and diplomatic dialogue as a tool for resolving conflicts between countries. These values are the basis of the work carried out by the Rovereto Peace Bell Foundation, which is why our adhesion is a completely natural thing", he concluded, highlighting that "Italy and Malta have suffered during the conflicts in Europe but today are two amicable countries linked by a millenary history that work together for peace".

Great ideas can arise from suffering especially if "memory becomes perspective", as Mayor Valduga so aptly summarized while conveying the regards of a city capable of "reflecting on tragedy to create hope" like few others can.

Sometimes a few words are enough, in other cases a few notes. Those of the anthems were explicit while those sung by the Rovereto Minicoro, directed as always with precision and affection by Gianpaolo Daicampi, were at times exciting. It took the children to remind everyone that "we could start with music", one of the few things that truly unites men and nations, and certainly the most useful in order "to communicate what Europe is". The hundred strokes of Maria Dolens ended another day to remember.



## HAPPENING AT THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

# Starting over from culture



**T**he European Heritage Days, a joint initiative of the Council of Europe and the European Commission, raise awareness of heritage, both tangible and intangible, which has helped to shape people's culture throughout history, thus promoting understanding of the past to better shape the future. Heritage is about objects and places, and the meanings and uses that people attach to them and the values they represent. The European Heritage Days develop and strengthen a feeling of belonging and of responsibility for heritage, underlining the relevance of cultural rights as human rights aiming at assuring the enjoyment of culture in conditions of equality and non-discrimination.

Enabling citizens to explore a wide range of cultural assets through a number of themed events, European Heritage Days, launched by the Council of Europe in 1985 in France, help uncover histories of people and places that have contributed to shape the culture and heritage of Europe. Their aim is to increase understanding of a shared European past, encourage appreciation of traditional values and inspire new heritage conservation and education practices.

In particular, the 2021 European Heritage Days will celebrate Inclusive and Diverse Heritage to encourage broad participation in culture, to foster and celebrate diversity, and to emphasize that interaction with individuals and communities with different cultural backgrounds can enrich our lives. Particular attention will be paid to making events more accessible, both in terms of removing physical barriers and of offering a platform to different groups, including vulnerable and marginalised people who often have less opportunity to share their stories.

After a year marked by the Covid-19 pandemic, the European Heritage Days will celebrate the re-opening of heritage sites and will offer everyone an opportunity to meet and share. A wide range of cultural events taking place from August to October across participating countries will include exhibitions, workshops, performances, guided tours and many other activities

Giuseppe Zaffuto, spokesperson for the Council of Europe in Italy

## Initiatives in Italy

**I**n Italy, the European Heritage Days return on Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 September. Guided tours, special openings and digital initiatives will be organized in both public and private museums and places of culture. The theme chosen this year, "Cultural Heritage: ALL inclusive!", aims to be a reflection on the need to allow all citizens access to art, without exclusion related to age groups, ethnic groups, minorities present on the territory or people with disabilities. The slogan is adapted from "Heritage: All inclusive" chosen by the Council of Europe and shared by the countries participating in the event.

HAPPENING AT THE UN

# Guterres calls for an Olympic truce

For once we could pretend to believe in a legend and maybe make it come true. For example, one could accept the historical reconstruction according to which all wars were suspended during the ancient Olympic Games. In reality it seems that the truce concerned only the place where the competitions took place. It was a question of safety. Perhaps de Coubertin knew this but by founding the Olympics again in modern times he gave himself a higher purpose: to foster understanding between peoples in order to lay the foundations for a more peaceful world. In his radio speech given on the eve of the 1936 Berlin Games Pierre de Frédy, Baron de Coubertin, known today as Pierre de Coubertin, explicitly referred to the tense political climate of the time, hoping for a change of course and emphasizing that "Humanity would be happy if, as in the days of ancient Greece, in the midst of a war, the enemy armies interrupted their battles for a moment, so as to celebrate and honor the Olympic Games».

Eighty-five years later athletes from all over the world find themselves in Japan participating in the games that were to take place last year. They are healthy specimens, used to overcoming obstacles and yielding determination since that is their job. Now it is we who must "demonstrate the same strength and solidarity in our efforts to give peace to the world". Secretary General of the United Nations, António Guterres reminded us of this by

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An opportunity to establish lasting ceasefires and aim for sustainable peace

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stating that the principle of the Olympic truce as well as representing "a traditional call for the cessation of all war activity during the games" is an opportunity "to establish a lasting ceasefire and to find ways that lead to sustainable peace ». In short, first you stop shooting for a fixed time, then you talk, you get to know each other, you understand that it is unnecessary, and you let the guns rust.

After all, sport is for this. If the competitions are not used as opportunities for meeting between different cultures, they simply become a moment in which you time who is faster, measure who throws a weight or javelin the furthest, check who has jumped the highest and who has thrown themselves forward the furthest on a rectangle of smoothed out sand. It is a wonderful moment for those who win, but rather insignificant for humanity. We measure, we cheer and get excited, and then we remember that the aim is "to seek peace and unite around common goals", an even more pressing issue "as we struggle to put an end to the pandemic and create a strong, sustainable and inclusive recovery".

Guterres asked all parties in conflict "to observe the truce during the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo, and to nurture it in the weeks and months that follow." Let's take it seriously. The ancients did not manage to do so and left us the legacy of a quarrelsome world. For once we could try to do better than them.



To be continued on page 1...

With this aforementioned path, the intention of the «Fondazione Campana dei Caduti» was to make a significant and attentive gesture to all those who, even in this difficult situation, confirmed their constant affection for Maria Dolens.

Clarification of the procedure (anticipating that it will be very simple and direct) may be referred to on this page. It is the hope of the Foundation and my staff to obtain a consistent level of participation, involving the visitors of the monumental area and through this publication, the communities residing in other Italian regions and abroad, in addition to the local community.

With the conclusion of the “people’s” considerations, the chosen logo will be announced on 4 October, on the occasion of the “birthday” (the 96th of its long and glorious history) of the Bell of the Fallen.

It will be destined not only to immediately represent the “new face” of the Foundation but also, and from this emerges the further importance of the choice, to characterize the celebratory events of the centenary of “Maria Dolens”, which will take place in 2025.

Reggente Marco Marsilli, Foundation President



# It's time to choose

## LOGO A



fondazione  
Campana  
dei Caduti

Logo A calls to mind the “community” as a set of distinct and recognizable elements (lines and strokes). The lines, which allude to those of the musical staff, become soft to symbolize the proclamation of the tolls of Peace. The colors are discreet and delicate.

## LOGO B



fondazione  
Campana  
dei Caduti

Logo B recalls the profile of the Bell through the initials of the words “Fondazione”, “Campana” and “Caduti”. The monogram proposes the silhouette of Maria Dolens in a contemporary key. Along with blue and light blue there is a note of green in homage to Rovereto, the City of the Oak.

## Give your preference

**H**elp us choose the new Foundation logo. There are two proposals and they can be seen on this page accompanied by the notes provided by the Trentino company that made them BC.D (BarberiConzatti.Design). To share this important decision with you, we have decided to organize an online vote which can be accessed by **clicking this link**. Special stations will be set up for visitors to the Bell that will allow

them to vote on the foundation premises. The virtual ballot boxes will be open from 12 noon on 6 August to 23.59 on 30 September. To ensure maximum compliance to the wishes of the participants in the debate, an IT control system will verify that each person may express only one preference. The announcement of the winning logo will take place on 4 October 2021 on the occasion of the events scheduled for the 96th anniversary of the first sounding of Maria Dolens.



IT HAPPENED TODAY

# The accession of Liechtenstein in 1971



August 20, 1971: Liechtenstein joins the Maria Dolens Peace Memorandum in the presence of Prince Hans Adams II



IT HAPPENED TODAY

# The twinning with Marcinelle



1st August 2009: Reggente Alberto Robol, Foundation President in Marcinelle with Jean-Louis Delaet, Director of the Le BoisduCazier Museum, for the twinning of Maria Dolens with Maria Mater Orphanorum



24 August 2005: "Dolomites of Peace" addresses the theme "Peace and Africa" in the presence of the Somali Prime Minister Ali Mohamed Ghedi