

CANȚONETA *SANTA LUCIA*, ÎNTRE SACRU ȘI PROFAN*

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Santa Lucia Song between the sacred and the profane

Santa Lucia is sung on the 13th of December by the Italian community in Greci, Tulcea. The melody is a traditional Neapolitan song; the Italian lyrics describe the view from Santa Lucia in Naples. This song is associated with entertainment and also with religious celebrations. The lyrics were transcribed by Teodoro Cottrau and published by the Cottrau firm, as a Barcarolle, at Naples in 1849. Perhaps the definitive 20th century recording of the song was that of Enrico Caruso, the great Neapolitan opera singer. Also, the song was recorded by Elvis Presley in the 1965, on the album *Elvis for Everyone*. The song has been sung in several films. It was performed by Elvis Presley in *Viva Las Vegas*. It can be heard in the Marx Brothers film *A Night at the Opera*. In Thailand, is the anthem of Silpakom University; the founder of the university was Italian. St. Lucia is the patron saint of the city of Syracuse, Sicily, where she was born. Celebrations take place on the 13th of December and in May. St. Lucy is also popular among children in some regions of North-Eastern Italy. In Sweden, Estonia, Denmark, Norway, and Finland, Lucy (called Lucia) is venerated on December 13 in a ceremony where a girl (some boys were voted as Lucy) is elected to portray Lucia. Wearing a white gown with a red sash and a crown of candles on her head, she walks leading a procession of women, each one holding a candle. The candles symbolize the fire that refused to take St. Lucia's life when she was sentenced to be burned. The women sing a Lucia song while entering the room, to the melody of Santa Lucia; the various Scandinavian lyrics are fashioned for the occasion, describing the light with which Lucia overcomes the darkness. Each Scandinavian country has lyrics in their native tongues. The modern tradition of having public processions in the Swedish cities started in 1927.

Key-words: *Saint Lucy, function, profane, sacred.*

Cuvinte-cheie: *Santa Lucia, funcție, profan, sacru.*

Prin cercetarea de față ne-am propus să urmărim traseul spectaculos pe care l-a parcurs până în prezent canțoneta *Santa Lucia*, cântec tradițional napolitan devenit șlagăr internațional. Factorii culturali, sociali și politici din diverse arii geografice care au condiționat interpretarea sa în diverse contexte i-au imprimat o versatilitate

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