

New Haven to Remember Sacco and Vanzetti with Musical Drama

New Haven, Connecticut, will commemorate the 75th anniversary of the execution of Bartolomeo Vanzetti and Nicola Sacco next year focusing on the art, music, poetry and theater that emerged from the controversy, including new works, as well as the implications for America today in its understanding of immigrants, the death penalty and the criminal justice system.

Announcing the related events, U.S. Rep. Rosa DeLauro and Mayor John DeStefano said, "It is a special tribute to these two men, what they experienced, what they inspired and what it means today."

The commemoration will involve The Arts Council of Greater New Haven, Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven's Office of Cultural Affairs, the Yale Art

Gallery, Orchestra New England, Filmfest New Haven, the Colony Historical Society, local artists and poets and various Italian-American organizations and labor leaders.

Lectures and a photographic display at the New Haven Public Library will start off the activities. Other events will include poetry reading and folk music in the spring, a concert version of "The American Dream," the story of Sacco & Vanzetti, a new musical drama performed at the historic Shubert Theater on April 20 and a presentation at the Yale Art Gallery of works by artist Ben Shahn that were inspired by the controversy.

The "American Dream" was originally created in 1996 in Belgium by Dirk Brossé, whose

grandfather immigrated from Italy, and writer Frank Van Laecke, whose grandmother told him the story of Sacco and Vanzetti and the deep support they received throughout Europe. Adapted for America by director Tony Giordano and writer and Sacco and Vanzetti scholar Neil Thomas Proto, the musical is both inspiring and haunting, portraying the personal hopes and struggle of these Italian immigrants for the promise of America. The music will be presented by Orchestra New England with James Sinclair conducting.

Additional information is available through New Haven's Office of Cultural Affairs.

