



Scarborough music teacher Ennio Paola, like his Italian forebears, is a Renaissance man. He has worked and continues to work on a variety of initiatives that involve tributes to Dante, Peace, Eric Satie and his ancestral home, Conflenti in Calabria, Italy. His connection to *Reading and Remembrance* is through his composition "Della Quercia" which he has used in Remembrance Day assemblies and to promote Peace initiatives.

The story of "Della Quercia—Of the Oak" dates back to Feb. 7, 1783 but resonates forward to September 2005. On that dramatic night in February so many decades ago, an earthquake accompanied by disastrous floods and earth slides, sent the populace of Conflenti into the streets and drove them towards the sanctuary of their central Church. Every family was affected with the destruction of their properties. Only the Church and its solitary oak tree located near the front entrance of the church survived. After the miraculous survival of the Church and the oak tree, the faith and hopes of the townspeople were forever intertwined with the Oak and their church. Survivors of 2005 Hurricanes Katrina and Rita are looking for similar signs of divine support.

Since that time over two centuries ago, there have been many songs of praise composed for the Conflenti oak. Annually on Feb. 7th during a day of Penance and Thanks, these songs are sung in Remembrance of the first 1783 quake, floods and earth slides. These various songs have been passed down from generation to generation by rote with no two singers/musicians performing the work in the same fashion. Ennio's version of "Della Quercia" was commissioned to celebrate Conflenti's 500th Anniversary Festivities in 1996.

Ennio Paola's version of "Della Quercia" is used as a Hymn of Faith, Hymn of Hope, and Hymn of Peace celebrating, "strength through community" and forms part of the multi-award winning and internationally recognized, "In Tacit Understanding Peace Education program". "Della Quercia" is played annually on the last Sunday in August during the "Festa della Madonna" in Italy. In Canada, this feast takes place in Niagara Falls, Ontario and internationally in Australia and Argentina.

Ennio Paola has made "Della Quercia" available to educators across Ontario free of charge through this website. Music educators may receive the complete conductor's score and score parts for a full contact band by contacting sgmuse@pathcom.com. The cost for the complete Conductor's score for full concert band is \$40.00