

English translation of the *La Grande Famiglia* 78 RPM acetate discs in the Sciorra collection.

Maranola #1

Inscription on record:

Annabelli

Oct 29, 1952

TIME: 1:01 minutes

Unrelated woman: I am Michele's daughter. I can't thank you enough. Thank you and goodbye to everyone.

Announcer Giuliano Gerbi: Happy Mr. Paolo. Happy Mrs. Giulia Nostera. And now we turn to satisfy another request. Here is Mrs. Anna Anniballi, 1270 Prospect Street in Brooklyn. I have the best gift, the voice of your father Emilio, your daddy. Here he is.

Emilo: Anna, I'm your father personality. I'd like to have you and all your, ah, you and your brothers and sister along to be all together. And G...and not to be so rusty. Rusty you be, worst'll come to youse. Always happy. And congratulation you, the best of luck and opportunity in the world. And I say good bye and thanks yous all. And don't forget to me. I'll kiss yousa all and bless yous for years and years. Your daddy, Emilo Anniballe from Italy.

Gerbi: And dear Mr. Pietro Colarullo, 14126 Ro...

Maranola # 2

Inscription on record:

04577

PRESTO

TIME: 1:51 minutes

Gerbi: Dear Mrs. Anna Anniballe, Brooklyn, I'm in Maranola, at the post office. And here is your father, papa Emilio.

Emilio: Dear daughter Anna. I am your father Emilio Anniballe. I want to recommended of all my troubles what I'm passing with that stupid woman what God created in the world. I'm suffering all my sufferings. And not to worry over them. Why I'm making my mind to try to draw some of my money, maybe in a month or two or three, I'll sail across. And I'll be there from youse daughters and sons. While I'm over here suffering and I don't want to suffer anymore. And don't listen the letter what she writes over the America and saying all them words what's a shame who listen and all the peoples of this town they could say it, she sent me over to the cops. There's nothing to say over my person. There's nothing to worry over it. Only thing what I say, God give you all the health in the world and be happy, not to worry nothing over them, ah, over her. You know what you passed, you and youse brothers, all your sufferings and that's enough. And I God bless ya and good Easter and good night and good luck to you. I love youse and I pray, I kiss you forever.

Gerbi: More voices in a second, first New York, New York for the commercial. Keep listening. Then we'll resume from Italy. We're on hold, go ahead New York.

Maronola–Formia #3

No inscription on record

TIME: 2:35 minutes

Gerbi: And dear Miss Anna Annibale, 1260 Prospect Place in Brooklyn, and everyone has arrived, those from Maronola and those from Formia. And here I have your little letter in English. Brava! Congratulations! Two years in America and already you write so well. You wrote me to read it to your father. I will read it. "Kindly read this to my father. He would be surprised at the English I learned in two years time. Tell him that we are all well and we pray that he is the same. We send all our love and affection to him." Many kisses and greetings from the daughter. And now let's hear what your dad says from Formia.

Emilo: Anna, Anna. I heard your letter what you send by the microphone. Now I want to tell you something. I'm sufferin' for all kinds of, of all kinds of reasons. While youse go... youse out for the pleasure in the America. And I got all my sufferin'. Stayin' in the heavens. If youse could do the best, I'd like to be over there with you, not staying here and sufferin'. While I know I'm sufferein' for all the life. And I want to do the best to be in the United States. I got my best regards for all and family.

Gerbi: And now Aunt Margherita.

Margherita: Anna. I am your Aunt Margherita. I want to speak, but I can't. I send you greetings, I kiss you on behalf of your nephews and my brothers and sisters-in-law. I send you greetings, goodbye and kisses.

Gerbi: And here we have even aunt Lidia, the teacher. Go ahead aunt Lidia.

Lidia: Dearest Anna and Elena. I am aunt Lidia, eh? Aunt Patena from Formia. We are happy to send you our news. We are all well. We send our affection. We would love to have a photograph of Enrico, to whom I send all my greetings. Uncle Luigino is a father of a nice little boy. Big kisses to dear Tommaso who we wait to see in Italy, eh, with Enrico. You'll find our house complete. We have masons in house ready to prepare you a little house. Come. I'll wait for you. Many kisses. And here is my daughter Maria, who trembles to say hello. Ciao.

Maria: Many kisses even from me, dearest Anna. Greetings to everyone, to Elena, to Vincenzo, to Enrico, and to little Tommaso.

Gerbi: More voices in a second. First the New York microphone. It's the time for commercials. Stay tuned. We're still in Formia, with the open microphone to make you all happy. Are we clear? Go ahead New York.

Carunchio #1*

Inscription on record:

Sciorra

8/28

TIME: 3:10 minutes

*There are two copies of this recording.

Gerbi: And here I am with a beautiful gift for Mr. Enrico Sciorra of 370 Wadsworth Avenue in New York City. I'm sure that Uncle Nicolino and other relatives are listening. I'm here in Carunchio with the microphone of *La Grande Famiglia*! In your town. In Carunchio. And here near me is mama Filomena. Listen.

Filomena: I don't know why I'm thinking in this moment of your last separation from me. You left for boarding school, remember? I cried; how I suffered. I felt like I was all alone without you. Now that you left for America, you can imagine how I feel, completely alone. Alone in my house without anyone, maybe even without the hope of, of seeing you return to working beneath the Italian sky. And now, I send my greetings to all the relatives, and a hug for you. Mamma.

Gerbi: Ah, she's a little emotional. Send them a nice kiss, mama. Like this, on the hand.

[Filomena cries.]

Gerbi: Many kisses.

Filomena: Kisses [in high-pitched voice].

Background voices: On the hand. Go ahead. [overlap]

Gerbi: Here, like this, on the hand. [overlap]

Background voices: Kiss your hand. [overlap]

[Filomena makes the sound of a kiss.]

Gerbi: There you go! That was a kiss from your mother. A kiss that comes from Carunchio. Number two, Gloria.

Gloria: I'm very happy Enrico to be able to talk you here today so you can hear my voice. We are all well. I'm unhappy that you are so far away. I think of you continually and hope to see you again soon. I go often to mom's and I'm with her for a long time. She's very despondent because she is all alone. Greetings to you, the uncles and aunts, and all the relatives. Now listen to Mariapina's voice.

Gerbi: Mariapina is a beautiful baby with a ... a pacifier in her mouth. We'll remove it or she won't be able to talk. What do you want to say Mariapina?

Gloria: Speak.

[Mariapina howls.]

Gloria: Mama!

Gerbi: There you go! That was the voice of Mariapina. A nice greeting from Carunchio to New York City. And now Rosina.

Rosina: [Nervously] Eh, I feel a little ...

[Background voices offering encouragement.]

Rosina: I have so many things to say. The emotion and the time limit prevents me... from speaking too much. I send many affectionate greetings to my relatives, to my brother Nicolino and Irene, Enrico and all the relatives. I want to see you again. And I ...hopes [Background voices correct her] hope that you decide to take a little trip to Italy. A dear affectionate greeting even for my brother-in-law Nicolino Danenza and his son, Poggì, who have all forgotten us.

Antonio Danenza: Dear Enric, I'm going to let you hear "Naples Sings" when you come, eh!

[Back ground voices and laughter.]

Gerbi: Understand? He's going to make you hear "Naples Sings." Yes. No. Now here, a young a woman.

Italia: Ciao Enrico. I'm Italia. Uncle Nicolino, Aunt Irene, best wishes!

Gerbi: Somebody else.

Olga: Many affectionate greetings to everyone. To Aunt Irene and Uncle Nicolino, I say that they must return to Italy next year... the next year that I get married.

Giosuè: Many affectionate greetings to my fiancée's relatives. I am Giosuè.

Gerbi: Others voices in a minute. First, [back to the] New York microphone for a commercial. And then we'll resume from Italy. Stay tuned. Go ahead New York.

Carunchio #2
Contains two sides
Side A

Inscription:

04619

PRESTO

TIME: 3:20 minutes

Gerbi: Dear Mrs. Anna Annibella, 251 Troy Avenue in Brooklyn and Mr. Enrico Sciorra, 370 Wadsworth Avenue in New York City, I am in your relatives' house and above all the voice of Antonio Danenza.

Antonio Daneza: Dear Enric'. How are you? And the baby? We are all well. But you never write and this makes us unhappy. How is Anna? Is she OK? How's Nicolino? And Irene? Tell them to write more often. And we are always anxious to hear news from them. Kisses, and say hello to everyone. Bye.

Gerbi: Number two, Olindo.

Olindo: Dearest Anna, Enrico, and Joe. We are all doing well, thank God. We want to congratulate you all. Mariapina hasn't been very well in these days. Just now she's come down from the bedroom, hoping to say hello. Go ahead Mariapina...

Gerbi: Here she is in her mother's arms. Send a little hello and then you can return to bed.

Olindo: ... "Hello Uncle Enrico."

Gloria: Say, "Hello Uncle, Uncle Enrico." Say it, say it.

[Mariapina cries.]

Gerbi: It looks like she's not in a good mood. So we'll bring her back to bed and she can talk another time. And here is your mother Filomena.

Filomena: Enrico, I spoke with you in the other message. And now I want to speak directly to you and Anna. How come this silence? Why haven't you written me? Don't you know that I suffer greatly, especially now, Anna, that you brought into the light of day little Joseph. Remember that you only have your mother and that she has suffered greatly. I remember during your engagement, I received a letter each week. And now, why are you so negligent? Maybe you're upset with me because I didn't consent to your wish, that is, to come to America. Believe me my children, it wasn't my bad will. It's because I simply couldn't. Eighteen years ago when my late husband Joseph, gave his beautiful soul to God, I swore on his grave and that I would never go far. Last year I went to Naples for a month and twenty days to help my sister Rachele who was sick. And it felt like a century being far away from home. I wasn't able to resist anymore. Olindo had to come immediately to get me. If you remember, it was me who wrote you saying that I wanted to come to America and you, Anna and Enrico, were very happy, your

hearts were happy naturally, because you were alone, without having anyone dear to you nearby, especially a mother's affection. I don't know how to express the pain that I suffer due to your distance, especially now that dear little Joseph is born. How I would love to have him near me, to hug him to my breast and do everything that my heart would love to do. I am with you my dear children and hope that in your happiness you don't forget me. A minute doesn't pass that I don't think of you. I pray to the Lord not to turn his look from his dear family. I embrace all three of you with all my heart. And greetings to my dear relatives. Mother.

Gloria: Enrico, Anna. I am happy to... to, to send a message via the radio every once and awhile. But I would like that you would respond occasionally. Why don't you make a record and send it to us?

Side B

Contains two tracks.

No inscription on this side

Track 1

Time: 1:11 minutes

Gloria: ... like you promised us. Make us happy. Mariapina is well. And Joe? Bye. Say hello to all the relatives.

Rosina: Enrico, Anna. How's the baby? Is he OK? I am your aunt Rosina. How's Nicolino? Is Irene ok? Kisses to all.

Italia: Dear Aunt Anna and Uncle Enrico, I am Italia. Several weeks ago I was engaged with a young man from San Salvo that you Uncle, certainly remember. He's Uncle Umberto's wife's son, remember? Hello to everyone and kisses to the little one. Bye.

Olga: Uncle Nicolino, Aunt Irene. Enrico, Anna. What are you doing? How are you? How's little Joseph? How come you don't send me a photograph? I'm Olga and tell Aunt Irene and Uncle Nicolino to take a trip in Italy. Don't forget that you have relatives here. I'm getting married in August, if God wills. I wish that they would be here for that day. So, Uncle Nicolino and aunt Irene, come. I'll wait for you. Kisses to all, Olga.

Gerbi: And now the usual intermission. A very short intermission for the commercial. Stayed tuned, we'll return shortly from Italy. Are we clear? Go ahead New York.

Track 2

Time: 30 seconds

Gerbi: I'm still in Carunchio. Here's an additional greeting for Mr. Enrico Sciorra, 370 Wadsworth Avenue in New York City and Nicolino.

Adamo D'Onofrio: *Cumpa'* Enrico. How are you? Eh? We hope that the baby always continues to be well. And I, ah, ah, I love God, that He gives you a long life, to you and your Mrs., and your baby, and all your spouses there in America. Adamo D'Onofrio, your *compare*.

Gerbi: And here I am in Guardiabruna. Dear Mrs. Rosa and Dear Mr. Roberto Di Palma, 44 Gr...