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1 Our Imagination -- 2 The American Founders and Rome -- 3 Italian Music and the American Imagination in the Nineteenth Century -- 4 Americans Imagining Italy, 1800–1865 -- 5 Post-Civil War Imaginings of Italy -- 6 Americans in Italy, 1865–1914 -- 7 American Art Collectors and Their Imaginings -- 8 Italians Imagined in the U.S. 1900–1940 -- 9 Twentieth-Century Opera and the American Imagination -- 10 Italy Imagined in World War II and Beyond -- 11 Imagined Italy in the Second Half of the Twentieth Century -- 12 Conclusion.

In this comprehensive study, Ian J. Bickerton explores the fluid and multi-dimensional interactions Americans have with Italian culture and society, offering a new and novel way of considering the influence of Italy upon the United States. Bickerton argues that a true understanding of the United States, must begin with an examination of how its citizens imagine themselves. He demonstrates that throughout U.S. history, America has been deeply tied to the Italian imaginary. Ian J. Bickerton is the author of many books, including John F. Kennedy, A Reference Guide to his Life and Times (2019), A History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict (9th. ed. 2022), and The Struggle for Peace in the Middle East (2015).