

# RADIO VETERAN SHARES ITALIAN CULTURE WITH GUSTO

His name is Joe Fava and he plays his Italian heritage the way a virtuoso plays the violin.

He and his wife of 26 years, Marisa, have operated Blue Skies Travel at 107 Dundas St. W. for 22 years. But his radio show on CHWO Radio has run every Sunday from 5:30-6:30 p.m. for 36 years — he has never missed a show.

Beginning March 7, The Joe Fava Show will move to CHWO's sister station, Mississauga's CJMR Radio, but his time slot will remain the same.

"I'm thinking about a change in the name.

In fact, I've been moving towards it for some time now," Fava said. "I think we'll call it, That Night At The Opera."

Fava's home features thousands of books, poems, letters, records, tapes, inscriptions and illustrations of Italian life.

"I'm a travel agent and I specialize in trips to Italy," he said. "I go there often and every-time I do, I go into a book store or art shop and bring something back for my show. I always find something."

He is not so much obsessed by his culture as smitten by it. And that's what he tries to portray over the air or at the numerous

speaking engagements he attends each year, all at his own expense.

"As soon as one show is finished, I begin to plan for the next," he said. "It takes hours weighing different ideas and then to collect the material I'll need, such as this opera or that delicious poem. I'm always revising, always rewriting the script. I want it to be perfect for the listeners and for me."

He spends hours pouring over manuscripts and even more time savoring selections of classical music for the show. Each has its own theme and he rarely repeats, except for the obvious like Christmas and New Year's.

The theme is everything. Sometimes Fava will throw out an entire script in order to start again. It's like the slogan for a famous Italian motorcycle; sometimes you must sacrifice everything to sacrifice nothing.

"I really don't know how I arrive at what my theme will be said. "It's a process that begins with an idea and then I start adding on to it with music or a poem or a saying. It all depends on how the idea flows, how it feels.

"I'm never completely satisfied. Right up to air time I'm thinking about an addition I should make or a change." *and Revisited B.*

HAVA, Joe February 10th, 1993 MN Peel Prog. BK