This fourth-semester language course is taught in the context of Italian song. We will trace a history of poetry, song, and music in Italy from the end of World War II to the present. Through the analysis of song and lyric, we will further our speaking, reading, writing, and listening skills as well as grasp of a wide variety of styles and registers in Italian. Readings include a wide array of literary and nonliterary texts (poems and song lyrics, newspapers and magazines, interviews, short fiction, and so on). Spoken and written Italian will be practiced through various classroom activities and assignments.

Prior knowledge and practice of music is not required to take this course; students will not be required to perform. There is, however, a performance component to the course. The sections of 202 will work together to put on a concert of Italian music for the other 250+ Italian language students. The concert will take place on Friday April 7th at 7pm in the Decio Theater in the Debartolo Performing Arts Center. Every student will contribute to the development and execution of the concert according to their interests and skills—music selection, poster design, promo videos, advertisement, stage managing, set design, working with the musicians, performing, visiting other language classes to promote the concert, etc. With this concert, we’ll invite our friends and classmates to participate in the great art of freedom of Italian song, and into the beauty and power of voice, of music, of language, and of history.