



*Gary  
Italiaander*  
PHOTOGRAPHER & IMAGE RESTORER  
INTERVIEWER, AUTHOR, MUSICIAN & GUEST SPEAKER

## BIOGRAPHY

Gary Italiaander has an international reputation as a Photographer, Image Restorer, Interviewer, Educator, Musician, Author and sought-after Guest Speaker.

Having shown musical ability at a very young age (beginning with the harmonica), Gary studied at the London College of Music under the Directorship of Dr W S Lloyd Webber. He qualified as a piano teacher and music specialist completing a further year's study at the University of Reading.

After a few years teaching, a significant change of direction took place into the world of Photography where he came to the attention of Harrods who invited him to open the Italiaander Portrait Gallery, from where all portraiture for Harrods clients was commissioned internationally for a number of years. When Gary left Harrods, it was to allow greater freedom to travel to assignments abroad and time to develop other significant projects.

He has been involved with many photographic organisations within the UK and was awarded an honorary membership of the Master Photographers Association (MPA), received as a gesture of thanks for work raising funds for charities in association with MPA photographers throughout the United Kingdom.

Apart from his photographic work being widely published, he has tested photographic inkjet paper for Ilford, his work has been used on their packaging worldwide and he has represented Olympus cameras.

Gary Italiaander is author of *'Reflections, A Tribute to Larry Adler, Harmonica Genius'* the legendary harmonica maestro who was a personal friend. His second book about his father's unique wartime experiences and beyond - *'My Father's War'* - was published in April 2023. A coffee table book of Michael Italiaander fine art paintings, illustrations and cartoons will be published in April 2024

Gary continues to be passionate about music and tennis which he plays whenever time permits!

# ITALIAANDER 2023 TALK LIST

## 1 - PORTRAITS BY CELEBRITY PHOTOGRAPHER, ITALIAANDER

Gary Italiaander relates fascinating and amusing anecdotes about the luminaries that he has met in many UK and international locations. Italiaander talks are always highly illustrated with a wide variety of amazing images.

Gary, whose portrait studio was based at Harrods, has produced unique portraits of many celebrities including Frankie Vaughan, Lord & Lady Sieff, Lord Weidenfeld, Ronnie Scott, Alvin Stardust, members of all the Middle East Royal families and many other significant personalities. Commercial shoots have also resulted in the Italiaander camera travelling to far-flung locations around the world.

## 2 - LARRY ADLER, Harmonica Genius.

The remarkable and fascinating story of the life of Larry Adler, the harmonica maestro and raconteur who was a personal friend of the celebrity photographer, Gary Italiaander.

Gary's talk is illustrated with many images (some taken by him), recordings, video extracts and many anecdotes about Adler's friends and associates such as Chaplin, Duke Ellington, George Gershwin, Billie Holliday. Includes some live performance on the harmonica.

Gary Italiaander is author of *'Reflections, A Tribute to Larry Adler'* with additional reflections of their own by Sting, Sir George Martin, Cher, Itzhak Perlman and many others.

## 3 - IMAGE RESTORATION – Illustrating the fascinating processes and finished portraits

An illustrated talk about the specialised and fascinating photographic restoration process. Italiaander considers this one of the most rewarding areas of his work due to the joy it brings to his clients.

Gary explains how he has taken images that are often damaged or faded which he then has brought back to life to create new works of art. He has worked on a wide variety of images presented to him over the years and adds anecdotes relating to the restorations for many people including the unique restorations for members of Royalty.

## 4 – THE AMAZING IMAGES THAT HAVE INFLUENCED ITALIAANDER'S WORK

Although many of the images that you will view during this presentation may be familiar, it is likely that you won't know who took them!

Gary Italiaander met Lord Lichfield, HM Queen Elizabeth II's cousin, at the very beginning of his photographic career and Lichfield was clearly impressed by the portraits that Italiaander had created. Certainly, Lichfield's work was of interest to Italiaander as were the portraits of others such as Snowdon, Arnold Newman, Richard Avedon, Irving Penn and the photographer that most influenced him, Yousuf Karsh. Gary has also been represented by the same photo agency that represented Snowdon, Lichfield and Karsh who he met and photographed at his UK retrospective at the Barbican in 1988. One of Karsh's most well-known portraits is of Sir Winston Churchill.

## **5 - STEINWAY. Presenting the grandest piano of all, illustrating why it takes a year to build.**

Gary Italiaander created a unique project for Steinway about their incredible pianos. Having trained as a classical pianist and having owned a Steinway piano himself, Gary has a particular interest in how these remarkable pianos are created.

The project involved a visit to the Steinway factory in Hamburg to record the complete production process and also meeting with a number of significant international pianists to talk to them about why the Steinway is their instrument of choice. Video interviews include Vladimir Ashkenazy, Imogen Cooper and Lang Lang.

## **6 - HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS YOU TAKE**

"A picture is worth a thousand words" is an English language idiom which refers to the notion that a complex idea can be conveyed with just a single still image.

Almost everybody takes photographs on devices from cameras to phones. Understanding how to take better photographs is extremely useful so that images taken are the best that they can be from whatever equipment is used. This talk is illustrated with images created by celebrity photographer, Italiaander and provides the opportunity to learn about the basics of composition and lighting so that images created by you will retain your special memories.

## **7 - MY FATHER'S WAR**

The unique wartime stories of Michael Italiaander, Gary's father, who was a Cartographer during WW2 and prior to his call-up was one of the youngest British war artists, producing propaganda paintings for the Ministry of Information.

Michael Italiaander was based originally in North Wales and then the Middle East, before returning to the UK to work in army education. He experienced many unusual and amusing episodes that make this illustrated talk a unique and often humorous viewpoint that is highly entertaining!

## **8 - THE POWER OF IMAGE**

Why is image so important to us? How do we use image? What impact does our image have on others? How are we perceived or do we perceive others from their image?

A powerful presentation where all these questions and many more are explored, with photographs travelling through from the first recorded images in caves up to the present day. This presentation also covers the dramatic impact of the digital age and social media and how it affects us today!

This talk provides the opportunity for Q & A and often creates interesting discussion and thought.

**If talks 9, 10, 11 or 12 are selected, prior notice is most important**

### **9 - CORPORATE PHOTOGRAPHY IN NIGERIA**

Working personally for the chairman of Arik Air International, which effectively became the Nigerian National airline after its inception in 2006, Gary Italiaander created all the original archive photographs for all media and advertising of the airline.

Gary revisited Nigeria, ten years later in 2016 to create additional images of every aspect of how an airline business operates to assist with 'selling' the airline services. These photographs created a photographic library to be called upon as and when required such as for calendars.

### **10 - MICHAEL ITALIAANDER'S ILLUSTRATIONS**

Introducing the amazing paintings and illustrations of Gary's father, Michael Italiaander.

Michael was a celebrated illustrative artist, cartoonist and fine-art painter with one of his works in The Private Collection at Buckingham Palace. This fascinating talk shows how one artist created such a diverse, huge collection of art.

### **12 – WHAT IS MEANT BY THE TERM, CLASSICAL MUSIC?**

This fascinating presentation brings to life the widest variety of music from Bach, via Gershwin to the Beatles and beyond!

Gary Italiaander, as a classically trained musician, has a great love of music of many genres and has created a stunning selection of different music to get you thinking. Even if you don't think you like what people refer to as classical music ... this presentation is to get you thinking again!

### **12 - ITALIAANDER PLAYS THE CHROMATIC HARMONICA**

A presentation with a real difference! One of the most underplayed musical instruments in the world, the harmonica (or mouthorgan) is quite incredible. And that's apart from being able to put it in your pocket!

A selection of fabulous music from the Great American Song Book and other well-known melodies, including classical, with background stories about the music which is performed live on the chromatic harmonica by Gary Italiaander.

(This talk requires a greater level of preparation due to the nature of a live music performance).