

THE WORLD OF GREECE

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amusements

## Nights at the opera



Above (from top) Jennifer Larmore, William Powers, Peter Tiboris and a scene from *Aquila* (below).



Since 2000, when the Festival of the Aegean was founded by Peter Tiboris, its general director and artistic director of MidAmerica Productions, it has become a fixture on the annual summer concert circuit in Greece. This year, Tiboris says, it offers its best summer yet with fully staged productions of Mascagni's opera *Zanetto* (in its Greek premiere) and Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* (in English with Greek surtitles), as well as gala vocal and orchestral programs, two nights of "Jazz at the Apollo, and, to cap it all off, an evening of Greek rebetika music.

The festival's aim is to present "great music in a great place" and the international roster of soloists who bring their artistry to Syros certainly live up to the glittering setting—Syros's Apollo Theater, a replica of Milan's La Scala completed in 1864 and recently restored to its full former glory.

This year's festival opens on July 11 when Tiboris conducts the Bohuslav Martinu Philharmony and soprano Iriti Tsirakidis in a program featuring Mozart's *Symphony No. 41 in C Major, KV 551* ("Jupiter") and two works by Beethoven—"Ah, Perfido!" and *Symphony No. 5 in C Minor, Op. 67*.

Tiboris founded MidAmerica Productions, Inc., in 1984 with its first concert on January 7, 1984, which also served as his New York debut, conducting the American Symphony Orchestra and the Louisiana Choir in Rossini's *Stabat Mater* and two contemporary works by Dinos Constantinides. As an independent producer of classical concerts, MidAmerica presents soloists and choral and instrumental ensembles from around the world in New York's Carnegie Hall, Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center, and Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall. MidAmerica also presents concerts in throughout Europe.

To date, MidAmerica has produced nearly 900 concerts worldwide, featuring 2500 American ensembles and more than 100 international ensembles—over 100,000 performers in all.

Tiboris's dream is to make Syros "the Salzburg of the Aegean." By the enthusiastic response Opera Aegean has attracted in its last four years on the island, there is an audience for it. Indeed, some even come by boat from other islands in the Cyclades just to attend a performance. "[In 2005], people came over from Mykonos," he says. "Getting off a yacht and going to the opera: it's very romantic."

The complete Festival of the Aegean program follows (all performances begin at 9 p.m.; the schedule is subject to change without notice).

**July 11, Gala Opening of the Festival:** Peter Tiboris, *Conductor*; The Bohuslav Martinu Philharmony (Czech Republic); Iriti Tsirakidis, *soprano*, in Mozart's *Symphony No. 41 in C Major, KV 551* ("Jupiter"), Beethoven's "Ah, Perfido!" and *Symphony No. 5 in C Minor, Op. 67*

**July 12, 13, 15, 2007:** Peter Tiboris, *Conductor*; Carol Castel, *Stage Director*; The Bohuslav Martinu Philharmony (Czech Republic); Eilana Lappalainen, *soprano*; Jennifer Larmore, *mezzo-soprano*; Todd Geer, *tenor*;

William Powers, *bass-baritone* in Mascagni's *Zanetto* (Greek Premiere) and a program of opera highlights—"Ella giammai m'amo!," "Dio che nell'alma infondere" (The Friendship Duet), "Tu che la vanità!" and from Verdi's *Don Carlo*; "Cielo e mar" from Ponchielli's *La Gioconda*, "In mia man alfin tu sei" from Bellini's *Norma*, "Acerba voluttà" from Cilea's *Adriana Lecouvreur*, "Oh, che muso" from Rossini's *L'italiana in Algeri*, "Dio, che mi vedi in core," "Al par del mio," "Va, infelice, e tecca" from Donizetti's *Anna Bolena*, and "Libiamo, ne' lieti calici" from Verdi's *La Traviata*.

**July 14, 2007, Vienna Nights in Syros:** Gerhart Track, *Guest Conductor*; The Bohuslav Martinu Philharmony (Czech Republic); Melody Kielisch, *mezzo-soprano*; and Giorgio Aristo, *tenor*, in musical selections by Johann Strauss, Franz Lehár, Robert Stolz and Emerich Kálmán.

**July 17, 2007, Gala Recital for Voice and Piano** featuring Jennifer Larmore, *mezzo-soprano*; William Powers, *bass-baritone*; Norman Dunfee, *piano*; and Raymond Hughes, *piano*.

**July 18 and 19, 2007, Shakespeare at the Apollo:** full production in English with Greek surtitles of *Romeo and Juliet* presented by Aquila Theatre Company of New York (Peter Meineck, *Director*).

**July 20, Jazz at the Apollo:** Stratos Vougas Jazz Quartet

July 21, Rebetika from Sweden at Miaouli Square  
July 22, Human Touch with David Lynch



MidAmerica Productions, Inc., New York City  
Peter Tiboris, Founder, General Director and Artistic Director  
with the generous support and assistance of the Municipality of Ermoupolis  
The Honorable Yannis Dekavallas, Mayor  
presents

# Festival of the Aegean 2007

Featured Artists  
in the Greek Premiere  
of Mascagni's ZANETTO  
July 12 13 15



Peter Tiboris  
Artistic Director and Conductor



Jennifer Larmore  
Mezzo soprano "Zanetto"



Eliana Lappalainen  
Soprano "Sylvie"

and the  
Bohuslav Martinuu Philharmonic  
Stage Director, Carol Castel

Apollo Municipal Theater  
'La Piccola Scala'

July 11-22 • Syros, Greece

[www.festivaloftheaegean.com](http://www.festivaloftheaegean.com)

Tickets for the Festival of the Aegean are available June 1 at the Apollo Theater Box Office.

Ticket prices €10-€20.