



ELEYOTYPIA

“Opera Becomes Aegean”

Peter Tiboris and the Festival of the Aegean

Translated from an article appearing in
Eleytheroypia on July 13, 2007.

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Peter Tiboris, artistic director, smiling brags about this music festival in Syros: “From the get go I had in my mind the Festival of the Aegean covering a wide range of music choices including opera, operetta, symphonic music, jazz, dance, theatre and Greek music.

He is a very experienced Greek-American conductor in the US and founder of **MidAmerica Productions** based in New York. He is the artistic director of the very ambitious **Festival of the Aegean** which was founded in 2000. He explains to us : “Every Festival has the flavor of a festivity, a celebration that envelops various artistic forms and performances and attracts a wide audience.”

The Festival of the Aegean is in full force these days (between the 11th and 22nd of July). It takes place at the Apollo Theatre, a beautiful gem of a theatre in Syros, built in the neoclassical architectural style. The program, among others, includes the rare opera “Zanetto” by Mascagni which will be performed for the first time in Greece. Mr. Tiboris is ecstatic about this production: “The work is much more than a curiosity. It deals with the love of two people and contains extremely lyrical passages. It was composed before *Cavalleria Rusticana* for a cast of two female singers and optional offstage chorus. It was a wonderful choice for the beautiful but small Apollon Theatre.”

It is very important for Mr. Tiboris to retain the very high standards and artistic profile of the current festival throughout the following years for the residents of the island of Syros as well as for the visitors. “Besides striving to strengthen our international repertoire, we have plans to increase the educational aspect of the

festival as manifested by seminars, forums and workshops directed towards young artists. My wish is to see a lot of Greek and Greek-American artists achieve success internationally. I have contact with important artists here in Greece, I see my interest in Greece increasing, which of course is attributed to my Greek heritage.”

Question: What is so interesting about an Aegean island like Syros to attract a world renowned conductor like you? What contributed to your decision to become the artistic director of the festival?

P. Tiboris: “For 25 years I have been the artistic and general director of MidAmerica Productions. I have produced 900 concerts worldwide, half of them at world famous Carnegie Hall. What I am trying to say is that while visiting Greece frequently with different groups and orchestras I felt I never had a ‘base’. Now things have changed: with the Apollon Theatre in Hermoupolis, Syros I have a second music home base and a very satisfactory one. I am confident and trust the institution of the festival and I proceed with the support of the local government.”

* The Festival of the Aegean will present this coming Saturday July 14th a concert with arias from operettas by Strauss, Kalman, Lehar and Stolz called “Viennese Nights”. On Sunday July 15th the last performance of the opera “Zanetto” by Mascagni will be presented. For more information and ticket bookings you can call the bookstore IANOS at Tel: 210-321 7917 and the Apollon Theatre at 22810 85192.