

ATHENS

insider

Fast Lane



Festival of the Aegean 2007



PHOTO BY C. PICHONIS

This summer, Syros will host, for the third time, the Aegean Festival in the stunning Apollo Municipal Theater, also known as La Piccola Scala. Built in 1861, it was Greece's first opera house. However, during most of the past century, it was nothing more than a run-down movie theater. Finally, in the 1990's, the municipality of Syros gave it a much-needed face-lift, restoring it to its old splendor.

We met Peter Tiboris, founder and artistic director of the Aegean Festival, at the roof garden of the Grande Bretagne hotel. As soon as he greeted us, he expressed his enthusiasm for *Insider* magazine, but conversation quickly turned to the Festival.

Tiboris proudly declared that, with the first Aegean Festival he organized and directed in 2005, the sounds of opera once pervaded the Piccola Scala with *Barbiere de Siviglia*.

This year's festival runs from July 11 to 22. It will include opera, jazz and *rembetika*. The program has been carefully prepared by its artistic director and the staff of his agency, MidAmerica Productions.

At the age of 36, Tiboris, of second-generation Greek origin, decided to leave his job as a music professor in Louisiana and moved with his family to New York. There, in 1984, he founded MidAmerica Productions, which he proudly calls a success. During the past twenty years, MidAmerica Productions has produced 800 concerts worldwide and has a staff of 39 people.

On Syros, Tiboris will conduct the Bohuslav Martinu Philharmonic from the Czech Republic in the opening gala of the Festival. Greek soprano Irini Tsakaridis will enchant the audience with Beethoven's "Ah Perfido!" As an opera premiere for Greece, Tiboris is presenting Mascagni's, *Zanetto*, with world-acclaimed Finnish soprano Eilana Lappalainen and mezzo Jennifer Larmore holding the lead roles. As Maestro Tiboris explains, this opera of Mascagni, which lasts only 45 minutes, was originally written by its composer as a prelude for *Cavalleria Rusticana*. At the end of July, Tiboris will undertake a recording of this opera with the same artists.

The Festival will continue with theater performances of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* by the Aquila Theater Company and its artistic director Peter Meineck. The novel element in this production is letting the audience choose the actor for each role. Before choosing, the audience will be entitled to a brief introduction given by each actor. This innovative approach involves extensive preparations by the performers, since each must know how to interpret all the roles in the play. The play will be in English with Greek subtitles.

Modern tastes will be addressed with performances by Greek jazz groups Human Touch with David Lynch, and the Stratos Vougas Jazz Quartet. As the director of the Festival reveals, these jazz performances will be given by musicians of a very high level. A Greek *rembetika* evening with free entrance will take place in the lovely Miaouli Square of Ermoupolis. And in another innovative move, the group, Taximi, four Greeks based in Sweden, will enchant audiences with Greek music played on ancient instruments.

The Aegean Festival is a big challenge for its founder. Tiboris has recently bought a house on Syros, which will permit him to spend more time there. He admits being extremely lucky and happy about the opportunity that was given to him to create this event. "Syros, for me, is the Salzburg of the Aegean," he says, "and I look forward to the Festival's future growth on this beautiful island."

LENI KONIALIDIS

For further information, consult www.festivaloftheaegean.com or contact Irini Vouzelakou at 210 7016413, vouzelakou@in.gr
For ticket reservations, please contact Dimitra Garantzioti at +30.693.248.3079.

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

Island of Syros, in the Cyclades, Greece
Apollo Municipal Theater "La Piccola Scala"



Eilana Lappalainen



Peter Tiboris



Jennifer Larmore

July 11, 2007 – Gala Opening of the Festival
Peter Tiboris, *Conductor*
The Bohuslav Martinů Philharmony (Czech Republic)
Irimi Tsirakidis, *soprano*
Verdi: Overture to *La forza del destino*
Beethoven: "Ah, Perfido!"
Beethoven: Symphony No. 5 in C Minor, Op. 67

July 12, 13, 15, 2007
Peter Tiboris, *Conductor*
Carol Castel, *Stage Director*
The Bohuslav Martinů Philharmony (Czech Republic)
Eilana Lappalainen, *soprano*
Jennifer Larmore, *mezzo-soprano*
Todd Geer, *tenor*
William Powers, *bass-baritone*

Mascagni: *Zanetto* (Greek Premiere)
Sylvia - Eilana Lappalainen, *soprano*
Zanetto - Jennifer Larmore, *mezzo-soprano*

Opera Highlights
Verdi: "Ella giammai m'amo!" from *Don Carlo*
Ponchielli: "Cielo e mar" from *La Gioconda*
Verdi: "Dio che nell'alma infondere" (The Friendship Duet)
from *Don Carlo*
Verdi: "Ritorna vincitor" from *Aida*
Bellini: "In mia man alfin tu sei" from *Norma*
Cilea: "Acerba voluttà" from *Adriana Lecouvreur*
Rossini: "Oh, che muso" from *L'italiana in Algeri*
Donizetti: "Dio, che mi vedi in core," "Al par del mio,"
"Va, infelice, e teo reca" from *Anna Bolena*
Verdi: "Libiamo, ne' lieti calici" from *La Traviata*

July 14, 2007 – Vienna Night in Syros
Gerhard Track, *Guest Conductor*
The Bohuslav Martinů Philharmony (Czech Republic)
Melody Kielisch, *soprano*
Giorgio Aristo Mikroutsikos, *tenor*
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*
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, *Artistic Director*

July 20, 2007
Stratos Vougas Jazz Quartet

July 21, 2007 – Rebetika from Sweden
Taximi
This concert will take place in Miaouli Square (Platea).
This event is free and open to the public.

July 22, 2007
Human Touch with David Lynch



All Performances begin at 21:00 (9:00 PM)

Tickets for the Festival of the Aegean will be available June 1. Ticket prices are €10 - €20.
For more information please call in Athens: 30 6932 483079, or in Syros 30 22810 85192; fax in Syros 30 22810 85193;
or see our website: www.festivaloftheaegean.com

Schedule and artists subject to change without notice.

Photo of Peter Tiboris by CIA/La