

The beautiful Syros, the island of Art, Culture and Music, hosts this year, for the third time, an worldwide known festivity - the Festival of the Aegean Sea - with the participation of world- and national-known artists under the guidance of the famous American conductor and artistic director - of Greek origin - Peter Tiboris. It is one of the most interesting festivals of the Mediterranean countries that takes advantage and promotes the cosmopolitan features and special cultural tradition of the island.



FESTIVAL OF THE AEGEAN

Where cosmopolitan beauty meets the magic of music By Chrysa Drakopoulou



Unique nights that will meet the expectations of the most demanding audience via an artistically rich, of high quality, classical music and exceptional aesthetics is what should be expected from the festival. All performances will take place in the Apollo Municipal Theater, a masterpiece of the 19th century, a theater of exceptional acoustic, the historical Apollon (known as "La Piccola Scala") was modeled after Milan's famed La Scala Opera House that was commissioned on 1864 and the first performance was "Riggoletto" by Giuseppe Verdi.

The emphasis is still on vocal and orchestral music, but this year the festival not only includes theater, but also jazz and rempetika songs that will attract wider range of audience from Greece and abroad.

Among others, the programme includes a fully staged performance of Pietro Mascagni's opera "Zanetto", directed by Carol Caster, having as soloists the famous Finnish-American soprano, Eilana Lappalainen and the American Jennifer Larmore, one of the most famous mezzo-sopranos of our times. In the second part, the two great sopranos, along with the tenor Attila Fekete and the bassbaritone William Powers will take part in a gala vocal of famous arias and passages from the operas La Traviata, Anna Bolena, Don Carlo, Norma, La Gioconda and other. [12, 13 and 15 July].

PeterTiboris will lead the Czech Bohuslav Martinu Philarmony in the performance of Zanetto, as well as the Festival's opening concert (11 July) and Symphony no. 41 (Jupiter Symphony) by Mozart Symphony no. 5 by Beethoven. Eirini Tsirakidou, a Greek soprano of international status will perform the aria concert "Ah, Perfido!" by Beethoven.

In 14 July, the guest Viennese conductor and composer, Gerhart Track, together with the mezzo-soprano Melody Kielisch and tenor Giorgio Aristo as soloists will take the audience in Syros to a journey to old Vienna via passages from beloved light operas by Johann Strauss, Franz Lehar, Robert Stolz and Emerich Kal-

Soloists Jennifer Larmore and William Powers will provide us with an exceptional vocal recital in 17 July. The distinguished American pianists Raymond Hughes of the Metropolitan Opera and Norman Dunfee of MidAmerica Productions from New York will take part by performing Schubert's Fantasia in f minor, play 104 for piano and four hands.

The Acquila Theatre of New York will present two unique performances of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet (with Greek superscription), directed by Peter Meineck. Acquila Theatre Company, one of the most active and established theatrical organizations in New York, has become worldwide famous and earned great distinctions for its daring, modern and pioneering approaches to ancient and classical drama plays.

The festival's closing events are to great jazz groups, Stratos Vougas Quartet (20 Julyl and Human Touch, a group of David Lynch, Stavros Lantsias and Yotis Kiourtsoglou (22 July). On the previous day a concert with traditional music from Asia Minor by the groups TAXIMI, which is composed by Greek musicians living abroad (21 July).





