



### Article from *Il Tempo*

He is one of those individuals you never tire of listening to. This Greek American conductor and producer, Peter Tiboris (already acclaimed on the podium for his performance production of *Le Corsaire* and *Peer Gynt* at Teatro di Roma) is now in Italy for a series of five evenings of an all Ravel Ballet in Teatro di Verona (February 18-23).

Tiboris is not only a talented conductor but also a leading entrepreneur who has been producing and conducting classical music for 30 years at historic Carnegie Hall in New York City.

He is also the artistic director of a unique festival called Festival of the Aegean that takes place every July in Greece. Tiboris is also a collector of famous batons including those owned and used by Arturo Toscanini, Leonard Bernstein, Frederick Chopin, and Giuseppe Sinopoli and owns the first editions of *Don Giovanni* (full score) and Rossini's *Stabat Mater* (choral score).

### Why is Carnegie Hall so important?

Carnegie Hall is a world famous concert hall because of its acoustics and history. It was built by Andrew Carnegie in 1891 and Tchaikovsky was the first to conduct in the concert hall. It also had concerts conducted by Dvorak, Stravinsky, Schoenberg, Ives, Gershwin, Bartok, Glass, von Karajan, Bernstein, and Mahler to name a few.

For a century there were two concert halls (Carnegie Hall and Weill Recital Hall) while a third smaller hall of 600 seats was added a decade ago called Zankel Hall. It is ideal for symphonic and chamber music. Great and world famous artists and orchestras like Caruso, Callas, Mitropoulos, Furtwangler, Bruno Walter, and of course Toscanini performed here with the NBC Orchestra for many years.

**You have been in Carnegie Hall for many years now. What is your role?**

MidAmerica Productions has held 550 concerts in Carnegie Hall. It is among Carnegie Hall's largest producer of classical music. Carnegie Hall can be leased out to independent producers. MidAmerica is one of the most active in Carnegie Hall. Performing in historic Carnegie hall is a very important musical experience.

**How do you feel about the American music public? What is the secret of a successful producer like you?**

The public is generally conservative. Contemporary music is performed but only those with special interests seek it out.

**Any stories?**

Bruno Walter, for instance, conducted with a very small gesture in leading the New York Philharmonic. A bassist brought out a binocular as a joke to let him know that he could not see clearly his conducting gesture. After the break, Walter attached a piece of paper to the stick saying, "You are fired".

Another time, von Karajan while rehearsing with the Vienna Philharmonic thought he felt an earthquake. He was told it was the subway passing under the theater, he said, "stop the subway".

**What did you do?**

All the pianists rely on Steinway pianos for decades at Carnegie Hall. Only Vladimir Horowitz wanted to perform with his personal Steinway piano. Living at the Dakota where other famous people lived, he had his instrument lowered from his fourth floor window. Once in the theater he had it moved all over the place until he found the right spot for the sound. Two stagehands marked two "h's" on the stage to remember the perfect position for Horowitz.

**How many orchestras are there in New York and what is the relationship with the schools of music?**

There are 22 symphonic orchestras that work, some full time. Many orchestra professors teach at the Juilliard School at the Lincoln Center.

**It is the concert hall that makes the director, or the name of the director that makes the concert hall?**

The concert hall. Anyone who has come to Carnegie Hall has received an honor. It is like "La Scala di Milano". Carnegie Hall hosts not only classical music but also jazz, pop, and other genres.

Yes, here, the cultural barriers amongst the different genres have been reduced for decades. Carnegie Hall is a temple for classical music.

**What was the most exciting moment in Italy?**

Being able to conduct Cherubini's *Requiem* in the Duomo of Monreale and also concerts in Parma and Roma.

**Is it true that you also organize and conduct a festival of music in the Aegean in Greece?**

My family origins are Greek. For the last 35 years I have been travelling to Greece and 10 years ago I discovered the island of Syros, the capital of the Cyclades, which has a beautiful opera house built by the Italians from the same architects as La Scala di Milano in 1864.

In 2005 I directed *The Barber of Seville*. Most interesting is the ceiling of the theater where there are painted medallions of composers but not Beethoven or Bach, however Bellini, Verdi, Donizetti, and Rossini, together with Dante and Mozart. And the other three medallions in the center represent Homer, Aeschylus, and Euripides in honor of the Greeks. Why? Because without the Greeks there would be no theater and without the theater there would be no opera.