

The MidAmerica Productions, Inc.

Commits

\$100,000

Through 2034

**FOR A NEW INTERNATIONAL CHORAL
CONDUCTING COMPETITION**

Prize recipient to receive \$10,000 and Carnegie Hall debut performance. One awardee will be chosen each year between 2024 and 2035, for \$100,000 in total prize monies.

On the heels of an enormously successful, sold-out, 40th-anniversary concert, which showcased Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 "Ode to Joy" conducted by Peter Tiboris and John Rutter's "Magnificat," MidAmerica Productions, Inc. is pleased to announce the establishment of the MidAmerica Productions, Inc. International Choral Conducting Competition; an annual prize of \$10,000 and a solo conducting opportunity on stage at Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage at Carnegie Hall to a deserving young choral conductor between the ages of 25-35. With the total pledge reaching \$100,000 by January 7, 2034, marking the 50th anniversary of MidAmerica Productions, Inc., this initiative is a testament to Peter Tiboris's commitment to nurturing talent and ensuring the continuation of musical excellence in the world of choral music.

The recipient of this unique award will not only be given a financial grant but also benefit from mentorship with Peter Tiboris himself and MidAmerica Productions, Inc. staff conductors. Additionally, the award provides an extraordinary opportunity for the awardee to showcase their talent on the prestigious Perelman stage at Carnegie Hall. Tiboris, the renowned conductor and visionary behind MidAmerica Productions, Inc., expressed his enthusiasm for the fellowship, stating, "I believe in fostering the next generation of conductors. This corporate grant is a way for me to contribute to the future of choral music and provide these artists with the support they need to grow."

Specific details will be announced shortly and applications will be accepted by or before September 1, 2024. An announcement of the award will be made by October 1, 2024.

For further information and to sign up to be notified when submissions open, visit www.midamerica-music.com/choralconductingcompetition

Julie Kahn, Prize Coordinator
jkahn@midamerica-music.com
310-795-6278

Details on Applying:

Applicants will need to submit a written application detailing some of their background and education in choral music, and including short answers to the following prompts:

- *What has motivated you to apply for this conducting award?*
 - *Describe your choral conducting background.*
 - *To date, who has been your greatest musical influence?*

In addition to the written portion, all applicants must include a video submission including both of the following videos:

- *Up to 30-minute video of one or two musical work(s) that you are leading in a rehearsal or concert. There are no limitations on the type of repertoire you select for this video.*
- *Up to 5-minute video sharing your personal thoughts on choral conducting and how to achieve the best possible musical result from your preparation of music and performance.*

Judges and Judging:

There will be two levels of judging: preliminary with MidAmerica Conductors and a second round with International Conductors. Music Director Peter Tiboris will make the final decision upon reviewing the recommendations.

MidAmerica Choral Committee:

Matthew Harden - Interdisciplinary Ph.D. - Conservatory of Music, University of Missouri-KC
Conductor-in-Residence and Program Development Associate

Terre Johnson - Ph.D. - Florida State University
Distinguished Composer & Conductor Chair, The Fred and Dinah Gretsch School of Music Georgia Southern University

Stephen Pu - DMA - Claremont Graduate University
Conductor and Program Development Associate Artistic Director for the Hollywood Master Chorale Artistic Director, Voices of Love Chorus Los Angeles Music Faculty, Anaheim Elementary School District

Sonja Sepúlveda - DMA - University of South Carolina
Conductor-in-Residence and Program Development Associate Director of Program Development for MidAm International

Adam Stich - DMA - University of South Carolina
Conductor and Program Development Associate

Michael John Trotta - DMA - Louisiana State University
Distinguished Composer & Conductor

Candace Wicke - DMA - University of Miami
Conductor and Program Development Associate Founder, President, and Executive Director for The Continuo Arts Foundation

International Choral Committee:

Peter Tiboris, University of Illinois, Ed. D., Founder and General Music Director MidAmerica Productions, Inc., and MidAm International Inc. 1984 to present

John Rutter CBE - Cambridge, UK Composer and Conductor

Francis Bardot - France Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur

Chef de Choeur - Chef d'Orchestre Président de la Société Française des Chefs de Chœur
Founder and President : Academie Chorale D'ile de France

Mro. Alan Chircop - Malta Artistic Director - InClassica International Music Festival Abu Dhabi

Thomas Louziotis - Greece Choral Conductor and President of the Hellenic Choirs Association, Greece

Stefan Parkman - Sweden Prof. Hochschule für Musik

Carl Maria von Weber Dresden Prof. em Uppsala Universitet

MidAmerica Productions, Inc.

Peter Tiboris, General Director
Since 1983

2025 International Choral Conducting Competition

Thank you for your interest in our 2024/2025 International Choral Conducting Competition and Prize. A call for applications from conductors worldwide has been announced and competition participants will now be chosen based on a preliminary screening of video submissions. See page three of the application for more specifics on the award. Please note we must receive a minimum of 30 applications by the deadline date of July 15, 2024, for the evaluations and a decision to occur.

Before proceeding, do you meet the following criteria:

1. At the date of this application, are you between the ages of 25 and 35
2. You have NOT conducted previously in Carnegie Hall

If you meet the above criteria, please complete the digital application form which can be found [HERE](#).

A copy of the application questions can be found below for your convenience:

Today's Date: _____

Name: _____

Email address: _____

Mobile Telephone: __ (AC) _____

Office Telephone: __ (AC) _____

Home Country Residency: _____

What is the most recent degree you completed? Please include where and when you completed it.

What has motivated you to apply for this conducting award?

In 300 words or less, describe your choral conducting background.

To date, who has been your greatest musical influence?

List up to four of the works you have conducted; please include the date and where this performance took place:

1. Composer/work _____ Location _____ Date _____
2. Composer/work _____ Location _____ Date _____
3. Composer/work _____ Location _____ Date _____
4. Composer/work _____ Location _____ Date _____

List four compositions you have NOT conducted but are at the top of your wish list to conduct; please include the composer:

1. Composer/Composition _____
2. Composer/Composition _____
3. Composer/Composition _____
4. Composer/Composition _____

Prepare the following video, including both parts listed below, *upload it to YouTube, and provide a link:

1. **Up to a 30-minute video of one or two musical work(s) that you are leading in a rehearsal or concert. It can be a one-camera video, but it needs to be a front view of your conducting (recording from the musicians' viewpoint, showing your gestures). There are no limitations as to the type of repertoire you select for this video. The evaluation of your conducting will be done from the video you submit.**
2. **Up to a 5-minute video of your personal thoughts on choral conducting and how to achieve the best possible musical result from your preparation of music and performance. You can address the following issues, for example, and more:**
 - a. Why is music important, and choral music in particular?
 - b. What drew you to become a conductor?
 - c. What are your short-term and long-term goals?

*When uploading your video to YouTube, upload it as an unlisted video and do not add any identifying information as we intend to keep the judging anonymous.

YouTube Video Link: _____

Please submit your application via the digital application form found [HERE](#).

Thank you for taking the time to complete this application. You will receive an email confirming we have received your application and video.

See the following page for more specifics.

Specifics Concerning the Award

Applications and videos are due by July 15, 2024. By or before October 15, 2024, a winner will be announced by Music Director Peter Tiboris. There will be significant press coverage of the winner of this decision.

Immediately, there will be a discussion with the awardee regarding a concert date between March 15, 2025, and June 3, 2025, in Carnegie Hall, as well as the issue of repertoire with Music Director Peter Tiboris.

The \$10,000 will be given to the winner on the night of the performance.

Once a date is agreed upon, know that the following parameters exist:

- The length of the performance cannot exceed 25 minutes of music time or 30 minutes of stage time with or without members of the residency New England Symphonic Ensemble (NESE). Without NESE, the performance will be acapella.
- The repertoire for this Carnegie Hall appearance must be approved by Music Director Peter Tiboris.
 - See page 10 for suggested repertoire for the performance.
 - You may also suggest a selection for consideration and approval.
- It will be necessary for the winner to come to NYC for five days/four nights for rehearsals and the performance. MidAmerica Productions will provide accommodations and up to \$1000 in travel expenses.
- The choir presented in Carnegie Hall must be 40 to 60 voices. The winner can bring their own choir—there is a special MidAmerica residency package that each person will need to purchase, OR the winner can request that a local choir from the Tri-State area be prepared and ready for them to come and rehearse for the performance in Carnegie Hall. The costs related to this choir's appearance will be absorbed by MidAmerica Productions.
- Soloists, if they are necessary for the approved work, will be provided by MidAmerica Productions Casting Director Eilana Lappalainen.
- Photography of the concert will be done and provided by MidAmerica Productions.
- There will NOT be a video recording of the performance in Carnegie Hall.

Judges and Judging:

There will be two levels of judging: preliminary with MidAmerica Conductors and second round with International Conductors. Music Director Peter Tiboris will make the final decision upon reviewing the recommendations.

International Choral Committee:

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Mrs. Alan Chircop - Malta
Artistic Director - InClassica International Music Festival Abu Dhabi

Thomas Louziotis - Greece
Choral Conductor and President of the Hellenic Choirs Association, Greece

Stefan Parkman - Sweden
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Choral Conducting Competition Criteria

A note on the evaluation process of your musical performance as exhibited on video submission. The criteria below are not in any preferential order but they will guide the viewer/evaluators as to what your performance results in.

The choral conducting competition criteria are as follows:

In addition to your own conducting technique, we will observe how your conducting affects the quality of the choir's performance. You may conduct with or without a baton and with or without a score.....whatever you prefer.

Rhythmic Accuracy- Do you portray your beat patterns, entrance cues, cut-offs, tempo changes, fermati, and other rhythmic variances clearly and accurately? Does your choir enter, sing, and cut off in unison and with precision throughout the work?

Dynamic Clarity- Do you communicate dynamics, crescendi, and decrescendi effectively? Does your choir sing with dynamic variance during these changes?

Musical Expression- Do you conduct with passion and emotion that is suggested by the tonality, harmonies, lyrics, style, and context of the work that you have chosen?

A great performance should include these six aesthetic conditions (from the writings of Philosopher and Aesthetician Suzanne Langer) Unity, Complexity, Intensity, Proportion, Blend, and Balance. Do you exhibit attention to these musical concerns in your performance?

MIDAMERICA PRODUCTIONS, INC. at 40 Years

Peter Tiboris created and conducted his first concert in New York on January 7, 1984, at Lincoln Center, featuring The American Symphony Orchestra, soloists, and three choruses, the Louisiana Chorale of Acadiana, Camerata Singers of Baton Rouge, and Collegiate Chorale of New York. Although he didn't realize it at the time, Mr. Tiboris had just created his own, successful, production company, MidAmerica Productions, which was to become the foremost independent producer of choral concerts in Stern Auditorium / Perelman Stage at Carnegie Hall.

During its 40 years, MidAmerica Productions has brought together conductors, soloists, and choral and instrumental ensembles from the U.S. and abroad to appear at New York's top venues, including Stern Auditorium / Perelman Stage, Weill Recital Hall, and Zankel Hall at Carnegie Hall; and Alice Tully Hall and Avery Fisher Hall (now David Geffen Hall) at Lincoln Center. Additionally, MidAmerica Productions has presented concerts in numerous U.S. cities and in countries throughout the world, including Greece, England, Austria, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Italy, France, Portugal, and Russia.

MidAmerica Productions' concerts have showcased choral groups singing oratorios with talented conductors, full orchestra, and professional soloists; individual instrumental and choral groups performing as part of the Ensemble Spotlight Series; and solo recitals. Diverse programs have included Madrigal Festivals, Vocal Jazz Festivals, National Wind Ensemble, National Festival Youth Orchestra, and Sweet Adelines. Among the renowned guest conductors who have led MidAmerica's concerts are John Rutter (who has conducted more than 130 concerts in Stern Auditorium / Perelman Stage at Carnegie Hall), Sherrill Milnes, Lukas Foss, Helmuth Rilling, H. Robert Reynolds, JoAnne Falletta, Michael Morgan, and Jonathan Willcocks. More than 800 conductors have conducted on MidAmerica's series in New York and abroad, sharing the stage with 1300 solo artists from the world's greatest opera companies and concert stages, and 3700 choral ensembles from the U.S. and abroad. There have been 174 youth and collegiate orchestras as well as 146 youth and collegiate bands, jazz bands, and wind ensembles.

Over the years, MidAmerica has commissioned new works and presented numerous premieres in Stern Auditorium / Perelman Stage at Carnegie Hall and Avery Fisher Hall. World premieres have included Dinos Constantinides' *Byron's Greece*, *Hymn to the Human Spirit*, and *Midnight Fantasy II* for wind ensemble; John Rutter's *Cantate Domino*, *Distant Land*, *Magnificat*, and *Mass of the Children*; and John Leavitt's *A Christmas Garland*. U.S. premieres have featured new and older works such as Mozart's *Die Schuldigkeit des ersten Gebots*, Reimann's *Concerto for Violin and Cello*, Tchaikovsky's *Ode to Joy*, Mikis Theodorakis' *Electra* and *Rhapsody for Cello and Orchestra*, and René Clausen's *Hellas: In the Name of Freedom*. In 2015, John Rutter conducted the New York premiere of his work, *Canticles of Creation*; in 2018, he returned to conduct the Carnegie Hall premiere of his major work, *Visions*, in 2023 he returned again to conduct the NY premiere of his work, *Taranto: A Cathedral Triptych*.

In addition to its Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage series, MidAmerica Productions has presented nearly 400 chamber music concerts in Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall since 1989. Distinguished soloists, chamber ensembles, and members of orchestras such as the New York Philharmonic, The Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, The Philadelphia Orchestra, Atlanta Symphony, and the Los Angeles Philharmonic have appeared on MidAmerica's chamber music series.

MIDAMERICA PRODUCTIONS, INC. and MIDAM INTERNATIONAL, INC.

Concerts Worldwide: **1,463**

Concerts in New York: **1,130**

Concerts in Stern Auditorium / Perelman Stage at Carnegie Hall: **672**

Concerts in Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall: **384**

Concerts in David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center: **21**

Concerts in Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center: **11**

Concerts at the Festival of the Aegean (Hermoupolis, Syros, Greece): **189**

Concerts in Europe (Austria, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Russia, United Kingdom, Yugoslavia): **81**

World Premieres: **92**

US Premieres: **21**

NY Premieres: **99**

Choral Ensembles: **3,560**

Guest Conductors: **826**

Guest Soloists: **1,342**

Youth and Collegiate Orchestras: **173**

Youth and Collegiate Bands, Jazz Bands, and Wind Ensembles: **145**

PETER TIBORIS, Founder, General Music Director, and Conductor

Greek-American conductor, music director, and impresario Peter Tiboris has been a vital presence on the international music scene for more than 50 years.

As General and Music Director of MidAmerica Productions in New York since its founding in 1983, Mr. Tiboris has presented more than 1,400 concerts worldwide, including in Carnegie Hall and at other New York City venues including Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher (now David Geffen) Hall and Alice Tully Hall (the site of his January 7, 1984, New York debut with the American Symphony Orchestra). In 2004 he founded MidAm International, which produces concerts in major European cultural centers including Paris, Vienna, Salzburg, Florence, Lisbon, Prague, Berlin, Warsaw, Athens, Moscow, and St. Petersburg. In 2005, he created the International Festival of the Aegean on the Greek island of Syros in the Cyclades where he presented international-caliber performances of opera, oratorios, concerti, symphonic works, Greek folk music, jazz, theater, and ballet. In 2011, the Festival was named "Best cultural organization operating in the wider region of Greece" by the Awards Committee of Music Critics of the Union of Greek Theatre and Music Critics in Athens.

Mr. Tiboris has a vast repertoire, ranging from major choral works to countless symphonies, operas, and ballets, including numerous world and American premieres. Among the distinguished orchestras Mr. Tiboris has conducted are London's Royal Philharmonic and Philharmonia Orchestras, Niedersächsische Orchester Hannover, Virtuosi di Praga, Brno Philharmonic, National Opera Orchestra of Cairo, American Symphony Orchestra, Moscow Radio and Television Symphony Orchestra, Société Philharmonique de Montréal, Israel Symphony Orchestra Rishon Le-Zion, Orchestra del Teatro dell'Opera di Roma, Orchestra di Verona, and Orchestra di Siciliana di Palermo. His ballet engagements have included the Balletto di Verona and the Teatro dell'Opera di Roma, whose production of Peer Gynt with director/choreographer Renato Zanella was named "Ballet of the Year" by *Danza e Danza Magazine*. In 2016, he made his Asian debut with the Macau Orchestra and Taipei Philharmonic Chorus in Macau, China.

In 1995 Maestro Tiboris founded Elysium Recordings, which has a catalogue of 27 releases (ten of which feature him as conductor), with other notables including pianist Dimitris Sgouros, members of the New York Philharmonic, and Lukas Foss. He has also recorded for Bridge Records and Albany Records. His discography includes the first commercial recording of Mascagni's opera *Silvano*; and world-premiere recordings of works by Beethoven, Mozart, and Schubert incorporating the Mahler "Retuschen," as well as David Rosen's critical edition of Verdi's *Requiem* (1874).

A Wisconsin native, Peter Tiboris studied music at the University of Wisconsin and received a doctorate from the University of Illinois.

PRESTON HAWES, Artistic Director, New England Symphonic Ensemble

Hailed by the European Academy of Arts and Sciences as an “electrifying and virtuosic” performer with “exquisite taste and rare talent,” Canadian violinist Dr. Preston Hawes is a laureate of the Concours de musique du Canada, the Andrews International Music Competitions, and the Prix de Musique de Chambre à Fontainebleau, and is a recipient of the J.C. Van Hulsteyn Award and Peabody Career Grant. He has been heard as a soloist in more than 35 countries and in venues such as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, and Plovdiv Symphony Hall. Having earned a Master of Music degree and the coveted Artist Diploma at Yale University, Dr. Hawes completed his studies by earning a Doctorate of Musical Arts from The Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Hawes is a professor of music and director of strings at Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., and is the artistic director of the New England Symphonic Ensemble.

The New England Symphonic Ensemble (NESE), under the artistic direction of Dr. Preston Hawes, is among the most frequently featured organizations in Carnegie Hall. Since its inception in 1989, the NESE has drawn global critical acclaim in hundreds of concerts on the world’s most prestigious stages. In collaboration with MidAmerica Productions, the NESE has been led by a roster of guest conductors, including John Rutter, Peter Tiboris, Sherrill Milnes, Helmuth Rilling, Simon Carrington, and Jonathan Willcocks, and regularly hosts international guest soloists. NESE world premieres include Dinos Constantinides’ Byron’s Greece, Hymn to the Human Spirit, and Midnight Fantasy II for wind ensemble; John Rutter’s Cantate Domino, Distant Land, Magnificat, and Mass of the Children; and John Leavitt’s A Christmas Garland. The NESE boasts multiple U.S. premieres, including Mozart’s Die Schuldigkeit des ersten Gebots, Reimann’s Concerto for Violin and Cello, Tchaikovsky’s Ode to Joy, and René Clausen’s Hellas: In the Name of Freedom. The NESE can be heard on the Naxos label in an award-winning recording of spirituals with internationally renowned mezzo-soprano, the late Barbara Smith Conrad.

Suggested Repertoire for a performance in Carnegie Hall. Other repertoire can be proposed. The maximum time cannot exceed 25 minutes of music or 30 minutes of stage time. Two works can be selected, but the combined length cannot exceed 25 minutes.

Composer	Title	Length
Amy Beach	Festival Jubilate	20 minutes
Johannes Brahms	Warum ist das Licht gegeben	12 minutes
Benjamin Britten	A Hymn to St. Cecilia	12 minutes
Benjamin Britten	Rejoice in the Lamb	16 minutes
David Conte	September Sun	17 minutes
Henryk Gorecki	Totus Tuus op. 60	12 minutes
Thomas Juneau	5 Latin Motets	16 minutes
Josquin Desprez	Missa Pange Lingua	29 minutes
Morten Lauridsen	Les Chansons des Roses	17 minutes
Morten Lauridsen	Lux Aeterna	27 minutes
Morten Lauridsen	Mid-Winter Songs	19 minutes
Frank Martin	Mass for double choir	26 minutes
Marianna Martines	Dixit Dominus	24 minutes
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	Mass in C Major "Coronation"	26 minutes
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	Vesperae solennes de confessore	26 minutes
Alice Parker	Heavenly Hurt	17 minutes
Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina	Missa Papae Marcelli	26 minutes
Vincent Persichetti	Mass op 84	20 minutes
Francis Poulenc	Figure humaine	20 minutes
Josef Rheinberger	Mass in E-flat major	25 minutes
John Rutter	Fancies	16 minutes
Alfred Schnittke	Concerto for Choir	15 minutes
Randall Thompson	The Peaceable Kingdom	18 minutes
Ralph Vaughan Williams	A Lark Ascending (choral version)	15 minutes
Ralph Vaughan Williams	Five Mystical Songs (organ only)	22 minutes
Ralph Vaughan Williams	Mass in G minor	25 minutes
Antonio Vivaldi	Gloria RV589	27 minutes

Please contact Matthew Harden, Conductor-in-residence and Program Development Associate, at mharden@midamerica-music.com or (402) 332-8990 with any questions you may have.