

Presented at Carnegie Hall by
MidAmerica Productions, Inc.

1,510th Concert Worldwide, 1,170th in New York, 714th in Carnegie Hall

Peter Tiboris: Founder and General Director Emeritus

Sir John Rutter, CBE: Conductor Laureate

Saturday, June 7, 2025 at 8:30 PM
Isaac Stern Auditorium / Ronald O. Perelman Stage

New England Symphonic Ensemble

Preston Hawes, Artistic Director and Concertmaster

JOHANN
SEBASTIAN BACH

Magnificat, BWV 243

- I. Magnificat anima mea
- II. Et exsultavit
- III. Quia respexit
- IV. Omnes generationes
- V. Quia fecit
- VI. Et misericordia
- VII. Fecit potentiam
- VIII. Deposuit
- IX. Esurientes
- X. Suscepit Israel
- XI. Sicut locutus
- XII. Gloria Patri

Jennifer Zetlan, Soprano
Vianca Alejandra, Soprano
Sarah Scotfield, Mezzo-Soprano
David Walton, Tenor
Brian Montgomery, Baritone
Bálint Karosi, Organ
Matthew Myers, Conductor

Participating Choruses:

Palouse Choral Society, Pullman, WA (Matthew Myers, Director)
Washington State University Choirs, Pullman, WA (Matthew Myers, Director)
Valdosta State University Choir Alumni, Valdosta, GA (Clell E. Wright, Director)

This evening's program is continued on the following page.

WOLFGANG
AMADEUS MOZART

Vesperae solennes de confessore, K. 339

- I. Dixit
- II. Confitebor
- III. Beatus vir
- IV. Laudate pueri
- V. Laudate Dominum
- VI. Magnificat

Jennifer Zetlan, Soprano
Sarah Scofield, Mezzo-Soprano
David Walton, Tenor
Brian Montgomery, Baritone
Bálint Karosi, Organ
Clell E. Wright, Conductor

Participating Choruses:

Colorado Springs Youth Choir, Colorado Springs, CO (Katy Crumpton, Director)

Palouse Choral Society, Pullman, WA (Matthew Myers, Director)

Stellar Choir Dublin, Dublin, Ireland (Thomas Kehoe, Director)

Washington State University Choirs, Pullman, WA (Matthew Myers, Director)

Valdosta State University Choir Alumni, Valdosta, GA (Clell E. Wright, Director)

INTERMISSION

ASTOR PIAZZOLLA Concerto for Bandoneón and Orchestra

ASTOR PIAZZOLLA *Adiós Nonino*

ASTOR PIAZZOLLA “Ave Maria”

ASTOR PIAZZOLLA *Oblivion*

Renata Vari, Soprano
Juanjo Mosalini, Bandoneon
Filippo Arlia, Conductor

Please hold your applause until the end of multi-movement works.

Rodgers is the Official House Organ of Carnegie Hall.

The Program

Program notes for this performance are available in the digital playbill at midamerica-music.com/programnotes0607 or by scanning the QR code below:



Please note that the use of any type of mobile device during the performance is strictly prohibited.

The Artists



Matthew Myers, Conductor

Dr. Matthew Myers serves as associate director of choral activities and assistant professor of choral music education at Washington State University in Pullman, Washington. There, he conducts the University Singers and Treble Choir and teaches choral methods, conducting, and voice pedagogy. He also serves as artistic director of the Palouse Choral Society, a 150-voice community choir serving the region. He earned his doctoral degree in choral conducting at Louisiana State

University, his master's degree in choral conducting at Northern Arizona University, and his bachelor's degree in vocal performance and music education at Luther College. He has worked with middle school, high school, university, church, and community choirs in Iowa, Illinois, Arizona, Louisiana, and Alabama. He is a frequent choral clinician, guest conductor, presenter, and adjudicator, as well as co-host of the *Choir Fam* podcast. He conducted the WSU Treble Choir in performance at the Northwest NafME conference in Bellevue, Washington in February 2023, and the Palouse Choral Society at the Northwest NafME conference in Spokane, Washington in February 2025. He serves the American Choral Directors Association as the Northwest ACDA regional membership chair and as a member of the Washington ACDA Diversity Initiatives Committee.



Jennifer Zetlan, Soprano

Soprano Jennifer Zetlan is internationally recognized for her artistry and captivating stage presence. She has been seen and heard on opera and concert stages worldwide, as well as on Broadway. In the current season, she is seen in Ricky Ian Gordon's *The Tibetan Book of the Dead* with Grand Rapids Opera. Additionally, she is taking part in numerous workshops of new operas with American Lyric Theater and Works&Process at the Guggenheim as well as

a forthcoming recording of Louis Karchin's *Tribute to the Angels*. Last season, she was seen as Eurydice in the deaf opera project *Orpheus & Erica* with Victory Hall Opera. At the Metropolitan Opera, Zetlan has been seen in productions of *War and Peace* (2nd French actress), *Boris Godunov* (Xenia), *Le nozze di Figaro* (bridesmaid), *Macbeth* (bloody child), and *Two Boys* (Rebecca). Zetlan is a committed performer of orchestral works, and has performed with the New York Philharmonic, Milwaukee Symphony

Orchestra, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Lexington Philharmonic, the Indianapolis Symphony, American Composers' Orchestra, Juilliard Orchestra, Omaha Symphony, Baltimore Symphony, and National Chorale. Zetlan is on the voice faculty of the Mannes College of Music.

Vianca Alejandra, Soprano

Vianca Alejandra is a soprano from Puerto Rico. Recent achievements include her Carnegie Hall debut, receiving a Lotos Foundation Prize in the Arts and Sciences, and winning the Puerto Rico District of the Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition. She joined the New York Philharmonic Chorus in 2022. In 2023, she debuted as Kathie in *The Student Prince* with Regina Opera (Brooklyn, New York) and as Pamina at the International Summer Opera Festival of Morelia, Mexico. Last summer, she performed the role of Norina in *Don Pasquale* at the Festival of the Aegean in Greece. She is a former assistant conductor to Maestro Malcolm J. Merriweather at The Dessoff Choirs and holds a master's degree in voice performance from Brooklyn College, where she received the departmental Opera-Theater Award. At the age of 16, she had the privilege of studying with the late Puerto Rican tenor Antonio Barasorda at the Conservatory of Music of Puerto Rico. At 17, she debuted as a soloist in the *Concierto Tradicional de Reyes* with the Puerto Rico Symphony Orchestra under Maestro Roselín Pabón.



Sarah Scofield, Mezzo-Soprano

Noted for her “playful performance” and wit on stage, French-American mezzo-soprano Sarah Scofield is a versatile artist dedicated to telling stories to and for anyone who will listen. As a Utah Opera resident artist in the 2023–2024 season, Scofield made her professional operatic debut singing the role of the Fox in Utah Opera’s production of Rachel Portman and Nicholas Wright’s *The Little Prince*. She covered the role of Cherubino in *Le Nozze di Figaro* and will perform the role of Myrtille in *Thaïs*. Scofield will return to Utah Opera in the 2024–2025 season to appear as Der Sandmännchen in *Hänsel und Gretel*, while also covering the title role of Hänsel, and will perform as Kate Pinkerton in Matthew Ozawa’s critically acclaimed production of *Madama Butterfly*.





David Walton, Tenor

Praised for his “plangent timbre,” David Walton dazzles stages across the country to critical acclaim as a versatile lyric tenor to watch. A favorite in the bel canto repertoire, Walton has frequently performed roles such as Ferrando in Mozart’s *Così fan tutte*, Tonio in Donizetti’s *La fille du régiment*, and Almaviva in Rossini’s *Il barbiere di Siviglia*. His voice has been described as “the sweetest singing of the evening ... a lyric tenor with strong Italianate stylings” (*Star*

Tribune), “a 21st-century Rossini tenor” (*Opera Warhorses*), and “smooth, lyrical, and capable of scaling the heights” (*Virginia Pilot*). In the 2024–2025 season, Walton brings his celebrated Almaviva in *Il barbiere di Siviglia* to Minnesota Opera and Madison Opera. He makes his debut with the South Florida Symphony as the title role in their staged *Candide*, debuts as Don Ottavio in *Don Giovanni* with Livermore Valley Opera, and returns to the South Dakota Symphony in an all-Bach/Mozart program.



Brian Montgomery, Baritone

Brian Montgomery has performed to critical acclaim with leading opera companies around the world, including the Metropolitan Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Arena di Verona, Bavarian State Opera, Hamburg State Opera, Stuttgart Opera, Hungarian State Opera, Basel Opera, Atlanta Opera, Dallas Opera, Manitoba Opera, Palm Beach Opera, Tulsa Opera, Opera Omaha, Utah Festival Opera, Arizona Opera, Glimmerglass Festival, New Orleans Opera,

and Madison Opera. At these prestigious companies, he has performed principal and title roles such as Enrico in *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Posa in *Don Carlo*, Germont in *La Traviata*, Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte*, Mercutio in *Roméo et Juliette*, Marcello and Schaunard in *La bohème*, Iago in *Otello*, Silvio in *Pagliacci*, Ottokar in *Der Freischütz*, Leander in *The Love for Three Oranges*, di Luna in *Il Trovatore*, Junius in *The Rape of Lucretia*, Macbeth in *Macbeth*, de Brétigny in Massenet’s *Manon*, and Renato in *Un Ballo in Maschera*, among others. Montgomery lived in China for 12 years, during which time he sang leading roles with the opera companies in Beijing, Shanghai, and Hong Kong. In 2015, he was engaged at the Metropolitan Opera for *Carmen*, and in 2016 he relocated to the New York area. In early 2019, he created the role of Frederick in New York City Opera’s world premiere of *Dear Eric* by Ted Rosenthal. He recently sang George Benton in *Dead Man Walking* with Opera Idaho and performed Don Alfonso in Mozart’s *Così fan tutte* in the *Opera Reads* series at Opera America. He is a valued concert soloist and voice teacher in New York City.

Clell E. Wright, Conductor

Dr. Clell E. Wright serves on the faculty of Valdosta State University as director of choral activities, where he leads five choral ensembles and teaches courses in choral conducting and choral repertoire. Prior to his appointment in 2019, Wright served for 18 years on the faculty of Hardin-Simmons University, where his choirs toured regionally, nationally, and internationally. His ensembles have performed for the American Choral Directors Association and the Georgia Music Educators Association and have been invited to perform in prestigious venues such as St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin, the Dom zu St. Jakob and Jesuitenkirche zu Heilige Dreifaltigkeit in Innsbruck, and Canongate Kirk in Edinburgh. His choirs have also been invited to sing for Mass at San Marco Basilica in Venice and for Evensong at Glasgow Cathedral in Scotland. Wright has also served as a conductor for MidAmerica Productions' Italian Choral Festival at the Duomo in Florence, Italy, and for their Carnegie Hall festival in New York City. He has conducted numerous large-scale choral-orchestral works, including Mozart's *Requiem*, Fauré's *Requiem*, Poulenc's *Gloria*, Haydn's *Creation*, and Handel's *Messiah*, among many others. He has also prepared choral works for performances with the Abilene Philharmonic Orchestra, the Fort Worth Chamber Orchestra, the Albany Symphony Orchestra, and the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra, where he currently serves as chorus master. Wright is active as a choral clinician and has been a guest conductor for several all-region and honor choirs. He has presented at conferences of the American Choral Directors Association, Texas Music Educators Association, Georgia Music Educators Association, and Texas Choral Directors Association. He holds degrees from Samford University, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and the University of Missouri–Kansas City Conservatory.



Filippo Arlia, Conductor

Filippo Arlia is an internationally acclaimed Italian pianist, conductor, and educator, widely regarded as one of the most brilliant and versatile musicians of his generation. He graduated in piano with the highest honors at just 17 and later earned a law degree from the “Magna Graecia” University. Arlia has performed as a soloist and conductor in more than 30 countries, appearing with prestigious orchestras including La Scala Chamber Orchestra, Toscanini Philharmonic, Cairo Symphony, Hungarian National Symphony, and Czech Philharmonic. His collaborations include renowned



artists such as Sergei Krylov, Michel Camilo, Sergei Nakariakov, Stefano Bollani, and Ilya Grubert. In 2008, he co-founded Duettango, a chamber ensemble focused on the music of Astor Piazzolla. The group's Carnegie Hall debut in 2015 received a standing ovation, and their award-winning recording with Fernando Suarez Paz earned both the Piazzolla Award and the Orpheus Award. Arlia is the founder and principal conductor of the Calabria Philharmonic Orchestra and currently serves as director of the "P. I. Tchaikovsky" Institute in Nocera Terinese (CZ), where he teaches piano and orchestral conducting. He is also the director of several music programs on RAI TV. He has led performances at major venues including Carnegie Hall (New York), Prague Smetana Hall, Rudolfinum, Zurich Tonhalle, Budapest Liszt Hall, and Madrid's Auditorio Nacional, with a repertoire spanning Schubert, Tchaikovsky, Rossini, and Beethoven. As an advocate for music education, he regularly serves on juries for international competitions and conducts masterclasses around the world. In 2017, Arlia was honored with the Gold Medal from "La Sapienza" University of Rome. In 2025, he received the "Maria Callas" Prize from the Italian Cultural Institute in New York.



Renata Vari, Soprano

Romanian soprano Renata Vari continues to captivate audiences with her vocal power, broad range, and commanding stage presence. Most recently, she performed the role of Senta in *The Flying Dutchman* by Wagner in a German-language production at the State Opera in Magdeburg. A principal soloist at the Romanian Opera from Craiova, she has appeared in leading roles including Desdemona (*Otello*), Amelia (*A Masked Ball*), Hanna (*The Merry Widow*), and Countess Mariza. She has toured extensively in Italy, singing Abigaille (*Nabucco*) and Senta in over 75 performances across prestigious venues such as Teatro Sociale di Como, Teatro Reggio Torino, and Teatro Verdi di Trieste. Her concert appearances include Verdi's Requiem and Rossini's *Stabat Mater*. Vari is a laureate of the Elena Teodorini International Canto Competition and made her Carnegie Hall debut in 2025.

Juanjo Mosalini, Bandoneon

Juanjo Mosalini, born in Buenos Aires, is an internationally acclaimed bandoneonist, composer, and teacher. Rooted in the Argentine tradition, he blends classical tango with contemporary innovation, performing as a soloist in renowned venues such as the Philharmonie de Paris, London's Barbican Centre, and with the Seoul Philharmonic. He has collaborated with celebrated artists like Lalo Schiffrin, Gotan Project, and Toots Thielemans. His chamber duo with guitarist Vicente Bögeholz explores

Argentine rhythms, while his work with jazz bassist Olivier Sens delves into improvisation and electronic music. Founder of several ensembles, including the Mosalini-Teruggi Cuarteto, he actively promotes the bandoneon across genres. As a professor at the CRD of Gennevilliers, he leads Europe's first formal bandoneon class and directs the conservatory's tango orchestra. With over 30 years of experience, Mosalini is one of the leading figures of the Argentine musical avant-garde in Europe and a key ambassador of the bandoneon on the world stage.



Preston Hawes, New England Symphonic Ensemble Artistic Director and Concertmaster

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, Hawes completed his studies by earning a Doctorate of Musical Arts from the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University. Hawes is a professor of music and director of strings at Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Maryland, and is the artistic director of the New England Symphonic Ensemble.



New England Symphonic Ensemble

With performances described as “flawless” (*Rhodes Magazine*), 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's *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 US 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.

New England Symphonic Ensemble

First Violins

Funda Cizmecioglu
Agata Manka
Katie Pawluk
Celine Boulben
Dylan Ebrahimian
Katie Thomas
Everhard Parades
Greta Myatieva

Second Violins

Eun Jung Lee
Ana Milosavljevic
Marc Szammer
Amneris Puscasu
Marina Fragoulis
Rafailia Kapsokavadi
Aaron Boscanin
Adriana Molelo

Violas

Mitsuru Kubo
Dudley Raine IV
Thomas Purcell
Surai Balbeisi
Moujan Hosseinzadeh
Luke Quintanilla

Cellos

Kevin Charlestream
Sofia Yatsyshyna
Katie Chambers
Noah Koh
Christopher Cortez
Martha Sprague

Basses

Kyle Colina
Laurence Goldman
Lorenzo Sandi

Flutes

Cynthia Kimmel
Jessica Schmitz

Oboes / Oboes d'amore

Viatcheslav Znacheni
Rita Mitsel

Bassoon

Gili Sharrett

Trumpets

Justin Nurin
Christopher Delgado
Hannah Koch

Trombones

Samuel George
Eric Coughlin
Ehren Valmé

Percussion

Katherine Fortunato
Zoey Cobb

MidAmerica Productions, Inc.

Founded by Conductor, Music Educator, Entrepreneur Peter Tiboris over 40 years ago, MidAmerica Productions has brought together conductors, soloists, and choral and instrumental ensembles from the US 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 US cities and in countries throughout the world, including Greece, England, Austria, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Italy, France, Portugal, Sweden, 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 Sir John Rutter (who has conducted more than 140 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 1,300 solo artists from the world's greatest opera companies and concert stages, and 3,700 choral ensembles from the US and abroad. There have been 174 youth and collegiate orchestras as well as 146 youth and collegiate bands, jazz bands, and wind ensembles.

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