

Presented at Carnegie Hall by  
**MidAmerica Productions, Inc.**

1,501st Concert Worldwide, 1,161st in New York, 706th in Carnegie Hall

Peter Tiboris: Founder and General Director Emeritus

Sir John Rutter, CBE: Conductor Laureate

Sunday, April 20, 2025 at 1 PM  
Isaac Stern Auditorium / Ronald O. Perelman Stage

# New England Symphonic Ensemble

**Preston Hawes**, Artistic Director and Concertmaster

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**FELIX MENDELSSOHN** Sinfonia No. 10 in B Minor  
I. Adagio—Allegro—più presto

**COLERIDGE-TAYLOR** *Grass: Poem for Piano, Orchestra, and*  
**PERKINSON** *Percussion*

**Yelena Beriyeva**, Piano  
**Cailin Marcel Manson**, Conductor

## INTERMISSION

**OLA GJEILO** *Sunrise Mass*  
I. The Spheres  
II. Sunrise  
III. The City  
IV. Identity & The Ground

**Sterling Poulson**, Conductor

Participating Choruses:

**Choral Arts Society of Utah**, Salt Lake City, UT (Sterling Poulson, Director)

**Clark University Choir**, Worcester, MA (Cailin Marcel Manson, Director)

**Point Pleasant Borough Singers**, Point Pleasant, NJ (Felicia Villa, Director)

**Wasatch Master Chorale**, Ogden, UT (Dennis Ahern, Director)

## INTERMISSION

NIKOS SKALKOTTAS

*Greek Dances*, AK 11

- I. Epirotikos
- II. Kretikos
- III. Tsamikos
- IV. Arkadikos
- V. Klefikos

PETER WARLOCK

*Capriol Suite*

- I. Basse-Danse
- II. Pavane
- III. Tordion
- IV. Bransles
- V. Pieds-en-l'air
- VI. Mattachins

BÉLA BARTÓK

*Romanian Folk Dances*, BB 76

- I. Jocul cu băță / Bot tãnc
- II. Brãul
- III. Pe loc / Topogó
- IV. Buciumeana / Bucsumí tãnc
- V. Poarga românească / Román polka
- VI. Mărunțel / Aprózó

**Marco Alibrando**, Conductor

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

# The Program

Program notes for this performance are available in the digital playbill at [midamerica-music.com/programnotes420](http://midamerica-music.com/programnotes420) 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



**Cailin Marcel Manson, Conductor**

Cailin Marcel Manson, baritone and conductor, a Philadelphia native, has toured as a soloist and master teacher at major concert venues throughout the US, Europe, and Asia with many organizations, including the Radio-Sinfonieorchester Stuttgart, SWR Sinfonieorchester, Taipei Philharmonic, Bayerische Staatsoper—Münchner Opernfestspiele, Choral Arts Society of Philadelphia, Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, Teatro La Fenice, Teatro San Carlo, Konservatorium Oslo, and the Conservatoire de Luxembourg. He recently made an acclaimed Carnegie Hall conducting debut with MidAmerica Productions in March 2023, leading Giuseppe Verdi's *Messa da Requiem*. Cailin Marcel Manson is currently professor of practice in music and director of music performance at Clark University, chair of vocal studies at the Longy School of Music of Bard College, music director of Barn Opera/Opera Vermont, conductor-in-residence at the Walnut Hill School for the Arts, artistic consultant and conductor for MidAmerica Productions and MidAm International, and artistic director and chief executive officer of the New England Repertory Orchestra. Manson is a frequent guest conductor, clinician, presenter, panelist, and adjudicator for conventions, conferences, competitions, and music festivals. Manson studied voice performance at Temple University, and opera performance and orchestral conducting at the Universität Mozarteum Salzburg.



**Yelena Beriyeva, Piano**

Hailed as “the paragon of the concert pianist” by *LA Examiner* and “a standout performer” by *The Boston Musical Intelligencer*, Georgian-born American pianist Yelena Beriyeva continues to be recognized as one of the finest artists of her generation. Beriyeva made her solo debut at the age of five with the Tbilisi State Symphony Orchestra. An award-winning pianist, she has captivated audiences worldwide with her powerful yet graceful performances. Her music has been broadcast on national and international radio and television stations over the years. She has performed as a soloist and chamber musician in concert halls across Georgia, Armenia, Russia, Ukraine, Italy, the UK, Venezuela, Canada, Mexico, and the US. Additionally, she has been featured as a

soloist under the batons of renowned conductors such as Ludovic Morlot and Philippe Entremont. Beriyeve holds degrees in piano performance from the New England Conservatory, the University of Arizona, and the Tbilisi State Conservatory. She currently serves as a faculty member at Clark University in Worcester, where she holds the position of distinguished artist in piano and director of chamber ensembles.

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### **Sterling Poulson, Conductor**

Sterling Poulson is a highly accomplished musician and retired meteorologist. He earned a degree in choral music education from the University of Utah and served as associate music director of the Jay Welch Chorale from 1985 to 1996. In 1987, he founded the Choral Arts Society of Utah and became its music director and conductor in 1997. Poulson has guest-conducted various prestigious ensembles, including the Utah Symphony and the West Valley Symphony of Utah, and in 2019, he conducted a performance of Gabriel Fauré's Requiem at Carnegie Hall. In addition to his conducting duties, he served as a board member of the Utah Chapter of the American Choral Directors Association from 2003 to 2012 and is currently the board chair for the West Valley Symphony of Utah. For 23 years, he was a music reader for the Tabernacle Choir's *Music and the Spoken Word* broadcasts. Beyond his musical career, Poulson had a distinguished 27-year tenure in the US Air Force, including service in Vietnam from 1970 to 1971. Trained as a weather forecaster, he earned the Bronze Minuteman Award for his work with veterans and community service. He retired in 2023 after 34 years as chief meteorologist for KUTV 2News in Salt Lake City but remains dedicated to his conducting career.



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### **Marco Alibrando, Conductor**

Designated first conductor at the Deutsches Nationaltheater und Staatskapelle Weimar beginning in the 2025–2026 season, Marco Alibrando is also the music director of VoceAllOpera. Born in Messina in 1987, he made his conducting debut at the age of 24 in Florence, Italy. Since then, he has built a distinguished career, appearing at prestigious festivals such as Rossini in Wildbad, where he conducted *Adina*; the Rossini Opera Festival in Pesaro, where he led *Duetti Amorosi*; and the Spoleto Festival, where he conducted *Delitto e Dovere*. His recent and upcoming operatic engagements include a debut at Teatro alla Scala di Milano, conducting the soloists



and orchestra of the Accademia del Teatro alla Scala; a new production of *Die lustige Witwe*, which will open the Macerata Opera Festival 2025; *The Bear* by W. Walton at Teatro Regio di Torino; *Turandot* in Wiesbaden; and performances of *Werther*, *Hänsel und Gretel*, *Der Mordfall, Il barbiere di Siviglia*, and *La traviata* at the Deutsches Nationaltheater und Staatskapelle Weimar. He graduated with highest honors in conducting from the “G. Verdi” Conservatory of Milan, where he also earned degrees in composition, studying under Danilo Lorenzini and Gianni Possio, and in piano under Antonella Salpietro in Messina. Throughout his career, he has worked as an assistant to Iván Fischer and the Budapest Festival Orchestra, as well as to Giuliano Carella, Domingo Hindoyan, Antonino Fogliani, and Robin Ticciati.



**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.

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## **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

Preston Hawes  
Funda Cizmecioglu  
Robert Radliff  
Gabriella Apola  
Rafailia Kapsokavadi  
Valentina Anzola  
Dylan Ebrahimian  
Hannah Moon

### Second Violins

Ana Milosavljevic  
Eun Jung Lee  
Marc Szammer  
Sunon Jones  
Leisel Grentz  
Marina Fragoulis  
Jason Garcia  
Amneris Puscasu

### Violas

Mitsuru Kubo  
Angel Contreras  
Christian Barros  
Veronica Anzola  
Surai Balbeisi  
Kerrick Sasaki  
Thomas Purcell  
Entela Barci

### Cellos

Kevin Charlestream  
Christopher Cortez  
Sofia Yatsyshyna  
Andrew Garcia  
Katie Chambers  
Laura Masferrer

### Basses

Kyle Colina  
Laurence Goldman  
Lorenzo Sandi

### Timpani

Zoey Cobb

### Percussion

John Tadlock

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## **MidAmerica Productions, Inc.**

For over 40 years, 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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