



Peter Tiboris, General Music Director and Artistic Director

PRESENTS

*“Festival Annuale dei Grandi Cori Americani in Italia”*

**Fifth Annual**

# **The Great & Grand American Choral Series in Italy:**

**Florence · Verona · Venice · Lake Garda**

**Friday, May 31, 2019 – Sunday, June 9, 2019**

**Open to all choruses in North & South America, Europe, and Asia**



*7 days/6 nights in Florence (Firenze)*



*1 day in Verona  
(2 nights' lodging)*



*1 full day Venice touring*



*1 full day Lake Garda touring*

**MidAm International**  
Peter Tiboris, *General Music Director*

PRESENTS

THE FIFTH ANNUAL  
**GREAT AND GRAND  
AMERICAN CHORAL  
SERIES IN ITALY**

FLORENCE & VERONA/VENICE/LAKE GARDA  
FRIDAY, MAY 31 - SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 2019

FEATURING

**ORCHESTRA DA CAMERA FIORENTINA  
& WORLD CLASS SOLOISTS**



Basilica di Santa Croce in Firenze

**MONDAY & WEDNESDAY  
JUNE 3 & 5, 2019**

Openings for four distinguished guest conductors and their 60-voice choirs to perform a major oratorio with Orchestra da Camera Fiorentina in the Basilica di Santa Croce in Firenze.



Sant' Anastasia in Verona

**THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2019**

Featuring 20-minute solo a cappella performances in Sant' Anastasia in Verona scheduled for visiting choirs.

Specially designed tours and events in Florence, Verona, Venice, and Lake Garda included, all with licensed guides.

**Per-person Registration Deadline: November 15, 2018**

For further information call or email James Redcay, *Director of Program Development*, at 212-239-0205, ext. 223, or [jredcay@midamerica-music.com](mailto:jredcay@midamerica-music.com)





## TO ALL OF OUR COLLEAGUES & FRIENDS

1,352 CONCERTS WORLDWIDE  
576 IN CARNEGIE HALL  
3,560 CHORAL ENSEMBLES  
826 GUEST CONDUCTORS



The facts are, nothing is missing... the music making is world-class; the... setting is paradise; the venues are wonderful; the audience is at capacity and enthusiastic; and the convergence of all of these factors are without peer in the world of choral music making.



— **Tim Sharp**, ACDA Executive Director, Conductor of the Tulsa Oratorio Chorus and Guest Conductor on MidAmerica Productions' series in Carnegie Hall in 2004, 2006 (twice), 2010, and 2012, and on MidAm International's 2013 residency in Vienna, Austria, and on the 2011 International Festival of the Aegean in Syros, Greece.

Join us for our 35<sup>th</sup> (2018) and 36<sup>th</sup> (2019) Seasons.  
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[www.petertiboris.com](http://www.petertiboris.com)



# MidAm International

## THE INCREDIBLE 2019 MUSIC & CULTURAL TOUR PROGRAMS FROM ASIA TO EUROPE – OUR 36<sup>TH</sup> SEASON

**Peter Tiboris**, *General Director and Music Director*

### **CHINA: MAY 17 - 26**

(Hong Kong & Beijing)  
HKBU Concert Hall

### **FLORENCE: MAY 31 - JUNE 9**

(Florence & Verona/Venice/Lake Garda)  
Basilica di Santa Croce, Florence  
Sant'Anastasia, Verona

### **PARIS: JUNE 7 - 16**

Performances in the home church  
of Gabriel Fauré:  
Paroisse Catholique de la Madeleine

### **VIENNA/SALZBURG: JUNE 14 - 23**

Minoritenkirche, Vienna  
Müllnerkirche, Salzburg

### **VIENNA/SALZBURG: JUNE 14 - 23 (FOR ORCHESTRA AND WIND ENSEMBLES):**

Oberlaa Theater, Vienna  
Müllnerkirche, Salzburg

### **VIENNA/BUDAPEST: JUNE 14-23**

Minoritenkirche, Vienna  
The Main Parish Church of the  
Assumption, Budapest

### **LISBON/PORTO: JUNE 21 - 30**

Palácio Nacional de Mafra, Mafra  
Mosteiro dos Jerónimos, Lisbon  
Sé do Porto, Porto

### **PRAGUE/BERLIN: JUNE 21 - 30**

The Church of St. Simon  
and St. Jude, Prague  
Berliner Gedächtniskirche, Berlin

### **ISLAND OF SYROS & ATHENS, GREECE 15TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF THE AEGEAN JULY 10 - 24**

(The Festival opens Sunday, July 14)  
Apollo Theater, Syros (1864)  
St. Nicholas Cathedral, Syros  
Greek Orthodox Church of St. Mary's Birth  
(1867) Xroussa, Syros

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All initial per-person registration deadlines for all programs: November 15, 2018.

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## **CHANGING LIVES ONE CONCERT AT A TIME**

For more information, contact James Redcay, *Director of Program Development*  
at (212)239-0205 x223 or [jredcay@midamerica-music.com](mailto:jredcay@midamerica-music.com)  
[www.midamerica-music.com](http://www.midamerica-music.com)





## MAP STATS:

1,369 Concerts Worldwide  
1036 Concerts in New York  
578 Concerts in Stern Auditorium at Carnegie Hall  
21 Concerts in David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center  
384 Concerts in Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall  
11 Concerts in Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center  
171 Concerts at the Festival of the Aegean (Syros, Greece)  
70 Concerts in Europe (Austria, Czech Republic, Germany,  
Great Britain, Italy, Russia, France)  
92 World Premieres  
21 US Premieres  
99 NY Premieres  
3,560 Choral Ensembles  
826 Guest Conductors  
1,342 Guest Soloists  
173 Youth and Collegiate Orchestras  
145 Youth and Collegiate Bands, Jazz Bands and Wind Ensembles

## DECEMBER 2018 TO JULY 2019, 36<sup>TH</sup> SEASON

Carnegie Hall, New York  
Florence & Verona/Venice/Lake Garda, Italy  
Vienna and Salzburg, Austria  
Paris, France  
Lisbon and Porto, Portugal (Premier Season)  
Prague, Czech Republic and Berlin, Germany (Premier Season)  
Vienna, Austria and Budapest, Hungary (Premier Season)  
Hong Kong and Beijing, China (Premier Season)  
15<sup>th</sup> Annual International Festival of the Aegean, Syros, Greece

**Peter Tiboris, General Music Director**

## CHANGING LIVES ONE CONCERT AT A TIME

**MidAmerica Productions & MidAm International**  
39 Broadway, Suite 3600 (36<sup>th</sup> floor), New York, NY 10006, USA  
Tel. (212) 239-0205 · Fax (212) 563-5587  
[www.midamerica-music.com](http://www.midamerica-music.com)  
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# 2019 THE GREAT AMERICAN CHORAL SERIES IN ITALY

*Registration Deadline: November 15, 2018*

**Two major public performances in Basilica di Santa Croce in Firenze.**

(<http://www.santacroceopera.it/>)

**On Monday, June 3 and Wednesday, June 5**

**Vivaldi's *Gloria***

**Peggy Dettwiler, conductor**

Mansfield University, Mansfield, PA

**Orchestra da Camera Fiorentina** ([www.orcafi.it](http://www.orcafi.it))

Giuseppe Lanzetta, Founder and Music Director

Peter Tiboris, Principal Guest Conductor (Direttore Ospite Principale)

[www.petertiboris.com](http://www.petertiboris.com) / <http://www.petertiboris.com/personalflorence.html>

**& World Class Soloists**

**Plus A cappella solo performances by visiting choirs  
In Sant'Anastasia in Verona.**



**Basilica di Santa Croce in Firenze**



**Sant' Anastasia in Verona**

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# 2019 THE GREAT AMERICAN CHORAL SERIES IN ITALY: Itinerary

## Day 1 - Friday, May 31, 2019 - Florence

- **Arrive** in Firenze. MidAm International, Inc. staff and Custom Travel of Firenze staff will meet you at the airport and transfer you to [Hotel Adriatico](http://www.hoteladriatico.it/en/) (<http://www.hoteladriatico.it/en/>), [Adler Hotel](http://www.hoteladlercavalieri.com/) (<http://www.hoteladlercavalieri.com/>), [Hotel Glance](http://www.glancehotelflorence.com/en/) (<http://www.glancehotelflorence.com/en/>) for check-in. These are the three residency hotels located in central Firenze. (A decision as to hotel assignments will be made by February 1, 2019.)
- 7:00 PM-8:00 PM: **Organizational meeting** at Caffè Gilli and Caffè Pawszowski with MidAm and Custom Travel of Firenze staff. Order food on own.

## Day 2 - Saturday, June 1, 2019 - Florence

- Breakfast
- 9:30 AM-12:30 PM: Rehearsal with piano at the residency hotel.
- 12:30 PM: Lunch on-your-own.
- 2:00 PM-5:00 PM: **First Tour:** A guided general tour of Santa Maria Novella Church, Academy of Fine Arts, and Duomo Complex; entrance fee, bus, professional guide, personal broadcast microphones, and hearing devices are all included.

### Tour Description: Santa Maria Novella Church – Academy of Fine Arts – Duomo Complex

A short walk from the hotel and you will be at Santa Maria Novella that ranks just behind Santa Croce, Florence's most important Church. The mother church of the city's Dominican order was founded in 1246. Both the façade and the interior are outstanding, the latter home to a trio of captivating fresco cycles and one of the most influential paintings of the early Renaissance.

The first fresco cycle lies in Cappella Strozzi. Sponsored by the banker Filippo Strozzi (1489), the paintings are by Filippino Lippi and deal with episodes from the life of Strozzi's namesake.

The second and most important cycle, a work by Ghirlandaio is ranged around the chancel. Commissioned by a banker Giovanni Tornabuoni, the themes are "Life of John the Baptist" and "Life of the Virgin" (1485).

Masaccio's fresco "The Trinity" (1427) was one of the Renaissance works in which the new idea of mathematical proportion was successfully employed.

From Santa Maria Novella, a walk through the elegant and fashionable shopping area (formerly the banking area during the Renaissance) and you reach the Academy of Fine Arts. Only the Uffizi is more visited than the Galleria dell'Accademia, whose crowds are lured by the most famous Renaissance image of them all: Michelangelo's David.

Carved from a single piece of thin and fault-riddled marble by Michelangelo at the age of 26 in 1501, the statue remained in Piazza Della Signoria until 1873. Its theme of David and Goliath was chosen for its parallels with Florence's recent history, evoking the city's belated liberation and its ability to withstand more powerful foes. Away from David the gallery contains other Michelangelo's works, "St Matthew", and four "Slaves", all uncompleted and intended for the tomb of Pope Julius II.

The Tour will finish at Piazza del Duomo and the great Cathedral. (*Tour descriptions courtesy of Custom Travel of Firenze, Italy*)



**Santa Maria Novella from outside**



**Michelangelo's David @ Academy of Fine Arts**

- 5:30 PM: Return to hotel.
- Evening free to stroll central Firenze and dine.

### **Day 3 – Sunday, June 2, 2019 – Florence**

- Breakfast
- 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM: rehearsal in hotel
- 2 PM – 5 PM: **Second Tour:** Ponte Vecchio and Uffizi Gallery; entrance fee, bus, professional guide, personal broadcast microphones, and hearing devices are all included.

#### **Tour Description: Ponte Vecchio – Uffizi Gallery**

A short walk along the bank of Arno River and you will be facing Ponte Vecchio, built in 1345. With its load of overhanging shops and buildings, it is one of Florence's most familiar images.

Over the centuries it has survived countless floods and the havoc of war and civil strife. In World War II it was the only bridge spared during the Nazi retreat from the city.

Galleria degli Uffizi holds the world's finest collection of Renaissance paintings. All famous names of Italian art are here, not only the Renaissance masters but also painters from the country's early medieval, Baroque, and mannerist heyday. The building that houses the collection was built in 1560 and spreads across some 80 rooms. Any brief description can only touch on its absolute highlights.

The prelude to the collection starts with the medieval Giotto and Cimabue's "Maestà", followed by the gothic works of Simone Martini and Gentile da Fabriano who paved the way for the Renaissance with Masaccio, Paolo Uccello, Piero della Francesca, and Filippo Lippi precursor of the sophisticated Botticelli's "Primavera" and "Birth of Venus". Leonardo's mystery will appear in his "Annunciazione" and the unfinished "Adoration of the magi".

As you progress and walk through the centuries, you will see not only the painting by Michelangelo, the "Tondo Doni", but also Raphael's early work "Madonna del Cardellino" and the mature portrait of Pope Leo X. Influenced by Raphael, Titian's "Venus of Urbino", one of the most explicit nudes in Western art is also here. Caravaggio's "Medusa" and "Sacrifice of Abraham and Isaac" bear the standard in marked contrast and introspective portraits.

*(Tour descriptions courtesy of Custom Travel of Firenze, Italy)*





Inside of Uffizi Gallery



Uffizi from outside



Ponte Vecchio

- Return to hotel.
- Evening free to stroll central Firenze and dine.

**Day 4 – Monday, June 3, 2019 – Florence**

- Breakfast
- Morning free
- 3:30 PM-5:30 PM: Generale with full orchestra and soloists.
- 7:30 PM: Concert in Basilica di Santa Croce in Florence

**Day 5 – Tuesday, June 4, 2019 – Florence**

- Breakfast
- 9:30AM-12:30 PM: Rehearsal in hotel.
- Lunch on own.
- 2:00-5:00 PM: **Third Tour:** Santa Trinita, Pitti Palace, and Boboli Gardens; entrance fee, bus, professional guide, personal broadcast microphones, and hearing devices are all included.

### **Tour Description: Ponte Santa Trinita - Pitti Palace - Boboli Gardens**

Walk across Ponte Vecchio keeping an eye at the Corridoio Vasariano, the covered passage-way built for Cosimo dei Medici to link Palazzo Vecchio, political residence to Palazzo Pitti, private residence, across the river.

Few palaces are as colossal as the Palazzo Pitti. Built in 1460 by the Pitti family, a banking dynasty, the project was so financially draining that the family was forced to sell it; it was bought and further enlarged by Cosimo I Medici. Today it contains a cluster of museums, of which the most important is Galleria Palatina, home to much of the Medici's collection.

Orientation around the gallery's many rooms can be confusing. The collection's real highlights lie in the ornate state rooms where the paintings are arranged four or six deep. The Gallery has no fewer than 12 works by Raphael, among which are "Madonna of the Chair" and the "Veiled Woman".

Several penetrating portraits figure among the 14 paintings by Titian. The most celebrated is "Portrait of English Man" and "Mary Magdalen". The many other painters represented include Caravaggio, Filippo Lippi, Andrea del Sarto, Rubens, and Tintoretto.

Behind the Palazzo Pitti lies Florence's principal park. Giardino di Boboli was created by Cosimo I Medici in 1549 and open to the public in 1766. The park's trees, formal gardens, walk-ways, and fountains provide a green and peaceful retreat.

(Tour descriptions courtesy of Custom Travel of Firenze, Italy)



**Boboli Garden**



**Palazzo Pitti**

- Return to hotel.
- Evening free to stroll central Firenze and dine.

### **Day 6 – Wednesday, June 5, 2019 – Florence**

- Breakfast
- Explore Florence on your own/ Shopping
- 3:30 PM-5:30 PM: Generale with full orchestra and soloists.
- 7:30 PM: Concert in Basilica di Santa Croce in Florence





Maestro David Rayl conducts Schubert's Mass in G with American Choirs and Orchestra da Camera Fiorentina in Auditorium di Santo Stefano al Ponte in Firenze, June 10, 2015



Maestro David Thye conducts Mozart's Missa Brevis K. 220 with American Choirs and Orchestra da Camera Fiorentina in Auditorium di Santo Stefano al Ponte in Firenze, June 10, 2015



**Music Director Peter Tiboris conducts the Orchestra da Camera Fiorentina in Palazzo Vecchio, Florence, Italy, 2013, performing Mozart's REQUIEM and Beethoven's SYMPHONY #5**



**Day 7 – Thursday, June 6, 2019 – Half day Verona tour, Overnight in Verona**

- Breakfast
- 7:30 AM: check-out from your residence hotel in Florence
- 8:30AM – noon: private coach transfer to Verona, check-in **Hotel Tower** ([www.montresorgroup.com](http://www.montresorgroup.com))
- 2:00 PM-5:00 PM: **Fourth Tour**: Half-day Verona City Tour. Entrance fee, bus, professional guide, personal broadcast microphones, and hearing devices are all included.

**Tour Description:**

Refined, relaxed and romantic, Verona is the northeast Italy's second most alluring historic city after Venice. It is also one of the country's most prosperous cities thanks to its position along trade routes to the north, south, east and west. In the past it was a thriving Roman colony for the same reason, and later became a prominent city-state under the rule of the Scaligeri, its medieval overlords. Rule by Milan's Visconti and the Venetian Republic followed, with Venice retaining control until the arrival of Napoleon. From then on, Verona remained under the yoke of Austrian rule until Italian unification.

Exploring the old city is straightforward and enjoyable. Museums and monuments abound, most of them within easy walking distance of one another. The Piazza Bra is home to the Verona Arena, the third largest amphitheater in the Roman world. The Piazza delle Erbe, the hearth of the city in medieval times, contains the site of the original Roman forum. Sant' Anastasia, built between 1280 and 1400, stands as Verona's largest gothic church built for the Dominican Order. The Casa di Giulietta (Juliet's House) located close to the Scaligeri tombs and complete with balcony and a statue of the famous heroine, transports visitors back into the classic tale of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. The house dates from the 13th century and the family coat of arms can still be seen on the wall. A slight problem is the balcony itself, which overlooks the courtyard – it was added in the 20th century. But that's of no matter to the hundreds of girls who every year step out onto it and gaze below seeking their Romeo among the meandering tourists.



**Arena**



**Juliet's house**

- 5:30 PM-7:00 PM: rehearsal in Sant' Anastasia in Verona
- 7:30 PM: a cappella solo concert in Sant' Anastasia for those who wish to perform (each group has 20 minute music time), or evening free to explore.

## Day 8 – Friday, June 7, 2019 – All day Venice tour, return to Verona overnight

- Breakfast
- 9:00 AM: private coach departure Verona for Venice with tour guide
- 10:30 AM: arrive Venice, transfer to Private Motor boats, and start Venice City Tour
- **Fifth Tour:** Venice City Tour. Entrance fee, bus, professional guide, personal broadcast microphones, and hearing devices are all included.

### Tour Description:

The world's most beautiful city rarely disappoints. "I'd rather be in Venice on a rainy day than in any other capital on a fine one," exclaimed author Herman Melville in 1857, capturing the allure of a city whose magic casts its spell year-round - whether you visit in the depths of winter, an icy mist spreading chill over the encircling lagoon, or in the shimmering, energizing heat of summer when the canals, ancient churches, and endless palaces are dappled with the shifting light of the Mediterranean sun. The city remains as close as the real world gets to a fairy tale.

Venice is divided into sestieri or districts, three on either side of the Grand Canal. There can be no more beautiful urban thoroughfare than the Grand Canal, the broad waterway that winds in a mesmerizing and serpentine loop through the ancient heart of Venice, by far the best introduction to the city. Wherever and however you arrive in the city, your first thought should be to board one of the lumbering vaporetti, or water-buses, that ply its palace-lined length - an unforgettable odyssey of sights and sounds and an eye-opening glimpse of daily life in Venice - before plunging straight into St. Mark's Square.

St Mark's Square is " the most beautiful drawing room in Europe," said Napoleon of Piazza San Marco, which provides the setting for some of the city's foremost buildings, such as St Mark's Basilica, the Doge's Palace, the Campanile, and the Correr Museum, whose displays provide a fascinating insight into Venice's long history. Afterwards, escape the crowds of St. Mark's Square for one of the city's smaller squares. Campo Santo Stefano or Campo Santa Margherita are the best to sample intimate areas of the city not yet typically crowded with tourists.



### Venice

- 8:00 PM: finish city tour, transfer by private motor boats for bus transfer back to Verona
- 10:00 PM: arrive Hotel Tower in Verona



## Day 9 – Saturday, June 8, 2019 – All day Lake Garda (Evening back to Florence)

- Breakfast
- 9:30 AM: check-out and store the luggage on private coach
- 10:00 AM: arrive Sirmione, **Sixth Tour:** Half-day Lake Garda Tour. Entrance fee, bus, professional guide, personal broadcast microphones, and hearing devices are all included.

### Tour Description:

Lake Garda is Italy's largest and most scenically diverse lake. Its green and verdant southern coast extends to the hillier slopes and cliffs of its northern edges, before returning in the shadow of its mountain-backed eastern flanks. The village of Peschiera, nestled in a snug harbor and dominated by a formidable Venetian fortress, sits at the southeastern end of the lake, while the hotel Sirmione remains the most popular resort among tourists, jutting out into the lake itself from its southern shore. Boats embark here for most of the lakeside villages which offer the most breathtaking views of the lake, villas and gardens invisible from the road. Desenzano, Garda's largest town on the southwestern coast of Lake Garda is renowned for its famous wines. The hotel Gardone, on the western coast and once the lake's most elegant resort, marks the start of Lake Garda's most spectacular upland scenery. Riva del Garda is Lake Garda's best known resort at its northern tip.

- 2:00 PM-4:30 PM: lake cruise with tour guides



Lake Garda

- Lunch in a restaurant in Sirmione (this is part of the package)
- 4:00 PM-7:00 PM: private coach transfer from Verona to Florence, stop by highway restaurant for dinner on own.
- 7:00 PM: check-in *Hotel Novotel* ([www.novotel.com](http://www.novotel.com)) in Florence

## Day 10 - Sunday, June 9, 2019 – Departure

- Breakfast
- Check-out
- Depart by coach for Firenze airport to return home

*“What could be better than singing some of the world’s most beautiful music in one of the world’s most enchanting cities? The guided tours were excellent—the tour of the Uffizi was the best museum tour I’ve ever taken. Our 9 days in Florence were magical.” (2015)*  
--David Rayl, Director of Choral Programs and Associate Dean for Graduate Studies in Music in Michigan State University

*“As expected the quality of the total festival experience never disappoints. Having brought groups to New York and Carnegie Hall, Syros, Greece, and now to Florence for both me as conductor and my singers has been a high point of the year. My singers always come back excited to be "experienced choral singers" with a higher regard for the choral art. As my colleague and fellow conductor, Raymond F. Weidner told me upon our return to the US, "...The festival was a wonderful experience- one of the best musical events I've experienced in years." I could not have expressed it better.” (2015)*  
--Kenneth A. DeBoer, Conductor of The Piedmont Chorale, Charlotte, North Carolina



Music Director Peter Tiboris conducts Schubert’s Mass in G with American Choirs and Orchestra da Camera Fiorentina in Auditorium di Santo Stefano al Ponte in Firenze, June 12, 2015