

Carnegie Hall Residency 2025 FAQ

What is this event?

MidAmerica Productions has invited Areté Singers to perform at Carnegie Hall on June 22, 2025. MidAmerica Productions Carnegie Hall 2025 residency will consist of Eric Choate's conducting of Ralph Vaughn Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem*.



Who is involved?

- [MidAmerica Productions](#) is the producer of the concert.
- [Eric Choate](#) is the Carnegie Hall Residency 2025 conductor. He will lead joint rehearsals of the SF Bay Area singers.
- [Mark Sumner](#) is the [Areté Singers](#) Music Director for this project.
- [Tim Salaver](#) is the Chorus and Tour Manager.
- Dennis Butzlaff is the NY Tour Guide.
- St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Orinda is the East Bay rehearsal location. Dates TBD.
- Trinity Lutheran Church in Pleasanton is the East Bay performance location. Date TBD.
- The First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco is the SF performance location. Date TBD.
- The Episcopal Church of St. Mary the Virgin is a possible SF performance location. Date TBD.

What is the size of the Areté Singers chorus?

Our goal is to have forty performers on the stage as part of the 150-member chorus for Eric Choate's concert.

What is the cost of residency?

The cost of the Concert-only residency is \$1,199 per performer, which includes both concerts.

What is the Carnegie Hall Residency?

A typical MidAmerica Production residency consists of an invitation to a single concert. Fortunately, due to my relationship with Eric, Areté Singers has been invited to sing with him.

The residency consists of the following services provided by MidAmerica Productions:

- PROFESSIONAL ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT of your performance in New York City, including: venue, conductor, soloists, orchestra engagement and management; labor and personnel at the hall, including ushers, stage crew, house managers, etc.; official "Playbill" preparation and printing; publicity and audience development (flyers, posters, press releases, etc.); schedules; protocols; rehearsal site and accompanist arrangements; backstage management; security passes; and day-to-day concert- and residency-related matters in the months leading up to your performance. In addition, MidAmerica aids with pre-concert preparation (rehearsal notes, pre-concert recording evaluations, and on-site conductor visits for select programs). During the five-day residency itself, MidAmerica staff are personally on-site managing all concert-related activities. Soloists are contracted and provided for all concerts by MAP and MIDAM International. These soloists are engaged from the following managements and more: ICM, UZAN, PINNACLE, WOLFE, SUNE, PARNASSUS, and TACT, to ensure top international quality. Artists appear at MAP and MIDAM International concerts under exclusive representation with the management agencies listed above.
- An exclusive POST-CONCERT CELEBRATION RECEPTION CRUISE on-board the "Spirit of New York" or "Spirit of New Jersey" (or similar). All concert-only package performers and non-performers-family, friends, colleagues are provided a two-hour sail featuring a spectacular view of the Statue of Liberty and the Manhattan skyline, with a buffet dinner, music, and dancing. Two drink tickets will also be provided; extra drinks can be purchased on board. (MidAmerica can also provide post-concert round-trip bus transportation from the concert hall to Chelsea Piers and back to the residency hotel upon your request for an additional \$49 per person. The reason that this is not included is because some ensembles bring their own buses from their home locations to NYC or choose to take taxis or subways.) [A limited number of guests may also be accommodated for an additional \$179 per person – please contact Areté Singers for details regarding additional cruise tickets and their availability for non-residency guests who will coordinate with the MidAmerica production office.] Cruise guests must be 21 years of age or older to consume alcoholic beverages and this is strictly enforced by the cruise line.
- Each Concert-Only Residency Package participant will receive an 8 ½ x 11" PRINT OF THE GIANT MARQUEE POSTER which announces your concert in Stern Auditorium / Perelman Stage at Carnegie Hall.

What is the residency schedule?

June 19 – Arrival date; hotel check-in is typical 4:00 pm

June 20 – AM or PM rehearsal with Eric

June 21 – AM or PM rehearsal with Eric

June 22 – Concert time TBD; Post-concert cruise on the Hudson River

June 23 – Departure date; check-out can vary between 10am-12pm

Can I extend the residency dates in NY?

The residency dates are set per the MidAmerica schedule; however, you can make plans pre- and post-tour for your personal travel.

What is the payment plan?

- 1st Deposit of \$300 is due and payable to Areté Singers by September 13, 2024 (non-refundable)
- 2nd Deposit of \$350 is due and payable to Areté Singers by Friday, November 15 (non-refundable)
- 3rd Deposit of \$300 is due and payable to Areté Singers by Friday, February 14 (non-refundable)
- Final Deposit of \$249 is due and payable to Areté Singers by April 1, 2025 (non-refundable)

How are payments managed?

It is recommended that deposits be paid through Zelle (702-286-7464) or check. If paying by credit card via Paypal, there will be a transaction fee added to the deposit (this is not recommended as it adds to your costs). MidAmerica Productions requires only one check to be processed for the group. No individual checks, wire transfers or credit card payments from performers or non-performers will be accepted by MidAmerica Productions.

Can performers bring guests?

Yes, there is a non-performer package which is \$499 per person. The non-performer package includes:

- Attendance at all rehearsals – including the closed Dress Rehearsal in Stern Auditorium / Perelman State at Carnegie Hall
- One concert ticket (\$125 value – Parquet/Main level) to your performance
- Posters as described above
- An admission ticket for the post-concert celebration reception cruise as described above (including dinner and two drink tickets)

What is the payment plan for guests?

1st Deposit of \$300 is due and payable to Areté Singers by Friday, September 13

Final Payment of \$199 is due and payable to Areté Singers by Tuesday, April 1 (non-refundable)

What if my guest only wants to attend the concert?

2024/2025 ticket prices: Parquet, 1st and 2nd Tiers, and Dress Circle are \$50-\$125.

Who will coordinate my travel?

The concert-only residency does not coordinate travel. This is left up to the individual performer and their guests (non-performers); however, because the Areté Singers chorus is large enough, group travel arrangements for hotel and transportation will be coordinated by Tim Salaver.

- The hotel deposits (typically 25%) are due December 13, 2024. Tim has already inquired about hotel rates and the range for a single room near Carnegie Hall is between \$1,100 and \$1,400 for the residency. This is subject to change as Carnegie will not confirm our residency until November 2024 which costs may increase. If performers are willing to share a room, of course, that will reduce the costs per person.
- Areté Singers will not be coordinating air travel as there are not enough singers at this time to obtain a reduced group rate.
- Areté Singers will coordinate ground transportation between JFK and the group hotel. The cost to uber or taxi from JFK to Times Square is \$90-\$100. If there is enough coordination of air arrival

times within the group to charter a shuttle or bus, this will help to reduce costs. The same goes for ground transportation from the group hotel to the airport.

Am I required to stay at the group hotel or use group ground transportation?

The group hotel and group ground transportation are optional. You can make your own plans for overnight stays in New York or ground transportation.

What other activities will be coordinated by Areté Singers?

All Areté Singers group activities are optional. Based on the survey, several singers have shown an interest in group dinners and group activities. The tentative plan is:

June 19, 2025 – Meet at a pub/bar in/near the hotel for a casual evening gathering since people will be arriving at various times. This will be a no-host event.

June 20 – Group dinner and/or Broadway Musical

June 21 – Group Dinner and/or NYC tour guided by Dennis Butzlaff

June 22 – Concert time TBD. No Areté Singers group activity. There will be a post- concert celebration and cruise hosted by MidAmerica Productions.

What is the payment plan for the group hotel and activities?

That will be determined based on the participation of the performers and non-performers. Hotels typically require deposits upon booking and the final payment 30-60 days prior to arrival. For the group activities, those will be based on the company coordinating our Broadway musical activity. I would expect they would want full payment upon booking. Tim's goal is to spread out the costs over the period of September 2024 through May 2025 to minimize the impact on people's finances.

Will there be rehearsals in the Bay Area?

The primary purpose of bay area rehearsals is to prepare our best for the Carnegie performance for our local conductors. Starting in April 2025 through June 2025, rehearsals will be scheduled to prepare for the residency. Mark Sumner will be leading the rehearsals for the Dona Nobis Pacem and Tim will be leading the rehearsals for Illuminare. Rehearsal days and times are still to be determined. Current thinking is Tuesday evenings in Orinda from 7pm-9:30pm. There are other singers in the greater SF Bay Area who will be participating with Eric's choruses, so we expect to have a couple joint rehearsals on the weekends with them. Joint rehearsal locations may be in SF, Pleasanton, or Orinda.

Will there be a Bay Area concert?

Tim, Eric, and Mark are in the early stages of planning a bay area concert the weekend of June 7-8 and June 15. The concert will be in SF, Pleasanton, or Orinda. We believe a send-off concert will help to prepare us for the residency.

Can I use a tablet or iPad on the Carnegie Hall stage?

No. Electronic devices are not allowed on the Carnegie Hall stage. RVW's *Dona Nobis Pacem* can be purchased, or PDF's can be provided for printing. Areté Singers will lead the processing of a bulk order for DNP to minimize shipping costs. Each performer will be responsible for the costs of the scores.

What will be the dress for Carnegie Hall?

MidAmerica Productions allow performing groups to wear their concert uniforms. Areté Singers will determine the concert uniform in early 2025.

Will there be learning aids provided?

Yes, for the RVW *Dona Nobis Pacem*, parts learning tracks and videos will be provided.

Additional Information

For more information about MidAmerica Productions, go to <https://www.midamerica-music.com/>

For more information about Areté Singers, go to <https://www.aretesingers.com/>

For more information about Eric Choate, go to <https://www.ericchoate.com/>

MARK SUMNER – Music Director, Bass

Mark is the Music Director at the First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco. He has now retired after twenty-five years as Director of Choral Ensembles at UC Berkeley. Dr. Sumner's prior teaching experience includes teaching at UC Santa Barbara and USC in addition to several other institutions; he has an extensive background as a professional performer and conductor. He has also served as music director and stage director for various theater companies and churches in Southern California, Oklahoma, and Texas. He has also served as the Vice President and CFO of Hunter Communications, Inc. and as the Comptroller, past CFO and Chairman of the Board for Hunter Media, Inc.

A native of Oklahoma, Mark has a Doctor of Musical Arts in Choral Music from the University of Southern California. He received his Master of Music in Choral Conducting from Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas, and a bachelor's degree in music from Oklahoma State University. He is the recipient of several music scholarships including the Gordon Getty Music Scholarship from 1989-90. He was also the recipient of a Distinguished Service Award from the Sapulpa Board of Education in 1989 (one of only two given in the school system history).

TIM SALAVER – Tenor, Baritone, Alto, Countertenor, Director, Producer, and Arranger

Tim Salaver is a multi-part vocalist, director, producer, and writer. Tim is the founding Music Director and Producer of Areté Singers Network, providing educated and experienced classical, opera and musical theater singers to events throughout the SF Bay Area. He sings baritone with the San Francisco Symphony Chorus and performed on their 1995 Grammy-award winning recording of Johannes Brahms *A German Requiem*. Tim is a staff singer and the Bass Section Lead with the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church. He was previously the Tenor and Bass Section Lead at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Choir. He also sings tenor and baritone with the University of California Alumni Chorus. He has performed in the Livermore Valley Opera productions *Don Pasquale* and *Eugene Onegin*. Tim is the Chorus Master for the Pacific Chamber Orchestra. He was the Chorus Master for the National Tour of Symphony for our World and *The Legend of Zelda - Symphony of the Goddesses*, singing tenor and alto.

Tim sang tenor and bass with the St. Mary the Virgin Episcopal Parish Choir, Lacuna Arts, Tactus, Schola Cantorum and the Cathedral Choir at the Cathedral of St. Mary's of Assumption, Cathedral of Christ the Light Choir, and the John Knox Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir. Tim was the Encore Vocalists producer, responsible for promoting and creating performing opportunities for the ensemble. He was the Bass Section Lead for the Menlo Park Chorus. In the Summer of 2015, Tim performed with San Francisco-based Volti as part of their Auction Napa Valley Flash Mob and Festival del Sole Chorus where he performed the world premiere of Gordon Getty's Five Choral Works and Beethoven's 9th Symphony with the Russian National Orchestra. He also performed with Emily Johnson in Shore. In 2019, Tim performed in the San Francisco and San Jose productions of the *Hymn: Sarah Brightman in Concert* world tour. In December 2014, he performed with the New York Choral Society in Andrea Bocelli's *Christmas Tour* at Madison

Square Garden as well as on PBS in *Lincoln Center Presents: The Richard Tucker Foundation Gala*. He has performed as a bass, tenor, and countertenor soloist with Pacific Masterworks Chorus, Los Robles Master Chorale, Fresno Community Chorus, Novum Voce and University of California Alumni Chorus. As a stage performer, he has appeared in productions of *Mame* as Ito with Contra Costa Musical Theater, *The King and I* as Luntha with Pleasanton Playhouse, *The Reluctant Dragon* as Saint George at Cal State University Fresno, *Godspell* and *Wonderful Town*.

Tim was the Music Director of *Morts pour la France*, a William Byron Webster production of opera music set in World War II and the Revolutionary War. As a choir director, Tim's choruses have performed at the White House, The U.S. Congress, San Francisco 49ers, San Francisco Giants, Oakland Athletics, Golden State Warriors, Disneyland, National Cathedral, Kennedy Center, and National Gallery of Art. His choirs have appeared on radio and television. He has produced and directed his choirs in the United Way-sponsored Christmas recording, *Faces of the Season*. Tim has written, directed, and produced two musicals and over twenty concerts.

He was a co-founder and charter member of the Pacific Masterworks Chorus and sang with Barbershop Harmony Society's award-winning Voices in Harmony, both led by Dr. Greg Lyne. He was also instrumental in the transformation of the Society's Valley Harmony Singers led by Laura Pallas. Tim also performed with the award-winning Pacific Coast Harmony. Other choruses that he has performed with are Volti with Robert Geary, Los Robles Master Chorale with Leslie Leighton, Colorado Chorale with Dr. Frank Eychaner, Fresno Community Chorus with Dr. Anna Hamre, San Francisco Concert Chorale with John Emory Bush, San Francisco Choral Society with Magen Solomon, and University of California Alumni Chorus with Mark Sumner. Tim has also performed under the batons of Seiji Ozawa, Herbert Blomstedt, Michael Tilson Thomas, Gustavo Dudamel, Andre Previn, Mstislav Rostropovich, Vance George, Ragnar Bohlin, Ian Robertson, Dr. Mark Sumner, Dr. John Alexander, and Howard Swan.

Tim began singing as a boy soprano in the San Francisco Boys Chorus where he performed on the group's first international tour to Romania as part of the United States Friendship Ambassadors program, as well as several San Francisco Opera productions and San Francisco Symphony concerts.

Tim was a 15-year member of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences.

DENNIS BUTZLAFF – NY Tour Guide

Dennis Butzlaff has been a Tour Guide and Tour Director for 18 years. He is a SFTGG Certified Guide, and an ITMI graduate. He works primarily over-the-road on the West Coast, in Yellowstone and Western National Parks, and on the east coast from Boston to Washington DC. He is licensed in DC and New York City. His resume video can be seen at <https://youtu.be/FuvevqfufRg?si=bB-GBbhoOOa75Sgn>. His safe word is pomegranate, and the capital of Montana is Helena, where he grew up.