

# DIANE WITTRY

Conductor

## BIOGRAPHY

Conductor, **DIANE WITTRY**, was recently named one of the "*Top 30 Music Influencers*" by Musical America Worldwide (December 2015). She is known for her innovative programming and her engaging audience rapport. During the past few seasons, she has conducted concerts in Poland, China, Japan, Canada, Italy, Bosnia, Russia, Slovakia, New York, Washington D.C, Connecticut, Wisconsin, Kansas, and California, as well as her regularly scheduled concerts with the orchestras in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. She is known as a conductor who "*specializes in finding creative ways to make the music fresh, accessible, and exciting.*"

Diane Wittry is the Music Director and Conductor of the Allentown Symphony Orchestra (PA), a professional orchestra with a 3.2 million budget that performs about 28 concerts per season. Diane Wittry is also the Artistic Director the Ridgewood Symphony (NJ), and Pizazz Music (NJ). In the past, she was the Music Director and Conductor of the Norwalk Symphony (CT), and Music Director and Conductor of The Symphony of Southeast Texas (TX) where her artistic leadership garnered national attention.

In the United States, Diane Wittry has led performances by, among others, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Buffalo Philharmonic, the Orchestra Society of New York, and the symphony orchestras of Milwaukee, San Diego, Houston, New Jersey, Santa Cruz, Augusta, Stockton, Pottstown, Wichita, Topeka, and York; while her international engagements include concerts with the Zabre Philharmonic in Poland, the Sarajevo Philharmonic in Bosnia, the National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine, Russia's Maikop and Sochi symphony orchestras, Slovakia's State Orchestra-Kosice, Italy's Sinfonia Dell'Arte di Firenze, Canada's Niagara Symphony, and Japan's Orchestra Osaka Symphony. She has also conducted at the music festivals of Ojai (CA), Penn's Woods (PA), and I-Park (CT).

Diane Wittry has been the subject of profiles in The New York Times and Newsweek, and has received many honors and awards, including the American Symphony Orchestra League's *Helen M. Thompson Award* for outstanding artistic leadership of a regional orchestra. In 2015 she was honored by Musical America as one of "*30 Top Music Professionals*" nationally, and in 2013, she was named the "*Outstanding Alumnus*" of the Thornton School of Music at the University of Southern California where she was also their graduation speaker. Ms. Wittry received the *Women of Excellence Award* in Beaumont, Texas, the *Arts Ovation Award* and the *Woman of Distinction Award* from Allentown, Pennsylvania. She is also only the third American to be named - in recognition of her leadership in the arts and humanities - the recipient of the prestigious *Fiorino Doro Award* from the City of Vinci, Italy.

Her book *Beyond the Baton*, (Oxford University Press) about artistic leadership for regional conductors has become a standard text for the industry. It is the focus of a yearly International Conducting Workshop in Norwalk, CT, which helps emerging conductors put to practical use the elements in the book. Her second book, *Baton Basics - Communicating Music through Gestures*, is used for University courses, and for International Conducting Workshops in Pleven, Bulgaria, Kiev, Ukraine, and in the United States.

More information about Diane Wittry's work is available at: [www.DianeWittry.com](http://www.DianeWittry.com)

# DIANE WITTRY

## RESUME

### Conductor

Website: [www.DianeWittry.com](http://www.DianeWittry.com)

Email: [DianeWittry@gmail.com](mailto:DianeWittry@gmail.com)

## CURRENT CONDUCTING POSITIONS

### The Allentown Symphony Orchestra, PA

1996-present

#### **Music Director and Conductor**

A 75 member professional per-service orchestra that performs five pairs of classical concerts, a four concert Pops series, five Educational concerts, three Nutcracker performances, and chamber music, outreach, and educational performances throughout the Lehigh Valley. The ASO also sponsors an El Sistema Music Program involving 110 students. ASO concerts take place in Miller Symphony Hall which is owned by the Symphony Association. The total annual budget including the orchestra and the hall is 3.2 million.

- Expanded concert programming to double subscription concerts
- Added the Pops Series (4 concerts)
- Collaborated with area arts organizations to add visuals, dancers, & actors, to concerts
- Founded the Allentown Symphony Chorus
- Founded the Allentown Symphony Chamber Players (10 member touring group)
- Founded the Young Musician's String Festival and El Sistema Program
- Founded the Conducting Fellows Program
- Founded Outreach Programs for Amateur Musicians - Fantasy Symphony Program

### Pizazz Music

2012-present

#### **Artistic Director and Conductor**

Major activities:

- Conductor - Orchestra Tour to China - November, 2014
- Instructor - Educational Outreach and Clinics in Schools
- Conducting Faculty - International Conducting Workshops (Bulgaria & Ukraine)
- Co-Host - Radio Show - "Simply Symphonic"

### The Ridgewood Symphony Orchestra, NJ

2014-present

#### **Music Director and Conductor**

A 70 member orchestra of professionals, community members, and advanced students which performs four subscription concerts per year and four outreach programs for children.

- Expanded the concert season from three concerts to four concerts
- Grew the audience base by 25%
- Developed new educational outreach programs for students

## GUEST CONDUCTING ENGAGEMENTS

The Sarajevo Philharmonic (Bosnia), Zabrze Philharmonic (Poland), National Orchestra of Ukraine (Ukraine), Sochi Symphony (Russia), Maikop Symphony (Russia), State Orchestra of Kosice (Slovakia), Sinfonia Dell'Arte di Firenze (Italy), Osaka Symphony Orchestra (Japan), Niagara Symphony (Canada), Los Angeles Philharmonic, San Diego Symphony, Milwaukee Symphony, Buffalo Philharmonic, Florida Philharmonic, Houston Symphony, Little Orchestra Society of New York, B.B.E Orchestra, Santa Barbara Symphony, Ojai Music Festival Orchestra, Wichita Symphony Orchestra, Penn's Woods Festival Orchestra, Santa Cruz Symphony, Stockton Symphony, Springfield Symphony, York Symphony, Topeka Symphony, Beaumont Symphony, Wichita Falls Symphony, Santa Maria Symphony, Olympia Philharmonic Orchestra, Pottstown Symphony, Adelphi Chamber Orchestra, among other.

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## PAST CONDUCTING POSITIONS

**International Cultural Exchange Program for Classical Musicians** 2011-2017  
***with the Sarajevo Philharmonic, Bosnia***  
**Artistic Director (USA)**

Guest conductor with the Sarajevo Philharmonic, and responsible for coordinating the national selection process for American musicians to participate in a one year residency program as members of the Sarajevo Philharmonic

**The Norwalk Symphony Orchestra, CT** 2002-2011  
**Music Director and Conductor**

A 70 member per-service professional orchestra that performed five subscription concerts and a series of educational concert programs. Increased artistic quality level, grew audience attendance, and developed new outreach programs. Budget \$400,000

**The Symphony of Southeast Texas, TX** 1991-2001  
**Music Director and Conductor**

An 80 member per-service professional orchestra that performed five subscription concerts, six youth concerts, pops concerts, side-by-side concerts, and run-out concerts. Expanded the season to repeat concerts in the region. Formed a Symphony Chorus. Budget \$700,000

**The Lamar Chamber Orchestra, TX** 1991-1996  
**Music Director and Conductor**

A Chamber Orchestra associated with Lamar University that performed four concerts per year and one fully staged opera. Built the orchestra from 20 members to 60 members.

**The Pasadena Symphony Orchestra, CA** 1990 -1995  
**Associate Conductor and Conductor of Educational Programs**

An 80 member, professional orchestra comprised of top professional musicians in the Los Angeles area. Duties included planning and conducting all of the educational concerts and programs. The budget was 2.5 million.

## HONORS AND AWARDS

30 Top Professionals - Influencers	Musical America	2015
National Achievement Award	Bosnian-Herzegovinian-American Academy (BHAAAS)	2014
The American Prize (1st place)	Professional Orchestra Category (Allentown Symphony)	2014
Outstanding Alumnus Award	Thornton School of Music, USC (Graduation speaker)	2013
Conducting Mentor	Conductors Guild	2012
Alumnae Appreciation Award	University of Southern California	2010
National Conducting Mentor	League of American Orchestras	2008
Fiorino Doro Award	City of Vince, Italy	2003
Top Prize Winner	Conducting Competition, Italy	2001
Women of Distinction Award	Lehigh Valley, PA	2000
Women of Excellence Award	City of Beaumont, TX	1999
Arts Ovation Award	City of Allentown, PA	1999
Helen M. Thompson Award	American Symphony Orchestra League	1996
Outstand Merit Award	Chamber Music America	1992
Gold Crown Award	City of Pasadena, CA	1990

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## EDUCATION

### THE SAINT PETERSBURG CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

Advanced Study of Conducting with Leonid Korchmar

### THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA-THORNTON SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Masters of Music, Instrumental Conducting with Daniel Lewis

### THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Bachelor of Music, Summa Cum Laude

**Conducting Assistant** - Great Woods Summer Institute, MA - with Michael Tilson Thomas

**Associate Conductor** - Ojai Music Festival, CA

worked with Lukas Foss, Nicholas McGegan, Peter Maxwell Davies, Pierre Boulez

**Understudy Conductor** - Scottish Chamber Orchestra National Tour - Peter Maxwell Davies

**Assistant Conductor** - National Orchestral Institute, MD (DePriest, Valdes, Comet, Stulberg)

**Conducting Fellow** - Aspen Music Festival, CO (student of Paul Vermel)