

# DIANE WITTRY

**Conductor**

## CAREER OVERVIEW

Recently named as one of Musical America's "Top 30 Professional Musicians - Dec. 2015," Diane Wittry brings a proven track record regarding her ability to inspire musicians and to build an orchestra artistically and organizationally.

A frequent guest conductor of professional orchestras across the country, Diane Wittry has guest conducted orchestras in 10 countries throughout Europe and Asia. She is currently the Artistic Director of the International Cultural Exchange Program for Classical Musicians with the Sarajevo Philharmonic in Bosnia.

As the Music Director and Conductor of the Allentown Symphony Orchestra, PA, a professional orchestra with a 3 million budget that performs about 24 concerts a year, Diane Wittry has established a reputation for her creative programming and innovative approach to concert formats. She has a proven ability to develop an orchestra musically and an extensive knowledge and experience with orchestral repertoire.

Other orchestras that Diane Wittry has been the Music Director and Conductor of include the Norwalk Symphony (CT), the Ridgewood Symphony (NJ), the Pizazz Symphony (NJ), the Southern California Sinfonia (CA), and the Symphony of Southeast Texas, (Beaumont, TX), where her work garnered the League of American Orchestras' *Helen M Thompson Award*. She also was the Music Director and Conductor of the Greater Miami Youth Symphony (FL), a program with 200 students, three orchestras, and 12 chamber music ensembles, and the Meremblum Junior Symphony (CA).

As a teacher, Diane Wittry, is a frequent guest lecturer at the Juilliard School, the Manhattan School of Music, and the Curtis Institute of Music, as well as other Universities and Colleges. In 2013 she was named the "Outstanding Alumnus" of the Thornton School of Music at USC and she gave the graduation speech. She has been a faculty member at Lamar University (Beaumont, TX) where she successfully recruited a large class of string students from Europe and Asia for the Lamar Chamber Orchestra, and a lecturer at the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music where she taught conducting courses. Diane Wittry has the ability to organize and build a nationally recognized orchestral program, and is sought after as a clinician, adjudicator, and conductor for All-State Orchestras. More recently, she conducted the Oregon All-State Orchestra, and she was the featured Masterclass Conducting Teacher at the national CODA (College Orchestra Directors Association).

In the area of scholarly research, Diane Wittry's first book, "*Beyond the Baton - What Every Conductor Needs to Know*" (Oxford University Press 2007) has become a standard required text for the orchestral conducting industry nationally and internationally. Her second book "*Baton Basics - Communicating Music Through Gestures*" (Oxford University Press, Dec. 2014) has already been adapted as a text for conducting classes across the United States, and is the subject of an International conducting workshop.

Diane Wittry has taught national and international conducting courses and workshops through the International Conductors Institute, the South Carolina Conductor's Institute, and the Beyond the Baton Conducting Seminars and Workshops. She is active as a national conducting mentor with both the League of American Orchestras, and the International Conductors Guild.

Websites: [www.DianeWittry.com](http://www.DianeWittry.com)  
[www.BeyondtheBaton.com](http://www.BeyondtheBaton.com)  
[www.AllentownSymphony.org](http://www.AllentownSymphony.org)

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## EDUCATION

**THE SAINT PETERSBURG CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC** 2001, 2002  
Advanced Study of Conducting with Leonid Korchmar, Staff Conductor, Kirov

**THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA** 1985  
Masters of Music, Instrumental Conducting with Daniel Lewis  
Departmental Award – Instrumental Conducting

**THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA** 1983  
Bachelor of Music - Summa cum Laude

**Conducting Assistant** - Great Woods Summer Institute (Michael Tilson Thomas)

**Associate Conductor** - Ojai Music Festival  
(Peter Maxwell Davies, Nicholas McGegan, Pierre Boulez)

**Conducting Fellow** - Aspen Music Festival Paul Vermel)

**Assistant Conductor**-National Orchestral Institute  
(James DePriest, Catherine Comet, Maximiano Valdes)

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

## PROFESSIONAL GUEST CONDUCTING

The Los Angeles Philharmonic, The Milwaukee Symphony, The San Diego Symphony, The Buffalo Philharmonic, The Florida Philharmonic, The Little Orchestra Society of New York, The Springfield Symphony, The Santa Cruz Symphony, The Augusta Symphony, The B.B.E Orchestra, The Wichita Symphony Orchestra, The Stockton Symphony, The Topeka Symphony, The Beaumont Symphony, The Wichita Falls Symphony, The Santa Maria Symphony, The York Symphony, The Olympia Philharmonic Orchestra, The Pottstown Symphony, The Adelphi Chamber Orchestra, and the summer festivals of Ojai California, Hammock's Pops Festival Florida, Penn's Woods Festival PA, and I-Park Artist's Retreat CT.

International guest conducting includes: The Zabre Philharmonic (Poland), The Niagara Symphony (Canada), The Sarajevo Philharmonic (Bosnia), The National Orchestra of Ukraine (Ukraine), The Sochi Symphony (Russia), The Maikop Symphony (Russia), State Orchestra of Kosice (Slovakia), The Sinfonia Dell'Arte di Firenze (Italy), The Osaka Symphony Orchestra (Japan), among other.

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## CURRENT PROFESSIONAL CONDUCTING POSITIONS

**The Allentown Symphony Orchestra, PA** 1996-present  
**Music Director and Conductor**

A 75 member, professional union orchestra which performs five pairs of Classical Subscription concerts, educational concerts, Nutcracker performances, a Pops concert series, and a Family concert series (24 performances per season). The annual budget is 3.1 million.

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

**The Ridgewood Symphony Orchestra, NJ** 2014-present  
**Artistic Director & Conductor**

A 75 member orchestra that performed three subscription concerts and educational programs.

## PAST CONDUCTING POSITIONS

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

A 70 member, per-service professional orchestra that performed five classical subscription concerts, an educational concert series, and a pops concert. The annual budget \$500,000

**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. This organization had a yearly budget of \$650,000, a 75 member Board of Directors, and over 500 Symphony League volunteers.

**The Pasadena Symphony Orchestra, CA** 1987 -1995  
**Associate Conductor and**  
**Conductor and Director of Educational Programs**

An 80 member, professional orchestra comprised of the best musicians in the Los Angeles area. The annual budget was 2.5 million and the Music Director was Jorge Mester.

**The Greater Miami Youth Symphony, FL** 1987-1991  
**Music Director and Conductor**

A program involving 180 students, three orchestras, and 12 chamber music groups.

**The Southern California Sinfonia, CA** 1987-1989  
**Music Director and Conductor**

A professional Chamber Orchestra that specialized in performing concerts for young people.

**The Meremblum Junior Youth Symphony, CA** 1986 -1988  
**Music Director and Conductor**

A youth orchestra comprised of Junior High and High School students in the Los Angeles area.

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## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

<b>Bulgaria International Conducting Workshop</b>	Conducting Faculty	2012, 2015, 2017
<b>Juilliard School of Music, NY</b>	Guest Lecturer	2010 - 2016
<b>South Carolina Conductors Institute, SC</b>	Conducting Faculty	2008, 2014, 2015, 2016
<b>Swarthmore College, PA</b>	Guest Speaker	2016
<b>Conductors Guild - National Mentor</b>	Mentor	2012-2016
<b>International Conducting Institute, NY &amp; CO</b>	Conducting Faculty	2012-2016
<b>Beyond the Baton – Conducting Seminar</b>	Conducting Faculty	2007–2016
<b>Manhattan School of Music, NY</b>	Guest Speaker	2013-2015
<b>Mannes - the New School of Music, NY</b>	Guest Speaker	2015
<b>Kiev, Ukraine Conducting Workshop</b>	Conducting Faculty	2013
<b>Curtis Institute of Music, PA</b>	Guest Lecturer	2007, 2011, 2012
<b>Princeton Club, New York, NY</b>	Guest Speaker	2008, 2010, 2011
<b>Kutztown University, PA</b>	Guest Clinician	2011
<b>I-Park, Symposium, CT</b>	Music Panelist	2010
<b>University of Southern California, CA</b>	Guest Lecturer	2009
<b>League of American Orchestras, NY</b>		
<b>Leadership Academy</b>	Faculty	
National Conducting Mentor		2008 -2009
Essentials of Orchestral Management Course		2006 -2009
<i>The Role of the Music Director with Regional Orchestras</i>		
Pops Programming Seminar Faculty		2002
<b>Brandeis University, MA</b>	Guest Lecturer	2008
<b>I-Park, CT</b>	Composer Open Studios, Lecturer	2008
<b>Lamar University, Beaumont, TX</b>	Faculty	1991-1996
Conductor: The Lamar Chamber Orchestra		
Conductor: The Lamar Opera Program		
Coach: String Chamber Music		
Courses: Music Appreciation		
Courses: Fundamentals of Music		
<b>University of Southern California, CA (USC)</b>	Faculty	1986-1987
Courses: Instrumental Conducting I		
<b>University of California Los Angeles, CA (UCLA)</b>		1988
<b>School of Continuing Education</b>	Lecturer	
Course: Becoming a Professional Musician		
<b>Santa Monica School District, CA</b>	String Specialist	1986-1988
Santa Monica High School		
2 Elementary Schools		
<b>University of Southern California, CA (USC)</b>	Teaching Assistant	1984-1985
Courses: Music Appreciation		

## CONDUCTING BOOK

“***Beyond the Baton***” Oxford University Press ([www,BeyondtheBaton.com](http://www.BeyondtheBaton.com)) 2007

Nominated for a Pulitzer Prize

*“There is much more to a successful conducting career than merely standing on the podium and making music. Diane Wittry has provided a remarkable thorough and thoughtful guide to this unique profession, one that will be of immense value to every aspiring conductor who hopes to work and flourish in American Orchestras”*

*Henry Fogel*

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## PUBLICATIONS

### Conducting Books:

***“Beyond the Baton – What Every Conductor Needs to Know”***

Oxford University Press, November, 2007

***“Baton Basics – Communicating Music Through Gestures”***

Oxford University Press, December, 2014

### Newspaper Articles:

The Lehigh Valley Press, **Music Column**, printed in 8 weekly newspapers 2009-2016

The Norwalk Hour, **Music Column**, Daily Paper 2006-2011

### Magazine Articles:

Parent Magazine, "**Smart Kids**" Oct 1998

Newsweek, "**Roll Over Beethoven, Call Me Maestra**" Sept 1994

Upbeat Magazine, "**Financing a Youth Orchestra in the 90's**" Sept 1991

The Instrumentalist "**Organizing a Summer Music Program for Children**" March 1986

## ALL-STATE & HONOR ORCHESTRAS – GUEST CONDUCTING

Oregon All-State Orchestra 2013

Connecticut, Westchester Area All-State Orchestra 2009

Connecticut, Fairfield County, All-Region Orchestra 2007

Norwalk Symphony Prodigy Concerts 2007-2010

Norwalk Symphony Side-by-Side Concerts 2003-2007

Allentown Symphony Side-by-Side Concerts 2001-2006

Texas All-Region Orchestra, Region 19 1998

Arkansas All-Southern Orchestra 1997

Louisiana All-State Orchestra 1995

Texas All-Region Orchestra, Region 10 1994

Utah All-State Orchestra 1992

Symphony of Southeast Texas Side-by-Side Concerts 1992-1998

Pasadena Symphony Side-by Side Concert with Pasadena High School 1989

## PANELIST – ADJUDICATOR

**ASCAP**, Rudolf Nissim Composer's Competition, NY Adjudicator 2006, 2010 - 2013, 2016

**Schadt National String Competition**, PA Adjudicator 1997 - 2016

**Heritage Festivals and Music Clinics** Adjudicator 2007 - 2016

(New York, Washington DC, Philadelphia, Boston, Baltimore)

**Queens College**, NY "Women in Music" Panelist 2011

**I-Park**, Thanopolis Symposium, CT Panelist 2010, 2011

**National Endowment for the Arts**, Washington, DC 2006

Music Grants Panel Panelist

**I-Park**, Composer's Artist Residency Program, CT Adjudicator 2005

**Philadelphia Orchestra**, Greenberg Competition, PA Adjudicator 2003

**Allentown Symphony**, PA

National Schadt String Competition, PA Adjudicator 2001-2010

**Young Texas Artists Music Competition**, TX Adjudicator 1996, 1998

**Beaumont String Festival**, TX Adjudicator 1995

**Miami School For the Arts**, FL Clinician 1990

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## HONORS AND AWARDS

Top 30 Professional Musicians Recognition Award	Musical America State of Pennsylvania	2015 2015
Achievement Award	City of Allentown, PA	2015
American Prize - 1st place	Professional Orchestra division	2014
National Achievement Award	Sarajevo Philharmonic and BHAAAS	2014
Outstanding Alumnus Award 2013	Thornton School of Music, USC	2013
Alumni Certificate of Appreciation	University of Southern California	2009
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	League of American Orchestras	1996
Outstand Merit Award	Chamber Music America	1991
Gold Crown Award	City of Pasadena, CA	1990

## COMPOSER

The music of Diane Wittry is published by the Theodore Presser Company and Peckham Publications

<b>“Mist”</b> (Orchestra) (2,2,2,2,-3,2,1,1, timp+1, harp, strings)	2008
<b>“Lamentoso”</b> (Orchestra) (*3,2,2,2,-4,3,3,1, timp+2, strings)	2010
<b>“after the rain”</b> (Chamber Ensemble) (*2,1,1,1,-2,1,1,0, 2 perc., string quintet )	2012
<b>“Concerto for Homemade Instruments and Orchestra”</b> (Orchestra) (*2,2,2,2,-2,2,2,1 timp+2, harp, strings)	2013
<b>“Ode to Joy Fanfare”</b> (Orchestra) (2,2,2,2,-4,2,3,0 timp+2, strings)	2015

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## BOARD MEMBER

I-Park Artist Retreat, East Haddam, CT National Board Member	2014-2016
The Allentown Symphony, PA, Board Member	1996-2014
WDIY Public Radio, PA, Advisory Board Member	2006-2008
The Norwalk Symphony, CT, Board Member	2002-2010
Allen High School Arts Academy, PA, Advisory Board Member	2000-2002
The Conductor's Guild, National Board Member	1997-2003
Chair: National Conference, Los Angeles	1999
Chair: Advocacy Committee	2000
Lehigh Valley Charter School of Performing Arts, PA Advisory Council	1996-1999
The Southeast Texas Youth Symphony, TX, Advisory Board	1994-1998
Young Audiences of Southeast Texas, TX, Board Member	1992-2000
The Symphony of Southeast Texas, TX, Board Member	1991-2000
The Greater Miami Youth Symphony, FL, Board Member	1987-1991

## RADIO AND T.V.

Radio Co-Host " <b>Simply Symphonic</b> " <i>Co-Host of a new nationally syndicated radio show (2015) that focuses on the music of the great composers.</i>	2016
Radio Interviews, WDIY, Bethlehem, PA (88.1FM) <i>Monthly interviews focusing on the concerts of the Allentown Symphony</i>	1996-2016
PBS 39, " <b>Live at the I.U.</b> " WLVT, Bethlehem, PA <i>Developed a teacher credit music TV program that focused on the teaching materials for education concerts of the Allentown Symphony.</i>	2005-2009
Radio Interviews, KVLU, Beaumont, Texas (91.3 FM) <i>An interview series focusing on the concerts of the Symphony of Southeast Texas</i>	1991-1999
Radio Co-Host " <b>Trilogy</b> " KXLU Los Angeles, CA (88.9 FM) <i>Co-Host of a show that focused on interviews with composers, conductors, and performers.</i>	1987-1988

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## GUEST SPEAKER

### **The College Orchestra Director's Association (CODA)**

Guest Master Class Conducting Teacher      Utah      2016

### **The Conductor's Guild National Conferences**

National Mentor      2012-2016

Panelist      St. Louis      2013

New Music Presenter      St. Louis      2013

Panelist      New York      2009

New Music Presenter      Boston      2006

New Music Presenter      New York      2003

### **League of American Orchestras National Conferences**

Moderator & Speaker      2015

Speaker      2014

Moderator      2013

Speaker      2013

Speaker      2012

Moderator      2002

Speaker      1996

Speaker      1995

### **Texas Association of Symphony Orchestras**

Keynote Speaker - State Conference      1995

### **Guest Speaker**

Lehigh Valley Economic Development Council, PA

Lehigh Valley Executive Women's Council, PA

Pennsylvania Music Teachers Association

Connecticut Music Teachers Association

Rotary Clubs, FL, TX, NJ, PA, CT, CA, MO

Kiwanis Clubs, PA, CT, CA

Lions Clubs, TX, CT