

DIANE WITTRY

Conductor

Phone: 908-432-5188

Email: DianeWittry@gmail.com

Website: www.DianeWittry.com

BIOGRAPHY

Diane Wittry, named nationally as one of the "*Top 30 Professional Musicians*" by Musical America Worldwide for her work leading orchestras, is a highly respected conductor in the United States today. Frequently engaged as a guest conductor, she has led symphonic performances in more than 11 countries and throughout the U.S.

Orchestras she has guest conducted include The Los Angeles Philharmonic, The Milwaukee Symphony, The San Diego Symphony, The Buffalo Philharmonic, among others, and she was one of the first woman to guest conduct at the renown Ojai Music Festival, CA..

Currently the Music Director of the Allentown Symphony Orchestra, PA, under Diane Wittry's artistic leadership, the orchestra has risen to increasing standards of excellence, performing exciting music with passion and dedication, winning 1st place for the prestigious national "American Prize" for artistic quality in both 2014 and 2017, receiving national NEA Grants, commissioning new pieces of music, and featuring exceptional soloists like Midori, Emanuel Ax, Garrick Ohlsson, Yefim Bronfman, Angela Meade, and Branford Marsalis.

During her tenure with the ASO, Diane has built a well-earned reputation for her innovative style of multi-media programming that uses other art forms to enhance the concert experience. A dedicated educator, she has expanded the concert series and developed outreach programs such as the Allentown Symphony Chorus, the Schadt National String Competition, Young Musicians String Festival, the El Sistema Lehigh Valley Program for underserved youth, the Conducting Fellows Program, ASO Annual Youth and Family Concerts, the Composer in Residence Program, regional Composer Competitions, the Fantasy Symphony Program for amateur adult musicians, Meet the Artists talks, a new Chamber Music Series, and on-going partnerships with arts organizations throughout the Lehigh Valley.

In addition to her work with the ASO, Diane Wittry has been the Music Director and Conductor of the Garden State Philharmonic, NJ; and has served as the Associate Conductor of the renowned Ojai Music Festival (CA); the Artistic Director of the International Music Program with the Sarajevo Philharmonic, Bosnia; and Music Director and Conductor of the Symphony of Southeast Texas, the Norwalk Symphony (CT), and the Ridgewood Symphony (NJ).

Wittry is an award-winning author, composer, and teacher. Her two books, *Beyond the Baton*, and *Baton Basics-Communicating Music through Gestures*, have become standards in the field, and she has given presentations at the Juilliard School of Music, the Curtis Institute, the Manhattan School of Music, and for the League of American Orchestras and the Conductors Guild National Conferences.

Wittry has received the national Helen M. Thompson Award from the League of American Orchestras, the USC Thornton School of Music Outstanding Alumnus Award, the Gold Crown Award (Pasadena, CA), the Women of Excellence Award (Beaumont, TX), and the Arts Ovation Award and the Woman of Distinction Award (Allentown, PA).

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PERSONAL MISSION STATEMENT

To bring orchestral music to as many people as possible in new, exciting, and innovative ways in order to change their life for the better.

CONDUCTING POSITIONS

The Allentown Symphony Orchestra, PA

1996-present

Music Director and Conductor

A 73 member professional CBA orchestra which performs five pairs of Classical Subscription concerts, 5 Pops concerts, Educational concerts, the Nutcracker Ballet series, a Family concert, chamber music and new music concerts, and other community engagement activities. The ASO also supports a Symphony Chorus and an El Sistema Program for underserved youth. The organization budget is 3.5 million.

Highlights of my work with the Allentown Symphony Orchestra:

- Due to continually sold out concerts, in 2006 we added repeats of Classical Concerts
- Gradually added more Pops concerts-now we perform 5 pops Concerts plus run-outs
- Founded the Schadt National String Competition (\$12,000 1st prize)
- Founded the Young Musicians String Festival Program
- Established the "Conducting Fellows" Program. Over 70 conductors have participated over the past 12 years.
- Worked with Executive Director to start the El Sistema Lehigh Valley Program (in our 11th year, 130 students involved - 2 school sites -7 Teaching Artists)
- Established the ASO Symphony Chorus (currently in our 10th year)
- Started the "Composer in Residence" Program, the "Call for Scores", and New Music Chamber Music Concerts (4th year) Clarice Assad is our Composer in Residence.
- Commissioned at least one new work each season
- Received an Emmy through Service Electric's filming of our Educational Concert Program in 2017.
- Worked with the Development Director to start the "Musician Chair Sponsorship" program. Now all of our musicians are sponsored.
- Developing a new "Latin-X" concert series for Summer 2024
- Developing a Diversity "Artist in Residence" position to start Fall of 2024

PROFESSIONAL GUEST CONDUCTING (USA)

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 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 Johnstown Symphony, and the summer festivals of Ojai CA, Hammock's Pops Festival PA, Penn's Woods Festival PA, and I-Park Artist's Retreat CT.

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PROFESSIONAL GUEST CONDUCTING (International)

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.

PAST - MUSIC DIRECTOR CONDUCTING POSITIONS

The Garden State Philharmonic Orchestra, NJ

2018- June 2023

Music Director and Conductor

A professional orchestra of New York and New Jersey musicians that performed classical subscription concerts, educational concerts, chamber music programs, as well as the Nutcracker Ballet with the Atlantic City Ballet Company. The Orchestra had a Youth Orchestra program with 4 levels, and a Community Chorus. The orchestra is in Residence at Ocean County College at the Jersey Shore.

The Sarajevo Philharmonic, Bosnia

2011-2018

Guest Conductor & Artistic Director (USA) International Music Program

Coordinated and selected 5 musicians nationally each year to receive 1 year contracts to perform as members of the Sarajevo Philharmonic

The Ridgewood Symphony Orchestra, NJ

2014-2018

Artistic Director & Conductor

An orchestra comprised of professional musicians, community musicians and college students that performed 4 concerts per season. Expanded to add Pops Concerts

The Norwalk Symphony Orchestra, CT

2002-2011

Music Director and Conductor

A professional orchestra of musicians from Connecticut and New York that performed 5 concert per season. Added an educational concert series at local libraries.

The Symphony of Southeast Texas, TX

1991-2001

Music Director and Conductor

A professional orchestra that performed 5 classical concerts and 2 pops per season. Founded the Symphony Chorus, and expanded the educational engagement programs

ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR POSITIONS

Associate Conductor - Ojai Music Festival (3 years)

worked with: Pierre Boulez, Peter Maxwell Davies, Nicholas McGegan

Conducting Assistant - Great Woods Summer Institute

for Michael Tilson Thomas

Assistant Conductor- National Orchestral Institute

for James DePriest, Catherine Comet, Maximiano Valdes

Understudy Conductor - Scottish Chamber Orchestra National Tour

for Peter Maxwell Davies

Conducting Fellow - Aspen Music Festival

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EDUCATION

THE SAINT PETERSBURG CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

*Private Conducting Lessons and Conducting Seminar only - 2001 & 2002
with Leonid Korchmar, Staff Conductor, Kirov*

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Masters of Music, Instrumental Conducting with Daniel Lewis

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Bachelor of Music - Summa cum Laude

HONORS AND AWARDS

League of American Orchestra
Women of Influence
Arts Ovation Award
American Prize - 1st place
Emmy Award - Service Electric TV
Top 30 Professional Musicians
Recognition Award
Achievement Award
American Prize - 1st place
National Achievement Award
Outstanding Alumnus Award 2013
Alumni Certificate of Appreciation
National Conducting Mentor
Fiorino Doro Award
Top Prize Winner
Women of Distinction Award
Women of Excellence Award
Arts Ovation Award
Helen M. Thompson Award
Outstand Merit Award

Co-Chair - Conductor Constituency 2020-2023
Morning Call Newspaper 2022
City of Allentown 2019
Professional Orchestra Division 2017-2018
Allentown Symphony - Peter & the Wolf 2017
Musical America 2015
State of Pennsylvania 2015
City of Allentown, PA 2015
Professional Orchestra Division 2014
Sarajevo Philharmonic and BHAAAS 2014
Thornton School of Music, USC 2013
University of Southern California 2009
League of American Orchestras 2008
City of Vince, Italy 2003
Conducting Competition, Italy 2001
Lehigh Valley, PA 2000
City of Beaumont, TX 1999
City of Allentown, PA 1999
League of American Orchestras 1996
Chamber Music America 1991