

## BIOGRAPHY - Diane Wittry, Conductor

**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).

More information on her work is available at her website: **[www.DianeWittry.com](http://www.DianeWittry.com)**

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