

DIANE WITTRY

Conductor

Phone: 908-432-5188

Email: DianeWittry@gmail.com

Website: <https://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 Houston Symphony, The Buffalo Philharmonic, among others, and she was one of the first woman to guest conduct at the renowned 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 conducting 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, the Conductors Guild National Conferences, and the League of American Orchestras Conferences - where she was National Co-Chair of the Conductor's Constituency Group.

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.

PROFESSIONAL GUEST CONDUCTING

USA: The Los Angeles Philharmonic, The Milwaukee Symphony, The San Diego Symphony, The Houston Symphony, The New Jersey 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, among others. And the summer festivals of Ojai CA, Hammock's Pops Festival PA, Penn's Woods Festival PA, and I-Park Artist's Retreat CT.

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.

MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR

The Allentown Symphony Orchestra, PA

1996-present

Music Director and Conductor

A 75 member professional CBA orchestra which performs five pairs of Classical Subscription concerts, 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.

Highlights of work with the Allentown Symphony Orchestra:

- Grew audiences attendance and added repeats of all Classical Concerts
- Expanded the Pops Concert Series
- Started the Film with Orchestra Concerts – Star Wars series
- Utilized visuals and lighting in Classical and Pops Concerts
- Founded the Schadt National String Competition (\$12,000 1st prize)
- Founded the Young Musicians String Festival Program
- Established the "Conducting Fellows" Program. Over 76 conductors have participated over the past 12 years.
- Founded the El Sistema Lehigh Valley Program involving 150 students from underserved communities
- Established the ASO Symphony Chorus (currently in the 11th year)

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- Founded the "Composer in Residence" Program, the "Call for Scores", and New Music Chamber Music Concerts.
- Commissioned at least one new work each season
- Worked with the Development Director to start the "Musician Chair Sponsorship" program. All of the musicians are now sponsored.
- Established the "Latin Leadership Committee"
- Founded the "Musician-in-Residence" a full-time position to start Fall of 2024

The Garden State Philharmonic Orchestra, NJ

2018-2023

Music Director and Conductor

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

The Ridgewood Symphony Orchestra, NJ

2014-2018

Artistic Director & Conductor

An orchestra comprised of professional musicians and community musicians that performed 4 concerts per season. Expanded the season by adding Pops Concerts

The Sarajevo Philharmonic, Bosnia

2011-2018

Guest Conductor & Artistic Director (USA) International Music Program

Coordinated and selected 5 musicians nationally each year to receive a 1 year contract to perform as members of the Sarajevo Philharmonic, Bosnia. Guest Conducted the Sarajevo Philharmonic for a variety of 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 classical concerts and pops concerts
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	Co-Chair - Conductor Constituency	2020-2024
Women of Influence	Morning Call Newspaper	2022
Arts Ovation Award	City of Allentown	2019
American Prize - 1st place	Professional Orchestra Division	2017-2018
Emmy Award - Service Electric TV	Allentown Symphony - Peter & the Wolf	2017
Top 30 Professional Musicians	Musical America	2015
Recognition Award	State of Pennsylvania	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

VIDEO LINKS

<https://dianewittry.com/video-1/>