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SANDRA KATHERINE DACKOW CONDUCTOR



Contents:

- Biography
- Curriculum Vitae
- Critical Acclaim
- References

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Sandra Katherine Dackow is currently the Music Director of the Hershey Symphony Orchestra in Hershey, Pennsylvania and for fifteen years, served as the Music Director of the Ridgewood Symphony Orchestra in Ridgewood, New Jersey. The Ridgewood Symphony Orchestra debuted to rave reviews at Carnegie Hall in 1992 and also at Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall. Her guest conducting engagements have taken her all over the world from Kharkov Philharmonic, Ukraine, Victoria Symphony Orchestra (TX), Australian East Coast Wind Orchestra to Rapides Symphony and Varna State Philharmonic (Bulgaria), to name just a few.

Sandra Dackow holds Bachelor and Master of Music degrees, as well as the Doctor of Philosophy from the Eastman School of Music. She most recently served on the faculty of Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts, as director of the University Symphony Orchestra and Wind Ensemble. She has served on the faculty of Slippery Rock University in PA and has been a visiting faculty member during the summer sessions of the Eastman School of Music, Temple University, Montclair State College, Wichita State University and the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. A native of East Paterson (Elmwood Park) New Jersey, she has served as a band and orchestra director in the schools of both Glen Rock and East Brunswick, New Jersey, as well as Supervisor of Music of the Ridgewood New Jersey public schools.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Music Director/Conducting Positions:

1991-Present Hershey Symphony Orchestra, Hershey, Pennsylvania
1986-2002 Ridgewood Symphony Orchestra, Ridgewood, New Jersey

Guest Conducting Experience:

Kharkov Philharmonic, Ukraine
Spokane Symphony Orchestra
Victoria Symphony Orchestra
Forth Worth Civic Orchestra
Berkshire Symphony Orchestra
Australian East Coast Wind Orchestra
Fort Collins Symphony
Missouri Symphony Society
Helena Symphony
University of Kentucky Orchestra
University of Montana Orchestra
Monroe Symphony
Rapides Symphony
Western Australian Youth Orchestras
Filharmonie Hradec Kralove, Czech Republic
Hong Kong Youth Symphony
Congress Orchestra, St. Petersburg, Russia
Varna State Philharmonic, Bulgaria
Butler Symphony Orchestra

All-State Orchestras in – Alaska, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Tennessee, Wyoming, Missouri, Florida, Mississippi, Arkansas, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Utah, West Virginia

International Honors Orchestra, England, Queensland Honors Orchestra, Australia
Numerous regional and festival groups in US, Canada, Ireland, Australia

Other positions held:

Violinist, Violist, Teacher Trainer, Workshop Clinician
Co-author *Orchestra Expressions*, method book/text published by Warner Brothers
Co-author *MENC Complete String Guide*
Arranger of music for student orchestras, Ludwig Music Pub. Co., Cleveland, OH
Extensive work as conductor of youth orchestras both as music director (Youngstown Symphony Youth Orchestra, Philharmonic Society of North Jersey, groups sponsored by the Ridgewood Symphony and the Hershey Symphony) and guest conductor throughout the nation and abroad.
Extensive work as a conductor at summer music camps
Teacher of conducting at various summer programs and graduate classes for teachers

Teaching experience:

Faculty: Brandeis University, Waltham, MA, 1988-1994 Conductor Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, Chamber Orchestra, Artist-in-Residence (non-tenure track)

Faculty: Slippery Rock University, PA, 1981-1986 Promoted and offered tenure; Orchestra, Music History, Music Education, Applied Strings, String Division Chair, Introduction to Music; Developed Music Education Curriculum

Visiting Faculty: Summer Sessions at Temple University, 1987, Eastman School of Music, 1985, Wichita State University, 1991, Montclair State College, NJ, 1990-1991, University of Alaska, 1992, 1997, Cork School of Music, Ireland, 2000.

Supervisor of Music, Ridgewood, NJ Public Schools, 1986-88, Music Teacher, Glen Rock Public Schools, NJ, 1973-1976, East Brunswick, NJ Public Schools, 1976-1980, Band and Orchestra Director, all levels.

Workshops and clinics for teachers, conductors and students given throughout the United States, Canada, Australia, Hong Kong, Ireland and in England and South Africa

Recognition and Awards:

Silver Medalist 2001 Vakhtang Jordania/New Millennium International Conducting Competition, Kharkov, Ukraine

Fellowship, American Academy of Conductors, Aspen Summer Festival 2001

Vice President, Conductors Guild; offices previously held in various orchestra/educational programs

Winner of yearly ASCAP awards. Over seventy works published. Many articles, including cover stories, published in a variety of professional journals. Analyses written for *Teaching Music Through Performance in Orchestra* Vol. I and II

EDUCATION:

Doctor of Philosophy 1987 Eastman School of Music, Rochester, NY

Master of Music 1976 Eastman School of Music

Bachelor of Music 1973 *cum laude* Eastman School of Music

Major Instrument: Violin

Minor Instruments: piano, viola, trombone, double bass, horn, percussion

Extensive experience as an orchestral and chamber musician, orchestra librarian and contractor

CRITICAL ACCLAIM

“A shouting, standing ovation followed the Ridgewood Symphony Orchestra’s debut at Carnegie Hall....demonstrated the astonishing excellence it has achieved since Dr. Dackow took over as Music Director....it played with tremendous verve and admirable discipline....Dr. Dackow has this orchestra under fingertip control”

Ridgewood News/The Review

“Like a king for a day, the community orchestra from New Jersey made a quite respectable New York debut (Lincoln Center) playing a program that mixed symphonic folklore with moments of royalty....the orchestra looked, felt, and often sounded right at home on the stage of Avery Fisher Hall in a concert with international dimensions”

The Record

“Symphony concert among the best.....audience was fortunate to hear such a gem of a performance...the lively and cheerful work was appropriate for Dackow, who herself was animated and aggressive, while exacting in her conducting”

The Victoria Advocate

REFERENCES

Mr. Everett Gates, Professor Emeritus, Eastman School of Music
354 Marsh Rd., Pittsford, NY 14534

Mrs. Donna Denniston, former Personnel Manager and Prin. Cello of the
Ridgewood Symphony Orchestra
PO Box 184, West Springfield, New Hampshire, 03284
603-763-9302

Mrs. Sondra Simmons, Board member and Violinist, Hershey Symphony Orchestra
310 Bachmanville Rd., Hershey, PA 17078

Mr. John Lochner, Former Conductor and Principal Cello of the Ridgewood Symphony

Mrs. Judy Goedecke, Former Pres and Cellist, Hershey Symphony
7136 Red Top Rd., Hummelstown, PA 17036
717-566-6654

Mr. Terry Steele, Professor of Music, Slippery Rock University
110 Poplar Forest Drive
Slippery Rock, PA 16057
724-794-2127