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## Kim Diehnelt, Conductor



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## Biography

Kim Diehnelt established her craft as conductor and artistic coach in Finland and Switzerland where she worked with the South Bohemian Chamber Orchestra, Russian and Baltic ensembles. In Helsinki, Ms. Diehnelt founded the Helsinki Camerata, a group dedicated to a chamber music approach to orchestral performance. She was Director of Chamber Music at the Musicology Department of Helsinki University and has been Music Director of the Helsinki Community College Orchestra. Kim is grateful for the mentoring she received from the late Sergiu Commissiona and János Fürst. In the United States, Ms. Diehnelt was Music Director of Opera Millennium (MN) where she led the premiere production of Marjorie Rusche's dance opera *Goddess Songs*. Kim has been Music Director of the Southwest Minnesota Orchestra (MN) and the Lakeside Pride Orchestra (IL). From 2001-2006, Kim served as Assistant Conductor of the Symphony of Oak Park and River Forest (IL) led by Music Director Jay Friedman. Ms. Diehnelt's tenure culminated with the orchestra's 75th Anniversary Concert, where she conducted a striking performance of Schubert's "Unfinished" Symphony and the dramatic premiere of *Symphonic Journal: Ambush from Ten Sides* by Angel Lam.

In May 2005, Ms. Diehnelt accepted the post of Conductor of the Chicago Reading Orchestra. During the next two years Kim conducted the CRO in over 100 major works, including the symphonic repertoire of Debussy, Elgar, Ravel, Bruckner, and Strauss, readings of contemporary pieces, and Mahler's symphonies, *Das Lied von der Erde*, and *Kindertotenlieder*. Ms. Diehnelt presented the works of contemporary award-winning composers in public readings with the CRO: *Memories of My Previous Lives* by Angel Lam, the two-time winner of the ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composer Award, and *Dance Aurora* by Bjorn Berkhout, 2006 winner of the Gustav Mahler City of Klagenfurt Composition Prize.

Kim has been Guest Conductor of the Orquestra Sinfónica de Aguascalientes (Mexico), Waukegan Symphony Orchestra (IL), Marshall Area Youth Orchestra (MN), Suburban Youth Symphony Orchestra (IL), and the VanderCook College of Music Orchestra (Chicago, IL). She was Guest Conductor for the American Opera Group's 2006 production of *Die Fledermaus* (Oak Park, IL). In 2002, Kim conducted at the Aspen Music Festival.

Ms. Diehnelt is an authority on the music of Edward Elgar. The Elgar Society in England has sponsored Kim's conducting of Elgar's Symphony No.1, the tone-poem *In the South*, and the *Cockaigne Overture*. Ms. Diehnelt regularly speaks on *Elgar: His story, his music*, coaches performers on Elgar's works, and sponsors recitals and live radio broadcasts of Elgar's chamber music. In 2010, Ms. Diehnelt was asked to be a founding member of the North America Branch of the Elgar Society. She presented "*Podium Time with Elgar: A composer's use of time*" at the inaugural conference in March, 2010.

Kim Diehnelt is an esteemed artistic coach, working with musicians in preparation for solo and chamber performances or auditions. Kim's coachings are notable for her uncanny ability to reveal musical qualities hidden within the performer and the composition. Ms. Diehnelt also shares her insightful musical concepts in *Coaching Notes* published online.

Ms. Diehnelt is also a discerning essayist and public speaker. She regularly presents the *Classical Connoisseur*, a wine-tasting approach to music, and is an experienced commentator on classical radio. Maestra Diehnelt's vast repertoire covers the works of European and Nordic composers. Kim has worked with contemporary American composers Bjorn Berkhout, Angel Lam, Libby Larsen, Stephen Paulus, and Roberto Sierra. Kim's pacing and style reflect an inherent understanding of rhetoric and dramatic flow. She has been praised for her "unusual talent to communicate through the orchestra to her audience." Kim's conducting is "inspiring and persuasive," and "electrifying."

# Curriculum Vitae

## Music Director

Helsinki Camerata, Finland *Founder* 1997-99

- Ensemble dedicated to a chamber music approach to orchestral performance.

Helsinki Community College Orchestra 1993-95

Helsinki University, Finland 1993-95

- Director of Chamber Music

Orchestra K 1994

Opera Millennium, Minneapolis, MN 1995-96

- Conducted OM's inaugural production: Marjorie Rusche's dance opera *Goddess Songs*.

Southwest Minnesota Orchestra, Marshall, MN 1995-96

Chicago Reading Orchestra, IL 2005-07

- Premiered Angel Lam's *Memories from My Previous Lives*; Bjorn Berkhout's *Dance Aurora*
- Elgar Society-sponsored presentations of Elgar's Symphony No.1, *In the South*, and *Cockaigne*.

Lakeside Pride Orchestra, IL 2005-08

Helsinki Community College Orchestra, Finland *Assistant Conductor* 1991-93

Symphony of Oak Park and River Forest, IL *Assistant Conductor* 2001-06

## Guest Conductor

- Orquesta Sinfónica de Aguascalientes, Mexico 2010
- VanderCook College of Music, Chicago, IL 2008
- American Opera Group, Oak Park, IL 2006
- J. Strauss' *Die Fledermaus*.
- Suburban Youth Orchestra, Orland Park, IL 2002
- Waukegan Symphony Orchestra, IL 2000
- Marshall Area Youth Orchestra, MN 1996
- Ragamala Music & Dance Theater, MN 1996
- David Whetstone's dance opera *Asoka*

## Professional Training and Master Classes

- American Academy of Conducting at Aspen 2002
- Conductors Institute, SC 2001
- Vienna International Master Class 1993
- Biel Academy, Switzerland 1992-3
- Sibelius Academy Master Class, Finland 1992

## Artistic Coach

**Artistic Coach** 1995-Present

Private coaching for professional soloists and chamber groups: US and Finland.

## Special Events

### Speaker

- *Classical Connoisseur*: A wine-tasting approach to classical music: an art to explore, savor, and enjoy. June 2010 – Feb. 2011
- *Podium Time with Elgar*: A composer's use of time. Elgar Society – North American Branch inaugural conference. March 2010
- *Elgar: His story, his music* in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Edward Elgar. 2007
- *Score and Blue Prints*, a joint program with the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation and Symphony of Oak Park and River Forest, IL. 2004

## Broadcast Experience

Guest commentator: WFMT Classical Radio, Chicago

- *Beethoven Week* December 2009  
- featured on Naxos CD "Odes to Joy"
- *The Youth of Spring* March 2009
- *Autumnal Compositions* Sept. 2008
- *Elgar commentary* May 2008, June 2007

## Languages

English Primary  
German Intermediate  
Finnish Fluent  
Spanish Limited  
French Intermediate

## Critical Acclaim

“The [Goddess Songs] music is dramatically apt, at ease with text, and heartfelt, conducted sympathetically and dramatically by Kim Diehnelt.”

– *Star Tribune (Minneapolis)*



“With sweep ... she mastered the great concert shapes while preserving the musical details.”

– *Hufvudstadsbladet (Helsinki)*



“[Schubert’s Unfinished] mood ranges from dark and brooding, communicated most ominously by the double bass on each recurrence, to blithe and dreamy musings of the higher strings in the Andante con Moto. Diehnelt’s pleasantly slow temp in this movement the allowed the layers of accompaniment to sparkle beneath the lazy opening theme.”

– *Wednesday Journal (Oak Park, IL)*



“The audience continues to respond to „the hometown band with vigor and enthusiasm.”

“Angel Lam’s *Symphonic Journal: Ambush from Ten Sides* – an exceptional find on the part of Diehnelt.” – *Wednesday Journal (Oak Park, IL)*



“The baton in the hands of Maestra Kim Diehnelt inspires confidence. She knows exactly what the music needs and has the craft to attain it.”

“Maestra Diehnelt’s interpretation of Sibelius’ Symphony No. 2 was sober, but very intense. Even though the piece is high-soaring and demanding, both physically and technically, the orchestra responded to the baton with resolve. Most amazingly however, is that for a piece that is not easy for listeners - the public too, responded to the maestra’s baton and understood exactly; the ovation was prolonged.”

– *Aguascalientes EL Herald (Mexico)*

# Repertoire

<b>Alfvén, Hugo</b>	<i>Midsommarvaka</i> , op.19	<b>Leiviska, Helmi</b>	<i>Illansoitto</i> (Nocturne)
<b>Bach, J. S.</b>	Brandenburg Concerti No.2, No. 3 Concerto, 2 Violins, BWV 1043, D Minor Oboe Concerto in A Major, BWV 1055 Concerto for Orchestra	<b>Levin, Rami</b>	<i>Beginnings</i>
<b>Bartók, Béla</b>	Overtures: <i>Coriolan</i> , <i>Egmont</i> , <i>Fidelio</i> , <i>Leonore</i>	<b>Mahler, Gustav</b>	<i>Das Lied von der Erde</i> ; <i>Kindertotenlieder</i> Symphony No.1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 Overt. <i>Hebrides</i> , <i>Midsummer Night's</i> <i>Dream</i> Symphony No.4, 5 Violin Concerto, op.64, E Minor
<b>Beethoven, Ludwig van</b>	Piano Concerto, No.1; Violin Concerto Symphony No.1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9 <i>Cascade</i> (2006); <i>Dance Aurora</i> <i>Le corsaire</i> , op.21 <i>Symphonie fantastique</i> , op.14 <i>West Side Story</i> : Selections <i>L'Arlésienne</i> : Suite No.2 <i>Carmen</i> : Suite No.1 <i>Jeux d'enfants</i> , op.22: <i>Petite suite</i> <i>In the Steppes of Central Asia</i> <i>Prince Igor</i> : Polovtsian Dances	<b>Mendelssohn, Felix</b>	<i>Iris: Ballet Sinfonico</i> <i>Idylli</i> (Idyll) <i>Pictures at an Exhibition</i> (arr. Ravel) Flute and Harp Concerto, K.299, C Major Piano Concerto No.17, K.453, G Major Symphony No.31, 35, 36, 37, 38, 40 Concerto for Organ, G Minor <i>L'histoire de Babar, le petit éléphant</i> <i>Alexander Nevsky</i> ; <i>Lieutenant Kijé</i> <i>Classical Symphony</i> , op.25 (Symphony No.1) <i>Romeo &amp; Juliet</i> , Suite No.1, 2 <i>I crisantemi</i>
<b>Berkhout, Bjorn</b>	Overtures: Academic Festival, Tragic Piano Concerto No.1; Violin Concerto; Double	<b>Miramontes, A.</b>	
<b>Berlioz, Hector</b>	Serenade No.1, 2 Symphony No.1, 2, 4 Variations on a Theme of Joseph Haydn Hungarian Dances Nos.1, 3, 10 Violin Concerto No.1, op.26, G Minor	<b>Moberg, Ida</b>	
<b>Bernstein, L</b>	March in D Minor Three Pieces for Orchestra Symphony No.4, 7, 9	<b>Moussorgsky</b>	
<b>Bizet, Georges</b>	<i>Appalachian Spring</i> : Suite (original version) <i>Rodeo</i> : Four Dance-Episodes <i>Aria</i> <i>Danses sacrées et profanes</i> <i>Images No., 2, 3</i> <i>Jeux</i> ; poème dansé <i>Nocturnes</i> (original version) <i>Prélude à "L'Après-midi d'un faune"</i> <i>Lakmé</i> : Airs danse ("Flower Duet") Concertino for Oboe, F Major Cello Concerto, op.104, B Minor Scherzo capriccioso; Serenade; Slavonic Dances, op.46, op. 72 Symphony No.6, 7, 8, 9	<b>Mozart, W. A.</b>	
<b>Borodin, Alexander</b>	<i>Jeux d'enfants</i> , op.22: <i>Petite suite</i> <i>In the Steppes of Central Asia</i> <i>Prince Igor</i> : Polovtsian Dances		
<b>Brahms, Johannes</b>	<i>March in D Minor</i> <i>Three Pieces for Orchestra</i> <i>Symphony No.4, 7, 9</i> <i>Appalachian Spring</i> : Suite (original version) <i>Rodeo</i> : Four Dance-Episodes <i>Aria</i> <i>Danses sacrées et profanes</i> <i>Images No., 2, 3</i> <i>Jeux</i> ; poème dansé <i>Nocturnes</i> (original version) <i>Prélude à "L'Après-midi d'un faune"</i> <i>Lakmé</i> : Airs danse ("Flower Duet") Concertino for Oboe, F Major Cello Concerto, op.104, B Minor Scherzo capriccioso; Serenade; Slavonic Dances, op.46, op. 72 Symphony No.6, 7, 8, 9	<b>Poulenc, Francis</b>	
<b>Bruch, Max</b>	<i>March in D Minor</i> <i>Three Pieces for Orchestra</i> <i>Symphony No.4, 7, 9</i> <i>Appalachian Spring</i> : Suite (original version) <i>Rodeo</i> : Four Dance-Episodes <i>Aria</i> <i>Danses sacrées et profanes</i> <i>Images No., 2, 3</i> <i>Jeux</i> ; poème dansé <i>Nocturnes</i> (original version) <i>Prélude à "L'Après-midi d'un faune"</i> <i>Lakmé</i> : Airs danse ("Flower Duet") Concertino for Oboe, F Major Cello Concerto, op.104, B Minor Scherzo capriccioso; Serenade; Slavonic Dances, op.46, op. 72 Symphony No.6, 7, 8, 9	<b>Prokofiev, Serge</b>	
<b>Bruckner, Anton</b>	<i>March in D Minor</i> <i>Three Pieces for Orchestra</i> <i>Symphony No.4, 7, 9</i> <i>Appalachian Spring</i> : Suite (original version) <i>Rodeo</i> : Four Dance-Episodes <i>Aria</i> <i>Danses sacrées et profanes</i> <i>Images No., 2, 3</i> <i>Jeux</i> ; poème dansé <i>Nocturnes</i> (original version) <i>Prélude à "L'Après-midi d'un faune"</i> <i>Lakmé</i> : Airs danse ("Flower Duet") Concertino for Oboe, F Major Cello Concerto, op.104, B Minor Scherzo capriccioso; Serenade; Slavonic Dances, op.46, op. 72 Symphony No.6, 7, 8, 9		
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<b>Corigliano, J</b>	<i>March in D Minor</i> <i>Three Pieces for Orchestra</i> <i>Symphony No.4, 7, 9</i> <i>Appalachian Spring</i> : Suite (original version) <i>Rodeo</i> : Four Dance-Episodes <i>Aria</i> <i>Danses sacrées et profanes</i> <i>Images No., 2, 3</i> <i>Jeux</i> ; poème dansé <i>Nocturnes</i> (original version) <i>Prélude à "L'Après-midi d'un faune"</i> <i>Lakmé</i> : Airs danse ("Flower Duet") Concertino for Oboe, F Major Cello Concerto, op.104, B Minor Scherzo capriccioso; Serenade; Slavonic Dances, op.46, op. 72 Symphony No.6, 7, 8, 9	<b>Rachmaninov, S.</b>	
<b>Debussy, Claude</b>	<i>March in D Minor</i> <i>Three Pieces for Orchestra</i> <i>Symphony No.4, 7, 9</i> <i>Appalachian Spring</i> : Suite (original version) <i>Rodeo</i> : Four Dance-Episodes <i>Aria</i> <i>Danses sacrées et profanes</i> <i>Images No., 2, 3</i> <i>Jeux</i> ; poème dansé <i>Nocturnes</i> (original version) <i>Prélude à "L'Après-midi d'un faune"</i> <i>Lakmé</i> : Airs danse ("Flower Duet") Concertino for Oboe, F Major Cello Concerto, op.104, B Minor Scherzo capriccioso; Serenade; Slavonic Dances, op.46, op. 72 Symphony No.6, 7, 8, 9	<b>Ravel, Maurice</b>	
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<b>Glilinka, M</b>	<i>March in D Minor</i> <i>Three Pieces for Orchestra</i> <i>Symphony No.4, 7, 9</i> <i>Appalachian Spring</i> : Suite (original version) <i>Rodeo</i> : Four Dance-Episodes <i>Aria</i> <i>Danses sacrées et profanes</i> <i>Images No., 2, 3</i> <i>Jeux</i> ; poème dansé <i>Nocturnes</i> (original version) <i>Prélude à "L'Après-midi d'un faune"</i> <i>Lakmé</i> : Airs danse ("Flower Duet") Concertino for Oboe, F Major Cello Concerto, op.104, B Minor Scherzo capriccioso; Serenade; Slavonic Dances, op.46, op. 72 Symphony No.6, 7, 8, 9		
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<b>Holst, Gustav</b>	<i>March in D Minor</i> <i>Three Pieces for Orchestra</i> <i>Symphony No.4, 7, 9</i> <i>Appalachian Spring</i> : Suite (original version) <i>Rodeo</i> : Four Dance-Episodes <i>Aria</i> <i>Danses sacrées et profanes</i> <i>Images No., 2, 3</i> <i>Jeux</i> ; poème dansé <i>Nocturnes</i> (original version) <i>Prélude à "L'Après-midi d'un faune"</i> <i>Lakmé</i> : Airs danse ("Flower Duet") Concertino for Oboe, F Major Cello Concerto, op.104, B Minor Scherzo capriccioso; Serenade; Slavonic Dances, op.46, op. 72 Symphony No.6, 7, 8, 9	<b>Sibelius, Jean</b>	
<b>Janáček, Leős</b>	<i>March in D Minor</i> <i>Three Pieces for Orchestra</i> <i>Symphony No.4, 7, 9</i> <i>Appalachian Spring</i> : Suite (original version) <i>Rodeo</i> : Four Dance-Episodes <i>Aria</i> <i>Danses sacrées et profanes</i> <i>Images No., 2, 3</i> <i>Jeux</i> ; poème dansé <i>Nocturnes</i> (original version) <i>Prélude à "L'Après-midi d'un faune"</i> <i>Lakmé</i> : Airs danse ("Flower Duet") Concertino for Oboe, F Major Cello Concerto, op.104, B Minor Scherzo capriccioso; Serenade; Slavonic Dances, op.46, op. 72 Symphony No.6, 7, 8, 9		
<b>Järnefelt, Armas</b>	<i>March in D Minor</i> <i>Three Pieces for Orchestra</i> <i>Symphony No.4, 7, 9</i> <i>Appalachian Spring</i> : Suite (original version) <i>Rodeo</i> : Four Dance-Episodes <i>Aria</i> <i>Danses sacrées et profanes</i> <i>Images No., 2, 3</i> <i>Jeux</i> ; poème dansé <i>Nocturnes</i> (original version) <i>Prélude à "L'Après-midi d'un faune"</i> <i>Lakmé</i> : Airs danse ("Flower Duet") Concertino for Oboe, F Major Cello Concerto, op.104, B Minor Scherzo capriccioso; Serenade; Slavonic Dances, op.46, op. 72 Symphony No.6, 7, 8, 9	<b>Smetana, B.</b>	
<b>Kodály, Zoltán</b>	<i>March in D Minor</i> <i>Three Pieces for Orchestra</i> <i>Symphony No.4, 7, 9</i> <i>Appalachian Spring</i> : Suite (original version) <i>Rodeo</i> : Four Dance-Episodes <i>Aria</i> <i>Danses sacrées et profanes</i> <i>Images No., 2, 3</i> <i>Jeux</i> ; poème dansé <i>Nocturnes</i> (original version) <i>Prélude à "L'Après-midi d'un faune"</i> <i>Lakmé</i> : Airs danse ("Flower Duet") Concertino for Oboe, F Major Cello Concerto, op.104, B Minor Scherzo capriccioso; Serenade; Slavonic Dances, op.46, op. 72 Symphony No.6, 7, 8, 9	<b>Strauss, Richard</b>	
<b>Lam, Angel</b>	<i>March in D Minor</i> <i>Three Pieces for Orchestra</i> <i>Symphony No.4, 7, 9</i> <i>Appalachian Spring</i> : Suite (original version) <i>Rodeo</i> : Four Dance-Episodes <i>Aria</i> <i>Danses sacrées et profanes</i> <i>Images No., 2, 3</i> <i>Jeux</i> ; poème dansé <i>Nocturnes</i> (original version) <i>Prélude à "L'Après-midi d'un faune"</i> <i>Lakmé</i> : Airs danse ("Flower Duet") Concertino for Oboe, F Major Cello Concerto, op.104, B Minor Scherzo capriccioso; Serenade; Slavonic Dances, op.46, op. 72 Symphony No.6, 7, 8, 9		
<b>Larsen, Libby</b>	<i>March in D Minor</i> <i>Three Pieces for Orchestra</i> <i>Symphony No.4, 7, 9</i> <i>Appalachian Spring</i> : Suite (original version) <i>Rodeo</i> : Four Dance-Episodes <i>Aria</i> <i>Danses sacrées et profanes</i> <i>Images No., 2, 3</i> <i>Jeux</i> ; poème dansé <i>Nocturnes</i> (original version) <i>Prélude à "L'Après-midi d'un faune"</i> <i>Lakmé</i> : Airs danse ("Flower Duet") Concertino for Oboe, F Major Cello Concerto, op.104, B Minor Scherzo capriccioso; Serenade; Slavonic Dances, op.46, op. 72 Symphony No.6, 7, 8, 9	<b>Stravinsky, Igor</b>	
		<b>Sundblad-Halme</b>	
		<b>Tchaikovsky, Piotr</b>	
		<b>Torelli, G.</b>	
		<b>V-Williams, R.</b>	
		<b>Vivaldi, A.</b>	
		<b>Wagner, R.</b>	
		<b>Weber, Carl M</b>	

## Sample programs

Bach: Brandenburg Concerto No. 2  
Copland: *Appalachian Spring*: Suite  
Berkhout, Bjorn: *Cascade* (Premiere of commissioned work that presents a modern take on the *concerto grosso* format of the Bach)  
Grieg: "From Holberg's Time"



Elgar: *Chanson de Matin*  
Haydn: Cello Concerto in C Major  
Elgar: *Chanson de Nuit*  
Respighi: *Ancient Airs and Dances*



Brahms: *Serenade in D, op 11*  
Elgar: Cello Concerto



Beethoven: *Symphony No. 1*  
Debussy: *Dances sacrées et profanes*  
Ravel: *Le Tombeau de Couperin*



Nicolai: *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, Overture  
Schubert: *Symphony No. 8 "Unfinished"*  
Lam, Angel: *Symphonic Journal: Ambush from Ten Sides* (North American premiere)  
Dvorak: Cello Concerto

Rimsky-Korsakov: *Cappriccio Espanol*  
Fauré: *Pavane*  
Järnefelt: *Praeludium*  
Schubert: *Symphony No. 4 in c minor, "Tragic"*  
Bernstein: *West Side Story selections*. (Recognizing the 50th anniversary of the work's premiere.)



Rossini: *Barber of Seville*, Overture  
Mozart: *Symphony No. 31 "Paris"*  
Levin, Rami: *Beginnings* (premiere)  
Brahms: *Academic Festival Overture*



Dance-themed program:  
Schubert: *Rosamunde*, Overture  
Handel: *Water Music*: Suite II  
Dvorak: *Slavonic Dance No. 2, op. 46*  
Sibelius: *Valse Triste*  
Copland: *Rodeo*: Four Dance-Episodes



Schumann: *Overture, Scherzo & Finale, op.52*  
Corigliano: *Aria*  
Elgar: *Serenade Mauresque, op.10, no.2*  
Lam, A.: *In Search of Seasons*  
Saint-Saens: *Cello Concerto No.1, op*

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