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Diane Wittry

Conductor



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BIOGRAPHY

A native of California, DIANE WITTRY, is respected as an innovative conductor who maintains a dual career as an esteemed music director and acclaimed guest conductor throughout the world. This season, Diane Wittry conducted concerts in Japan, Russia, Slovakia, New York, Washington D.C, and New Jersey, as well as her regularly scheduled concerts with the orchestras in Pennsylvania and Connecticut.

In the United States, Diane Wittry has led performances by, among others, The Los Angeles Philharmonic, Florida Philharmonic Orchestra, the Buffalo Philharmonic, and the symphony orchestras of San Diego, Stockton, Wichita, and Wichita Falls, while her international engagements include concerts with the National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine, Russia's Maikop and Sochi symphony orchestras, Slovakia's State Orchestra-Kosice, Italy's Sinfonia Dell'Arte di Firenze and Japan's Orchestra Osaka Symphoniker.

As the Music Director of both the Allentown Symphony Orchestra and Norwalk Symphony Orchestra, Diane Wittry has helped expand the size of each organization's concert season, while reaching out to the diverse populations of the communities-at-large. She has been a tireless advocate for the development of extensive educational programs, and she has championed an exciting, innovative programming style for concerts of all types. In 2000, Ms. Wittry was singled out nationally by Symphony magazine as "a conductor to watch."

Prior to this, Diane Wittry served as the Music Director of The Symphony of Southeast Texas. Her work in Beaumont, Texas garnered national attention for the exceptional artistic and organizational growth that occurred under her leadership. She has also conducted at the music festivals of Ojai and Penn's Woods.

Diane Wittry began her conducting studies with Daniel Lewis at the University of Southern California, from which she graduated with honors. While still a student, she was the recipient of a conducting fellowship from the Aspen Music Festival. Her other teachers and mentors include Michael Tilson Thomas, Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, Gustav Meier and Jorge Mester; most recently, she worked with the renowned Russian conductor Leonid Korchmar of the Kirov Opera, and Jorma Panula from Finland.

Over the years, Diane Wittry has received many honors and awards, including the American Symphony Orchestra League's 1996 Helen M. Thompson Award for outstanding artistic leadership of a regional orchestra. She has been the subject of profiles in The New York Times (September, 2002) and Newsweek (September, 1994). In 2000, Ms. Wittry received the "Women of Excellence" Award in Beaumont, Texas and, in 1999 and 2000, the "Arts Ovation Award" and the "Woman of Distinction Award" from Allentown, Pennsylvania. Most recently, she became only the third American to be named - in recognition of her leadership in the arts and humanities - the recipient of the prestigious Fiorino Doro Award from the city of Vinci, Italy. Currently, Ms. Wittry just finished a book entitled "*Beyond the Baton*" about artistic leadership for young conductors and music directors, published January 2007 by Oxford University Press.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM

"The Allentown Symphony goes beyond. Wittry's performance of the Brahms Symphony No. 2 carried itself with a distinctively airy, transparent sonority."

THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

"Wittry established her presence immediately. Focused energy, buoyant stick patterns, and a refreshingly diverse collection of accents and cues, all from a remarkably stable posture. It was clear that the talented musicians deeply responded to her. Her energy is strong and consistent, paced and constructive."

THE ADVOCATE, (Stamford, CT)

Under the baton of music director Diane Wittry, the challenging Ninth (Beethoven) was performed energetically, maintaining the dramatic tension throughout, but without losing the intimacy of the sublime third movement.

THE MORNING CALL (Allentown, PA)

"Diane Wittry has now established a deep history of surprising and innovative musical programs that weave diverse forms of creativity....An event like this required preparation well beyond the call of duty. It also required that ideas are shaped more than a year in advance so that everything can be made ready. For sheer creativity and initiative, this event was in a league of its own."

THE ADVOCATE (Stamford, CT)

"The orchestra was headed by the passionate guest conductor Diane Wittry, who gave the audience informative background on all the pieces performed....she directed the musicians with swift, yet graceful hand movements. The music was remarkable enough to put the audience into a hypnotized, trance-like state, their eyes glued to the stage. The audience burst into applause as the orchestra concluded their performance with an astounding finale."

THE GRIFFIN (Buffalo, NY)

"Wittry's skill - besides her superior talent as a musician - is the ability to build a rapport with all kinds of people, those who are fans of the symphony and those who are new to what one like the Symphony of Southeast Texas can offer. A long time ticket holder points to Wittry's friendliness, her vitality and her outreach programs that bring music to the community, as some of her strong points. Her influence has been profound, beautiful and, hopefully, lasting."

THE BEAUMONT ENTERPRISE (TX)

"The Penn's Woods Festival orchestra has never sounded better. The response to Wittry was of overall respect, cooperation and enthusiasm. She led the orchestra in a witty, concise, extroverted performance. The [Shostakovich] Symphony No. 9 was a very satisfactory conclusion. Wittry was an excellent guest artist, one who would be welcomed back again."

CENTRE DAILY TIMES (PA)

"Wittry balanced the musical strands perfectly - and the orchestral playing was magical."

THE MORNING CALL (Allentown, PA)

"The complex rhythmic development of the first movement [Tchaikovsky Symphony #4] was projected very carefully by Diane Wittry. The distinct advantage to her inwardly flamboyant conducting is that you find that your attention has shifted to the players, and that they sound great. The audience rightly burst out in applause after the first movement - not that thin clap with quick and apologetic side-glances of the uninitiated - but the real thing. Impact like this is not an accident."

THE ADVOCATE (Stamford, CT)

"Conductor Diane M. Wittry has a firm command of her assembled musicians, carefully shaping the ensemble's sound by clear gestures and evoking a generally precise response."

EXPRESS TIMES, (NJ)

"Wittry should be commended for putting such a difficult piece on the program. She led the Allentown Symphony through the composition with confidence and flair, demanding exactness and, at the same time, allowing the players enough freedom to "fly" with this inspiring symphony." The future of the group under Wittry's leadership, including her careful but daring programming is rather bright"

THE MORNING CALL (Allentown, PA)

Reviewers don't usually jump up and shout Bravo! At the beginning, middle, and end of a concert, so I didn't. But I am shouting it now. Thursday night's symphony of Southeast Texas concert featuring pianist Philippe Bianconi as guest artist was bravo material from the first note to the closing chord. ...Maestra Diane Wittry has honed the orchestra into a symphony of enormous strength. Each section shines, giving the impression of one tight note held in place and enhanced by strings, horns, and timpani... The orchestra's response and continued interpretation was filled with the strength that comes from a combination of musicianship and inspiration."

THE BEAUMONT ENTERPRISE, TX

"After the intermission we were treated to what is without a doubt one of the 20th century's greatest symphonies, Prokofiev's Fifth. The symphony played the optimistic work with flowing energy, great

balance and rhythmic alertness and demonstrated capacity for fully bringing out the work's many colors. Wittry achieved wonderful control over the large ensemble."

THE MORNING CALL (Allentown, PA)

"The orchestra, under the direction of Diane Wittry, was excellent in both the Beethoven and the dozen excerpts from Tchaikovsky's "Swan Lake," which were played while Lia Cirio and James Whiteside of the Boston Ballet danced as the Swan Queen and Prince and members of the Lehigh Valley's Repertory Dance Theatre performed supporting roles."

THE MORNING CALL (Allentown, PA)

"Diane Wittry, the versatile music director, conducted with energy and flair, and charmingly added information about the pieces."

THE MORNING CALL (Allentown, PA)

"Diane Wittry gave the orchestra no doubt about her intent. She brought in the different instruments with flowing left-hand movements, cued the timpani with body signals and constantly moved her baton hand with strength and expertise. She swayed with the evening's unusual combinations of rhythms.... Wittry closed the program with Dvorak's Symphony No. 6, a difficult and stunning way to show her control and to win responses from every division."

THE BEAUMONT ENTERPRISE, TX

"Diane Wittry led the Allentown Symphony through the composition (Shostakovich Symphony No. 5) with confidence and flair, demanding exactness and, at the same time, allowing the players enough freedom to "fly: with this inspiring symphony. The future of the group under Wittry's leadership, including her careful but daring programming is bright."

THE MORNING CALL (Allentown, PA)

"The Mahler symphony was a testament to Wittry and her accomplishments with the Symphony of Southeast Texas. It was marvelous!... No hesitation could be heard in either the individual musicians or in Wittry, who boldly conducted the orchestra to new heights. The Mahler symphony is a monumental work and the Symphony of Southeast Texas met that challenge."

THE BEAUMONT ENTERPRISE, TX

"The concert opened with a well-balance rendition of Beethoven's truly unique sixth symphony, the "Pastoral." The orchestra captured fully the changing moods. I particularly like the relaxed manner in which conductor Diane Wittry approached this work."

THE MORNING CALL (Allentown, PA)

CURRICULUM VITAE

CONDUCTING POSITIONS

The Norwalk Symphony Orchestra, CT 2002-present

Music Director and Conductor

A 70 member, per-service professional orchestra that performs five subscription concerts, an educational concert series, and features new young soloists on the verge of major careers.

The Allentown Symphony Orchestra, PA 1995-present

Music Director and Conductor

A 75 member, per-service professional orchestra which performs five pairs of subscription concerts, five educational concerts, seven nutcracker performances, a pops concert series, and a family concert series. (24 performances per season.)The annual budget is 1.4 million.

The Symphony of Southeast Texas, TX 1991-2000

Music Director and Conductor

An 80 member, per-service professional orchestra that performed five subscription concerts, six youth concerts, pops concerts, side-by-side concerts, and run-out concerts. This organization had a yearly budget of \$650,000, a 75 member Board of Directors, and over 500 Symphony League volunteers.

The Pasadena Symphony Orchestra, CA 1990 -1995

**Associate Conductor and
Conductor and Director of Educational Programs**

An 80 member, per-service professional orchestra comprised of the best musicians in the Los Angeles area. The annual budget was 2.5 million and the Music Director was Jorge Mester.

The Greater Miami Youth Symphony, FL 1988 -1991

Music Director and Conductor

A program involving 180 students divided into three orchestras and 12 chamber music groups with a budget of \$120,000.

GUEST CONDUCTING ENGAGEMENTS

The Los Angeles Philharmonic, The San Diego Symphony, The Buffalo Philharmonic, Florida Philharmonic, The New Jersey Symphony The Ojai Music Festival Orchestra, The B.B.E Orchestra, 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 Symphoniker Orchestra (Japan), The Wichita Symphony Orchestra, The Penn's Woods Festival Orchestra, The Stockton Symphony, The Beaumont Symphony, The Wichita Falls Symphony, The Santa Maria Symphony, The Olympia Philharmonic Orchestra, among other.

EDUCATION

THE SAINT PETERSBURG CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

Advanced Study of Conducting with Leonid Korchmar

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Masters of Music, Instrumental Conducting with Daniel Lewis

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Bachelor of Music, Violin

Assistant Conductor - National Orchestral Institute

Understudy Conductor - Scottish Chamber Orchestra National Tour

Associate Conductor - Ojai Music Festival

Conducting Fellow - Aspen Music Festival

Conducting Assistant - Great Woods Summer Institute

CONDUCTING - TEACHERS AND MENTORS

Jorma Panula

Michael Tilson Thomas

Daniel Lewis

Gustav Meier

Jorge Mester

Sir Peter Maxwell Davis

Paul Vermel

Leonid Korchmar

Robert Gutter

HONORS AND AWARDS

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|------|
| 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 | American Symphony Orchestra League | 1996 |
| Outstand Merit Award | Chamber Music America | 1992 |
| Gold Crown Award | City of Pasadena, CA | 1991 |

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

American Symphony Orchestra League (Essentials of Orchestral Management Seminar)

American Symphony Orchestra League (Pops Programming Seminar)

National Conducting Seminar: Beyond the Baton (Norwalk Symphony)

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA (Lecturer)

California University of Los Angeles, CA (School of Continuing Education)

Lamar University, Beaumont, TX (Lecturer)

REPERTOIRE

Adams, John

“The Chairman Dances” (Nixon in China)

Aguila, Miguel del

Clarinet Concerto (world premiere)
Conga

Arutunian, Alexander

Trumpet Concerto

Bach, J. S.

Brandenburg Concerto #2, #3, #5
Cantata #54
Concerto #2 for Violin, EM
Concerto for two Violins, dm
Orchestral Suite #3
Piano Concerto, fm, BWV 1056

Barber, Samuel

Adagio for Strings
Capricorn Concerto
Concerto for Cello
Essay #1
Overture to the School for Scandal
Violin Concerto, Op. 14

Bartok, Bela

Concerto for 2 Pianos and Percussion
Divertimento for String Orchestra
Concerto for Orchestra
Rumanian Dances
Violin Concerto

Bax, Arnold

Roscatha

Beethoven, Ludwig Van

Consecration of the House Overture
Coriolan Overture
Egmont Overture
Fidelio Overture
Leonore Overture #3
Piano Concerto #3, #4, #5
Prometheus Overture
Symphony #1, #2, #3, #5, #6, #7, #8, #9
Triple Concerto
Violin Concerto

Bellini, Vincenzo

La sonnambula, selected Arias

Berlioz, Hector

Hungarian March
La Mort de Cleopatre
Nuits d'ete, Op. 7
Roman Carnival Overture
Symphonie Fantastique
Symphonie funebre et triomphale

Bernstein, Leonard

Overture to Candide
Three Dances from “On the Town”
West Side Story: Symphonic Dances

Bizet, George

Carmen Suite #1, #2

Carmen, full opera
L'Arlesienne Suite #1, #2
Symphony #1

Bloch, Ernest

Concerto Grosso #1

Borodin, Alexander

In the Steppes of Central Asia
Polovtsian Dances
Symphony #2

Brahms, Johannes

Academic Overture
Concerto for Violin and Cello
Hungarian Dance #5
Piano Concerto #1, # 2
Serenade #1, #2
Symphony #1, #2, #4
Variations on a Theme of Haydn

Britten, Benjamin

A Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra
Four Sea Interludes
Simple Symphony

Bruch, Max

Symphony #1, Op. 28
Violin Concerto # 1, Op. 26, gm

Cantaloube, Joseph

Songs of the Auvergne

Castelnuovo-Tedesco, Mario

Guitar Concerto

Chabrier, Emmanuel

Espana rhapsody
Fete Polonaise

Chopin, Frederic

Piano Concerto #1

Copland, Aaron

A Lincoln Portrait
Appalachian Spring (chamber version)
Appalachian Spring (Full Orchestra)
Clarinet Concerto
El Salon Mexico
Fanfare for the Common Man
Four Dance Episodes from Rodeo
Music for the Theater
Old American Songs Set #1
Our Town
Outdoor Overture
Preamble for a Solemn Occasion
Variation on a Shaker Melody

Corelli, Arcangelo

Concerto Grosso #8

Corigliano, John

Chaconne for the Violin and Orchestra

Davies, Peter Maxwell

An Orkney Wedding, with Sunrise
Cinderella

Debussy, Claude

Children's Corner Suite
Clair de Lune
Iberia
La Mer
Nocturnes
Prelude to "The Afternoon of a Faun"

Dittersdorf, Karl Ditters von

Bass Concerto, Eb M

Dukas, Paul

The Sorcerer's Apprentice

Dvorak, Antonin

Cello Concerto #1, bm
In Nature's Realm
Serenade in d minor, Op. 44
Slavonic Dance Op. 46; Op. 72;
String Serenade
Symphony #5, #6, #7, #8, #9

Elgar, Edward

Cello Concerto in e minor
Enigma Variations
Sea Pictures

Enesco, George

Rumanian Rhapsody No. 1 in AM

de Falla, Manuel

El Amor Brujo: Ballet Suite
Three Cornered Hat

Gershwin, George

An American in Paris
Cuban Overture
Girl Crazy Overture
Piano Concerto in F
Porgy and Bess Selections
Porgy and Bess Symphonic Pictures
Rhapsody in Blue

Glazunov, Alexander

Concerto for Alto Saxophone
Suite from the Middle Ages

Gliere, Reinhold

Horn Concerto, Op. 91, B \flat Major

Glinka, Mikhail

Overture to Russlan and Ludmilla

Gounod, Charles

Petite Symphony

Grieg, Edvard

Holberg Suite
Lyric Suite
Peer Gynt Suite
Piano Concerto am
Sigurd Jorsalfar: Three Orchestral Pieces
Wedding day at Trolldhaugen

Griffes, Charles T.

Poem for Flute and Orchestra

Grofe, Ferde

Mississippi Suite
Grand Canyon Suite

Handel, Georg Friedrich

Concerto Grosso, Op. 6, #1; Op. 3, #2
Water Music, Suites #1, #2, #3
The Messiah
Overture to Music for the Royal Fireworks

Hanson, Howard

Symphony #2

Haydn, Franz Josef

Cello Concerto, CM, DM
Concerto per l'Organo Hob XVII-I
Violin Concerto, CM, GM
Symphony #22, #52, #83, #88, #100, #101, #104

Herold, Louis Joseph F.

Overture to Zampa

Higdon, Jennifer

City Scape: SkyLine

Hindemith, Paul

Mathis der maler: Symphony
Symphonic metamorphosis

Holst, Gustav

The Planets
St. Paul's Suite

Honegger, Arthur

Pacific 231

Hummel, Johann Nepomuk

Introduction, Theme and Variations, Op. 1

Ibert, Jacques

Concertino da camera

Ives, Charles

Variations on "America"
Country Band March

Jones, Samuel

Overture for a City

Jongen, Joseph

Symphony Concertante, Op. 81

Kabalevsky, Dmitry

Piano Concerto #3

Khachaturian, Aram

Masquerade Suite

Kodaly, Zoltan

Hary Janos Suite

Korngold, Erich

Robin Hood Suite
Violin Concerto

Lalo, Edouard

Symphonie Espagnole

Lieberman, Lowell

Revelry

Liszt, Franz

Les Preludes
Piano Concerto #1, EbM

Mahler, Gustav

Songs of a Wayfarer
Symphony #1, #2, #4, #5

Marcello, Benedetto
Concerto for Oboe

Mendelssohn, Felix

Elijah

The Hebrides (Fingals Cave)
Midsummer Nights Dream
Piano Concerto # 1, Op. 25, gm
Symphony #3, #4, #5
Violin Concerto

Menotti, Gian Carlo
Triplo Concerto a Tre

Milhaud, Darius
Scaramouche

Mozart, W.A.

Bassoon Concerto, K. 191
Divertimenti, K. 136, K. 137, K. 138
Don Giovanni, Overture
Eine Kleine Nachtmusik
Exultate, Jubilate, K. 158a
Flute Concerto # 2, K. 314
Flute and Harp Concerto
Horn Concerto #1, #2, #4
The Impresario, Overture
Marriage of Figaro, Overture
Marriage of Figaro (complete opera)
Magic Flute, Overture
Oboe Concerto, K. 314
Piano Concerto #19, #23
Serenade #10, Bb M
Symphony #28, #29, #32, #35, #39, #40, #41
Violin Concerto #4, #5

Mussorgsky, Modest

Night on Bald Mountain
Pictures at an Exhibition (arr. Ravel)

Nicolai, Otto

Merry Wives of Windsor, Overture

Offenbach, Jacques

Orpheus in the Underworld, Overture
Tales of Hoffmann: Barcarolle

Ott, David

The Garden of My Secret Thoughts

Ovens, Douglas

Concerto for Cello
Monocacy Music

Peck, Russell

The Glory and the Grandeur
Harmonic Rhythms

Piazolla, Astor

Tangazo

Piston, Walter

The Incredible Flutist

Poulenc, Francis

Organ Concerto

Prokofiev, Serge

Concerto for Violin, # 1, #2
Peter and the Wolf
Romeo and Juliet
Sinfonia Concertante, Op. 125
Symphony # 1, #5

Puccini, Giacomo

Scenes from "La Boheme"

Rachmaninoff, Sergey

Piano Concerto #2, #3
Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, Op. 43
Symphonic Dances, Op. 45
Symphony #2
Vocalise

Ranjbaran, Behzad

Songs of Eternity
Violin Concerto
Persian Trilogy

Ravel, Maurice

Introduction and Allegro
La Valse
Pavane pour une enfante defunte
Piano Concerto, D Major (Left Hand)
Rapsodie espagnole

Respighi, Ottorino

Ancient Airs and Dances, Suite #2, Suite #3
The Birds
Fountains of Rome
Pines of Rome

Revueltas, Silvestre

La noche de los Mayas
Sensemaya

Rheinberger

Organ Concerto #1, FM

Rimsky-Korsakov, Nicolai

Capriccio espagnol
Procession of the Nobles from Mlada
Russian Easter Overture, Op. 36
Scheherazade

Rodrigo, Joaquin

Concierto de Aranjuez

Rodriguez, Robert Xavier

Pinata

Rossini, Gioachino

Barber of Seville, Overture
La Gazza Ladra
La Scala di Seta
William Tell, Overture

Saint-Saens, Camille

Cello Concerto
Danse Macabre
Piano Concerto #2
Violin Concerto #3
Symphony #3

Salerni, Paul

Millennium Dances

Satterwhite, Marc
Painting for the Blind

Schubert, Franz
Rosamunde Overture
Symphony #5, #8

Schoenberg, Arnold
Survivor from Warsaw

Schumann, Robert
Piano Concerto, Op. 54, am
Concertstück, Op. 86 FM
Symphony #1, #2, #3, #4

Shchedrin, Rodion
Carmen Suite

Shostakovich, Dmitry
Festive Overture, Op. 96
Symphony #1, #5, #9
Violin Concerto #1
Cello Concerto #1

Sibelius, Jean
Finlandia
Symphony #1, #2
The Tempest, Suite #1, #2

Smetana, Bedrich
The Bartered Bride Overture
The Moldau from "Ma Vlast"
Three Dances from the Bartered Bride

Still, William Grant
Afro-American Symphony
Festive Overture
Panamarian Dance

Strauss, Johann
Thunder and Lightning Polka
Artist Life Waltz
Chit-Chat Polka
Emperor's Waltz
Fledermaus Overture
Pizzicato Polka
Tritsch Tratsch Polka

Strauss, Richard
Aus Italien
Death and Transfiguration, Op. 24
Der Rosenkavalier Suite
Don Juan, Op. 20

Stravinsky, Igor
Danses Concertantes
Dumbarton Oaks
Firebird Suite 1919, 1945
L'Histoire du Soldat
Petrouchka (1946)
Pulcinella Suite
Suite #1

Suk, Josef
String Serenade

Suppe, Frans von
Light Calvary Overture

Svoboda, Tomas

Concerto for Marimba

Takemitsu, Toru

Garden Rain

Tann, Hilary

Water's Edge

Tchaikovsky, Peter Ilyitch

1812 Overture
Capriccio Italien
Coronation March
Piano Concerto # 1
Romeo and Juliet
String Serenade
Symphony #4, #5, #6

Tchaikovsky, Peter Ilyitch (cont)

Swan Lake Ballet
Swan Lake Suite
The Nutcracker Suite
Nutcracker Ballet
Variations on a Rococo Theme
Violin Concerto

Tower, Joan

Island Rhythms

Townsend, Douglas

Overture Concertante

Turina, Joaquin

Danzas Fantasticas

Vaughan Williams, Ralph

English Folk Song Suite
Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis
Fantasia on Green Sleeves
Symphony #1, (A Sea Symphony)

Verdi, Giuseppe

Aida, Grand March
La Forza del Destino, Overture
La Traviata, selected Arias

Villa Lobos, Heitor

Concerto for Guitar

Vivaldi, Antonio

Concerto for Piccolo, CM
Gloria
Magnificat
The Seasons
Stabat Mater

Wagner, Richard

Immolation Scene
Lohengrin, Prelude to Act III
Prelude to Die Meistersinger
Ride of the Valkyries
Rienzi Overture
Siegfried Idyll
Siegfried's Funeral Music

Tannhäuser, Arrival of the Guests at Wartburg
Tannhäuser, Overture

Walton, William

Henry V
Portsmouth Point Overture
Prelude and Fugue to "Spitfire"

Warlock, Peter

Capriol Suite for Strings

REFERENCES

Gary Graffman, Pianist

phone: 212-582-5995

Former President
The Curtis Institute of Music
Soloist: Allentown Symphony

Frank Kaderabek, Trumpet

phone: 215-541-4788

Former Principal Trumpet
Philadelphia Orchestra
Performer: Allentown Symphony

JoAnn Falletta, Conductor

email: ralemany@us.ibm.com

Music Director, Buffalo Philharmonic
Music Director, Virginia Symphony

ACCOLADES

Diane Wittry is a conductor who has built a remarkable career over the last few years. I am familiar with her work and can confirm that Diane is a fine conductor who knows how to communicate with her musicians, knows her scores, has very strong interpretive convictions and above all, does truly care for the composer at hand. She is a very hard worker and is always searching for new musical ideas. Her extensive experience with a variety of orchestras has led to an impressive repertoire. Ms. Wittry is a warm and compassionate person who can be assertive and yet always finds a compelling way to get her viewpoint across. I can recommend Diane with full confidence.

Gustav Meier
Conductor/Faculty
Peabody Institute of Music

I know Diane Wittry to be a visionary leader with a dynamic personality. As a conductor, Diane has the highest of standards and can lead an orchestra to consistent improvement. Her performances are well reviewed, and her programming choices never fail to generate "buzz" in the community. In the community, Diane's engaging personality makes her an asset to every organization lucky enough to work with her.

Devin Thomas
Director of Operations and Education
The Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra

It is like a breath of fresh air to play these youth concerts for the Allentown Symphony. Ms. Wittry does an amazing job of planning and presenting a truly educational and entertaining concert. Her manner of speaking to the youngsters is inspiring and never condescending. Her concerts are unique, informative and musically uplifting. After all these years I feel as if someone is finally doing justice to the challenge of youth concerts and that music is fun again.

Frank J. Kaderabek
Principal Trumpet
Philadelphia Orchestra (retired)

As a former permanent member of the Royal Stockholm (Sweden) Philharmonic's cello section I particularly want to comment on Ms. Wittry's very fine work before (!) and during rehearsals. I have had the pleasure of working with many world famous conductors. But I have never experienced the high level of planning Ms. Wittry provides. Ms. Wittry's work on the podium is very efficient. Ms. Wittry always works diligently and most patiently with the balance of sound, intonation and rhythm. I never feel that time is wasted! The atmosphere during the rehearsals is always pleasant. And the results have been ever more exciting and appreciated. People are astounded by how the orchestra has improved under Diane Wittry's leadership.

Gunnar Sahlin
Principal Cellist
Norwalk Symphony Orchestra

Working with Diane, I am without a doubt that she has all the necessary skills needed to enjoy a successful career as a conductor. She possesses a remarkable technique and an impressive memory. Furthermore, she has displayed wide experience in rehearsal and is able to adapt quickly to a variety of situations. Diane also has a wide knowledge and understanding of repertoire. Together with her talent and musicianship, she will go far in the profession.

Leonid O. Korchmar
Conductor of the Kirov Opera and Ballet
Professor, Rimsky-Korsakov State Conservatory

Based upon my experience with Diane, she is someone who more than fulfills the role of a true musical director. I have watched Diane rehearse and I have attended her concerts. I am also impressed with her

Diane Wittry

outstanding skills as a concert programmer. Diane Wittry leads and encourages musicians to play exceptionally well, and I believe that her uplifting effect on an orchestra is as impressive as any I have witnessed.

Paul Tobia
Cello Soloist

Diane Wittry is always able to get the best results from every orchestra member. Demonstrating authority and knowledge, Maestra Wittry is well appreciated by the musicians who work hard towards achieving her goals. Her musical ideas are innovating and refreshing for even the most experienced musician. Diane has the ability to study the score in a profound way. In her work she focuses on large ensemble issues like balance, intonation, rhythmic accuracy and phrases, as well as minor issues like bowings and unified bow placement. Another aspect of a good conductor is their ability to create the right atmosphere during the concert. Diane's enthusiasm and stage presence capture the audience's heart and provide the musicians with the confidence to perform their best.

Eliezer Gutman
Concertmaster
Allentown Symphony

Diane brought to the Allentown Symphony a vision and a commitment to work with the Executive Director and the Board to: raise the performance level of the Symphony Orchestra, increase dramatically the Outreach Program for music education; especially to the youth in our community, present concerts designed to increase the scope and size of our audience and to help the Board to raise the funds necessary to support her artistic and outreach vision for the Orchestra and the Association. She achieved all these goals!

Bill Edmundson
Past President
Allentown Symphony Orchestra

Diane was terrific in her ability to motivate and inspire all of the musicians to collectively reach their highest potential. She was also extremely efficient in her use of rehearsal time and was excellent in selecting repertoire. She is a fine conductor with a technique that is clear, and she conveys well her musical ideas to the orchestra. She also completely understands the job of a conductor in fundraising, community engagement, and working with a board of directors. She is very flexible and a wonderful team player, as well as a strong leader.

Sara A Pflueger
Past General Manager
Omaha Symphony

Diane Wittry did an excellent job leading the Symphony. She is a wonderful musician, worked well with the orchestra, and gave a terrific pair of concerts. I was very impressed with her musical abilities—she recognized and corrected problems, she made musical sense of the works, she knew how to handle the orchestra. I felt that when she conducted, she had a sound image of what she wanted and knew how to give direction to the players to achieve that image. Her eye contact and communication was with the entire orchestra, not just the first desk of players. Ms. Wittry was extremely organized and made efficient use of her time. The orchestra responded well to her on both a musical and personal level. I think she got excellent results.

Rebecca Jemian
Bassoon
Faculty, Ithaca College

Diane Wittry

I have had the opportunity to play in the symphony under Diane's direction. Through this experience, I learned about her audience-enticing creativity in programs selections for classical, pops, youth and family concerts, her exemplary conducting and rehearsal techniques, her skills in organization, and her ability to motivate musicians she works with to reach their highest potential. She is simply a musician of the highest order, and one who provides inspiration for performer and listener alike.

Dr. James Simmons
Clarinet/Saxophone
President, Lamar University

Diane is an extremely musical musician, and she quickly won the respect of our Orchestra, which is not always easy for a young conductor to do. She used her limited rehearsal time efficiently, and was able to thoroughly prepare the ensemble in a short amount of time. Her programming and presentation were very creative, and her rapport with the audience was extraordinary. I know Diane personally and find her to be invariably pleasant, bright, and positive in her approach to any situation. This, combined with her considerable musicianship and talent, serves her well as she builds what promises to be a very successful career.

James Ruggirello
Former Director of Educational Programs

Los Angeles Philharmonic