

The Christian Artist in the Public Square

Love God. Love your neighbor. What does this look like for the professional artist? How do I love my neighbor as myself (much less as Jesus has loved me) in this seemingly non-loving world of the arts? God uses our art, and ourselves, for His purposes if we live life awake, sensitive to His prompting in the situations in which He has placed us. In this session, Gier will guide you through story and practical steps, illuminating how to live out one's faith in the artistic realm. Examples come from the building of his [Bridge Projects](#), which address racial prejudice and cultural understanding through music.

Delta David Gier has been called a dynamic voice on the music scene, recognized widely for his penetrating interpretations of the standard symphonic repertoire, passionate commitment to new music, and significant community engagement. Orchestras Mr. Gier has conducted include the New York Philharmonic, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Cleveland Orchestra, the Chicago Symphony, the St. Louis Symphony, and the Minnesota Orchestra. In Europe, his engagements include the Bergen Philharmonic, the Polish National Radio Symphony, and the Bucharest Philharmonic, along with many other orchestras in Italy, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Turkey. He studied at the University of Michigan under the renowned conducting teacher Gustav Meier, along with studies at the Tanglewood Music Center and Aspen Music Festival. He was a Fulbright scholar in eastern Europe from 1988-90. He has chaired the music jury of the Pulitzer Prize and is a frequent panelist for the League of American orchestras. The Lakota Music Project was developed under Gier's direction to address racial tensions between Native Americans and whites in the region the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra serves. Other engagement projects with the SDSO have included Arab, Chinese and Sudanese/Somali refugees.

I. The role of the Christian artist in the public square

A. What is it at present? How are we perceived?

B. What should it be ideally?

II. Loving God and Neighbor

A. Do the right thing

B. Do the right thing for the right reasons

C. Do the right thing in the right way

III. What is most honoring/glorifying to God?

A. In the world

B. In the Church