

The Christian Artist: Inside and Outside of the Church

Most professional artists who are also Christian live out their faith outside of the Church. Why is this? Out of a sense of mission, yes, but also because of the lack of engagement from the Church that lies across denominational lines. Considering that creativity is one of the foremost attributes of God and that His gifting has been (and continues to be) lavished upon artists past and present, what does the Church stand to gain from dialogue with the artistic community today?

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.

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 - a. Common Grace
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 - a. The Church enriched
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 - a. Art in service of the message
 - b. God and mammon