David P. Sartor - *Biography*

**David P. Sartor** *(rhymes with “Carter”)* is a widely performed composer, an in-demand conductor, a proven educator, and the founder and Music Director of Nashville’s award-winning Parthenon Chamber Orchestra. Sartor's compositions and conducting skills have been recognized with more than four dozen prestigious honors and awards that include the American Bandmasters Association's *Ostwald Award* for Symphonic Wind Ensemble Music, the National Fine Arts Award, a New Music for Young Ensembles composition prize, thirty-four ASCAP PLUS awards for compositions of unique prestige value, and a “highly commended” award in England’s Oare String Orchestra's *Third Annual International Music for Strings Composition Contest*. He was a Finalist in both the Columbia Symphony Orchestra’s *American Composer Competition* and the Fauxharmonic Orchestra's *Adagio Composition Contest*, First Prize Winner in the Burlington (VT) Chamber Orchestra’s *Composer Competition*, and First Prize Winner of the New Haven Oratorio Choir's *Composition Contest*. A fourteen-time honoree in *The American Prizes*, national awards celebrating American excellence in the arts, Sartor recently won Third Place nationally in their Competition for Orchestral Conducting - making him the only person to date to win American Prizes in three major categories: Conducting, Composition and Orchestral Performance. The committee of judges also designated him as an "Honored Artist of the American Prize,” in recognition of “sustained excellence” in the competitions. He is a recipient of Delta Omicron International Music Fraternity's *Thor Johnson Commission* and has been inducted as a National Patron of the fraternity in recognition of his accomplishments as a conductor and composer, alongside notable individuals such as Samuel Barber, William Schuman and Robert Shaw.

**Sartor’s music** has been performed by noted artists such as the Cincinnati, Knoxville, Chattanooga, Brevard, Kiev and Czech Symphony Orchestras, the Burlington, Nexus and Mission Chamber Orchestras, the Cathedral Choral Society at the Washington (D.C.) National Cathedral, the Blair Woodwind Quintet, the Belmont Woodwind Quintet, the Chestnut Brass, bassist John Deak, soprano Cheryl Studer, trumpeter Peter Bond, the Indiana Wind Symphony, and the "President's Own" United States Marine Corps Concert Band in Washington, D.C. Compositions by Sartor have been featured at the Tanglewood, Aspen and Sewanee Music Festivals, the International Double Bass Festival, the Percussive Arts Society International Convention, the International Music Festival in San Jose Costa Rica, The American Guild of Organists' World's Largest Organ Concert, and at Carnegie Hall, with broadcast performances and interviews on National Public Radio and local affiliates.

**As a guest conductor, composer and lecturer**, Sartor's engagements include the Washington National Cathedral, the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra, the Chattanooga Symphony Orchestra, the Nashville Concerto Orchestra, the Nexus Chamber Orchestra, the Vanderbilt University Orchestra, Illinois State University, Middle Tennessee State University, Trevecca Nazarene University, the Knoxville Brass Choir, the University of Tennessee Brass Choir, the Dogwood Arts Festival Chamber Orchestra, and a conducting “mini-residency” at California State University sponsored by New York City’s *Meet The Composer Foundation*. He appears regularly as orchestra conductor at *Bachanalia*, an annual six-hour regional festival of works by Johann Sebastian Bach in downtown Nashville.

**Sartor received his education** at the Blair School of Music, the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory, the University of Tennessee, where he studied composition with John Anthony Lennon and David Van Vactor and conducting with Donald Neuen, and Middle Tennessee State University, studying composition with Paul Osterfield and conducting with Carol Nies.His additional conducting study includes private instruction with Karen Lynne Deal, workshops with Kenneth Schermerhorn and John Morris Russell, and *Beyond the Baton*, a week-long advanced conducting seminar with Diane Wittry.

**An experienced educator,** Sartor has served on the music faculties of Belmont University, Middle Tennessee State University, Cumberland University, and Trevecca Nazarene University, teaching Applied Composition, Music Theory, Form and Analysis, Music History, and General Music courses. His works are recorded on the Naxos label, published by E.C. Schirmer, Shawnee Press and Metamorphic Music, and distributed worldwide by J. W. Pepper Music. In addition to his concert music activities Sartor is an alumnus of the acclaimed Steven Scott Smalley Film Scoring Workshop as well as film scoring workshops with Richard Glasser & Aaron Zigman and, to date, he has scored more than two dozen widely distributed video documentaries and features.

Sartor resides in Middle Tennessee with his wife, the award-winning author Nancy Sartor.