

### Testimonials from pastors and church music directors:

Deanna's music has come along when we as church musicians need it the most. Her language is unique and fresh, and her melodies are singable by professional and amateur alike. Deanna brings soul to texts that may have passed away from the mainstream.

**-Paul Klemme, music director, St. Paul's Episcopal, Salem, OR**

Deanna's music is a gift and an inspiration to listeners everywhere seeking new songs and ideas for worship.

**-Ike Sturm, Assistant Director of Music for the Jazz Ministry at Saint Peter's Church, New York**

When David danced before the Arc of God, some folk were scandalized, but God was pleased, for David's dance was an expression of his joyful abandon to the Spirit of the living God. Witkowski's playing has that same spirit of joyful abandon. God's love poured out and touched even those who were convinced that jazz was not even good music, let alone a means of grace. When our jazz service ended the first person to speak with me was the chair of the worship committee who said, "When can we get her back?"

**-Rev. William Weisenbach, DD, pastor, First Presbyterian, Katonah, NY**

Christ Church Cathedral (Springfield, MA), recently hosted Deanna Witkowski and her trio on a return visit (in March 2010), five years after their first appearance here. It was worth the wait! At both the evening concert and in the service on Sunday morning, Deanna displayed her usual freshness, originality, and sensitivity across the range of moods, from meditative to high-energy.

And what chops she has! She plays, composes, and improvises with total assurance, always appropriate to the text, the moment, the event. And, as a musician myself, I am simply in awe of the amazing harmonic vocabulary she has at her command, and so effortlessly employs.

Many members of the congregation made a point of expressing their pleasure at her return, and their hope that she'd be back again soon.

**-Peter B. Beardsley, Music Director, Christ Church Cathedral**

I highly recommend the work of Deanna Witkowski. We use her music regularly in our services and her trio also plays in worship several times a year. Deanna has written a considerable amount of sacred jazz including mass settings,

service responses, original instrumental and vocal pieces, Psalm settings, and hymn reharmonizations that work excellently within services. She's a fantastic jazz pianist with serious classical chops, too.

Her music is well-written and harmonically sophisticated and is engaging to choirs and congregations without being excessively difficult. As a bonus, she provides well-edited charts for the band as well as choral/congregational scores. For example, if you'd like to print music for the congregation, she sends a hymnal-style insert while the band members and choir get a lead sheet or more fully realized parts. She makes it easy to use what she's written, which is key to introducing new material.

It has been a real gift to see our congregation sing and appreciate sacred jazz regularly. It has expanded our musical horizons and helped us to offer our praise and prayer in a wonderful, new way.

**-Paul Vasile, Minister of Music, Park Avenue Christian Church**

Deanna brings a rare musical intelligence to the music of the liturgy, supporting the familiar texts of the church with inventive melodies and rich harmonic movement. She's a major talent who has much to offer to the worlds of jazz and faith.

**-Bill Carter, jazz pianist and pastor, First Presbyterian, Clarks Summit, PA**

Deanna's work as a professional musician is undergirded by a rich spiritual life. She has a deep understanding of the rhythm and flow of worship.

**-Rev. Debra Avery, pastor, First Presbyterian, Oakland, CA**

Deanna's sacred concert was a magnificent event, exceeding everyone's expectations in both artistic achievement and spiritual impact.

**-Howard Whitaker, PhD, professor of composition, Wheaton College**

**Partial list of churches and conferences  
where Deanna has presented her sacred music:**

St. Paul United Methodist Church, Dallas, TX  
Holy Covenant United Methodist Church, Carrollton, TX  
Edenton Street United Methodist Church, Raleigh, NC  
St. James' Episcopal Church, Hendersonville, NC  
Kanuga Conferences, Hendersonville, NC  
Christ Episcopal Church, Covington, LA  
St. Mary the Virgin Episcopal Church, San Francisco, CA  
St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Park Ridge, IL  
Christ Church, Oak Brook, IL  
Boston College, Boston, MA  
St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, Lihue, HI  
Lexington Christian Academy, Lexington, MA  
Park Avenue Christian Church, New York, NY  
Mount Vernon Nazarene University, Mount Vernon, OH  
First Presbyterian Church, Rahway, NJ  
Highland Presbyterian Church, Louisville, KY  
Hymn Society of the US and Canada- national conference, New Orleans, LA  
Houghton College, Houghton, NY  
North Presbyterian Church, Williamsville, NY  
Park Slope United Methodist Church, Brooklyn, NY  
West End Collegiate Church, New York, NY  
First United Methodist Church, Kalamazoo, MI  
Michigan Festival of Sacred Music, Kalamazoo, MI  
Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, Grand Rapids, MI  
New York Encounter- national gathering, New York, NY  
St. Peter's Church, New York, NY  
Union Theological Seminary, New York, NY  
Middle Collegiate Church, New York, NY  
All Angels' Episcopal Church, New York, NY  
Bethesda Covenant Church, New York, NY  
Bethany Baptist Church, Newark, NJ  
St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Durham, NC  
First Presbyterian Church, Davenport, IA  
Trinity Episcopal Church, Houston, TX  
St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, Stone Mountain, GA  
First Presbyterian Church, Clarks Summit, PA  
LaSalle Street Church, Chicago, IL  
Epiphany United Church of Christ, Chicago, IL  
Ebenezer Lutheran Church, Chicago, IL  
St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Geneva, IL  
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Downers Grove, IL  
Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Warrenville, IL

Greater Boston Vineyard Church, Cambridge, MA  
Calvary St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY  
Roberts Wesleyan College, Rochester, NY  
Pittsford Presbyterian Church, Pittsford, NY  
Central Presbyterian Church, Buffalo, NY  
First Presbyterian Church, Katonah, NY  
Trinity Church, Orange City, IA  
Northwestern College, Orange City, IA  
University Lutheran Church, Cambridge, MA  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Salem, OR  
West Hills Covenant Church, Portland, OR  
First United Church of Christ, Portland, OR  
Augustana Lutheran Church, Portland, OR  
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Buffalo, NY  
Baker Memorial United Methodist Church, East Aurora, NY  
The Cathedral Church of the Intercessor, Malverne, NY  
Bethany Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY  
First Baptist Church, Wheaton, MD