

Rebekah Kathleen O'Brien is delighted to have the opportunity to collaborate with the musicians of the Mid-Columbia Symphony! She brings grace and clarity to the podium and strives to encourage the friendships and sense of community naturally cultivated by classical music. As Director of Orchestras at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, she has strengthened the program through collaborative performances with faculty, guest artists, and masterworks with the choral and opera programs.

As a guest conductor, Ms. O'Brien has led the Lancaster, York, Altoona and Williamsport Symphony Orchestras in concert and, after winning the International Conducting Competition with the Denver Philharmonic, she will be invited as a guest conductor this season. In October of 2024, she was invited to Chile to conduct the Chamber Orchestra of the Municipal de Santiago in a series of concerts highlighting women conductors.

Nominated for the Williamson Fellowship of the Arts, Ms. O'Brien traveled to Portugal for the Atlantic Coast International Conducting Workshop and Competition, winning an invitation to return as assistant conductor for a subscription concert. Supporting the growth of young musicians, Ms. O'Brien has appeared as a guest conductor for middle school and high school festivals in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, and New York. Passionate about bringing music to a wide variety of communities, she has taken her orchestras on tours of Europe and inside the walls of high security prisons.

Rebekah is thankful for the examples and foundation provided by her teachers: Maestros Gerardo Edelstein, Murry Sidlin, and Simeone Tartaglione. Also trained in the art of Eurythmy, she teaches at the Susquehanna Waldorf School in Marietta, PA.

To keep herself grounded, Rebekah can be found under the hood of a car, learning from her supportive husband, Jeff Erickson. Ms. O'Brien lives in State College, Pennsylvania, with her family and inspiring daughter, Genavieve.