David P. Sartor
Short Biography

David P. Sartor (rhymes with “Carter”) is a concert music composer and conductor, Adjunct Professor of Composition at Trevecca Nazarene University and founder and Music Director of the Parthenon Chamber Orchestra. He received his education at the Blair School of Music, the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory, and the University of Tennessee, studying composition with John Anthony Lennon and David Van Vactor and conducting with Donald Neuen, Karen Lynne Deal, and in master classes with Kenneth Schermerhorn and John Morris Russell.

Sartor's widely-performed compositions have been recognized with more than three dozen prestigious 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, twenty-seven consecutive ASCAP 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 seven-time winner in the American Prizes, national awards celebrating American excellence in the arts, he is one of only five composers nationwide named as an "Honored Artist of the American Prize” in recognition of "sustained excellence" in the prestigious competitions.

A respected and in-demand guest conductor, composer and lecturer, Sartor’s engagements include the Washington National Cathedral, the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra, the Chattanooga Symphony Orchestra, Illinois State University, Middle Tennessee State University, Trevecca Nazarene University, the Nexus Chamber Orchestra, the Vanderbilt University Orchestra, 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.

In 2009, Sartor was inducted as a National Patron of Delta Omicron International Music Fraternity in recognition of his accomplishments as a composer and conductor. His works are recorded on the Naxos label and are published by E.C. Schirmer, Shawnee Press, and Metamorphic Music, and distributed worldwide by J. W. Pepper Music. A graduate of film scoring workshops with Steven Scott Smalley, Richard Glasser & Aaron Zigman, he has also scored a number of widely-distributed video documentaries and features.

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