Dortha Manning DeWit

Dortha DeWit was born in Anchorage, Alaska and grew up in Michigan. Her early violin studies were with her mother, Jean Manning, also a violinist, teacher and conductor; later teachers included Romeo Tata, Roland and Almita Vamos, Richard Young, and Josef Gingold. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree in violin performance from Oberlin Conservatory of Music and a Master of Music from Indiana University, where she also did doctoral coursework. She has performed with orchestras and in solo and chamber recitals throughout the Midwest. Mrs. DeWit has taught at Augustana college and St. Ambrose University. She has done lessons and workshops for public schools in Michigan, Illinois and Iowa and has conducted the SEISTA Honor Orchestra. Her orchestral experience includes the Quad City Symphony, West Shore Symphony, Grand Rapids Symphony, and the Clinton Symphony, in addition to working with orchestras in Quincy IL, Galesburg IL, and Evansville IN. Mrs. DeWit helped found the Quad City Youth Symphony Youth String Ensemble and was its principle conductor for twenty-two years, and she was also instrumental in forming the Quad City Youth Prelude Strings, conducting that ensemble for ten years. Mrs. DeWit is a member of the Quad City Symphony Orchestra, the Serenata String Trio, and a clarinet, violin and piano trio and maintains a private violin and viola studio in addition to freelance work with groups including Mannheim Steamroller and Weird Al Yankovich.