

Ellen Taaffe Zwilich

At a time when the musical offerings of the world are more varied than ever before, few composers have emerged with the unique personality of Ellen Taaffe Zwilich. Her music is widely known because it is performed, recorded, broadcast, and – above all – listened to and liked by all sorts of audiences the world over.

Baker's Biographical Dictionary of Musicians [8th edition] states: "There are not many composers in the modern world who possess the lucky combination of writing music of substance and at the same time exercising an immediate appeal to mixed audiences. Zwilich offers this happy combination of purely technical excellence and a distinct power of communication."

A prolific composer in virtually all media, Ellen Taaffe Zwilich's works have been performed by most of the leading American orchestras and by major ensembles abroad. Her works include five Symphonies and a string of concertos commissioned and performed over the past two decades by the nation's top orchestras.

Zwilich is the recipient of numerous prizes and honors, including the 1983 Pulitzer Prize in Music (the first woman ever to receive this coveted award), the Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge Chamber Music Prize, the Arturo Toscanini Music Critics Award, the Ernst von Dohnányi Citation, an Academy Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, a Guggenheim Fellowship, four Grammy nominations, the Alfred I. Dupont Award, Miami Performing Arts Center Award, the Medaglia d'oro in the G.B. Viotti Competition, and the NPR and WNYC Gotham Award for her contributions to the musical life of New York City. Among other distinctions, Zwilich has been elected to the American Classical Music Hall of Fame, the Florida Artists Hall of Fame, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the American Academy of Arts and Letters. In 1995, she was named to the first Composer's Chair in the history of Carnegie Hall, and she was designated *Musical America's* Composer of the Year for 1999. Zwilich, who holds a doctorate from The Juilliard School, as well as an honorary doctorate conferred by Juilliard in 2025. She held the Marie Krafft Distinguished Professorship at Florida State University from 1999 to 2026.

Zwilich has been the longtime chair of the annual BMI Composer Awards, and in 2023 BMI named the prize for the most outstanding score the Ellen Taaffe Zwilich Award. In 2025, Zwilich's papers were noted as one of the top five acquisitions of the year by the Library of Congress Music Division.

For more information visit www.zwilich.com

Merion Music, Inc.

Theodore Presser Company
588 North Gulph Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406

tel: (610) 592-1222 fax: (610) 592-1229
promotion@presser.com www.presser.com