

Dennis Friesen-Carper is Reddel Professor of Music at Valparaiso University where he conducts the Symphony, opera, oratorio and musical theatre, and teaches composition. He has recently been named Principal Guest Conductor of the Wenqin Symphony Orchestra at Zhejiang University in China. He has served as Music Director for Indiana Opera North, the Pasadena Philharmonic, and the Northwest Indiana Youth Symphony. Guest conducting appearances include the South Bend Symphony, Lake Superior Chamber Orchestra, DuPage Symphony, Musica Sacra Chamber Orchestra, the Elkhart Symphony, Jiangsu Symphony, and the Zhejiang Symphony. This season he has been invited to make his debut as conductor and composer with the traditional Chinese orchestra of the Shanghai Conservatory.

His previous academic positions include teaching posts at Goshen College and Bethel College (Kansas), and in public schools. He has served as festival conductor and clinician from Texas to Ontario, conducted and performed in over forty states, China, Canada, Europe, Korea and Japan and with the Indiana University South Bend Philharmonic, Great Lakes and Lutheran Summer Music camp orchestras.

He holds DMA and MMus degrees from the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University and a BA from Bethel College, Kansas.

Active as a composer and arranger, Dr. Friesen-Carper has served as Composer in Residence for the Northwest Indiana Symphony, and has fulfilled commissions for the Houston Symphony, Tucson Symphony, Houston Chamber Singers, South Bend Symphony, Southwest Michigan Symphony, Lake Superior Chamber Orchestra, Zhejiang Symphony, colleges, seminaries, churches, and schools. His work has been published by Santa Barbara Music Publishers, Augsburg Fortress, and Faith and Life Press, and recorded by Minnesota Public Radio, Platshon, Valpo ArtsMedia, and Pro Arte.