



Diana Ortega began music on the bassoon at the age of 12, and shortly after a year of playing music was accepted into the preparatory program at the Juilliard School. Diana holds a Bachelors of Music in Bassoon Performance from the New England Conservatory, with a focus in Music in Education. She has trained in Dalcroze Eurhythmics from the Dalcroze Institute at the Juilliard School, and has fulfilled graduate work in bassoon performance from the Jacob School of Music. Diana returned to New York City in 2012, where she led a career as a freelance bassoonist and teaching artist. Her extensive experience as a music educator and a nontraditional arts intervention counselor steered her towards work around social justice, community development, and arts in community health. Diana's professional pursuit in using live music for mobilization led her to pursue a Master's in Public Administration from the Baruch Marxe School of Public and International Affairs. From fall 2016 to spring 2017, Diana held the position of National Urban Fellow at Health and Hospital Corporation of Marion County reporting directly to the President and CEO. Diana researched diversion models of care to address recidivism and developed recommendations to leadership that led to the implementation of the Mobil Crisis Assessment Team Vehicle. During this time Diana also co-founded Rock E Bassoon an all-electric seven bassoon rock band, where she managed, performed, and developed the ensembles website for the purpose of fundraise for non-profit organizations and civic engagement projects. Rock E Bassoon has since been featured at the cults stadium, the Indianapolis Museum of Art, the Bob and Tom Show, NBC's WHRTV 13, the Indy Star, the ACLU and WFYI's NPR which was then nominated for the 49th Annual Lower Great Lakes Emmy Award in the category of short formal program.

In 2017, Diana was offered a position at Health and Hospital Corporation to realize her graduating thesis. Diana worked on proposing policy amendments to the Family and Social Service Administration (FSSA) for the inclusion of music therapy in the Medicaid additions waiver. In 2019, She spearheaded, fundraised and launched Indianapolis's first full time public music therapy program, lead Health and Hospital Corporations Hospital lobby concert event programs, increased live music hospital concerts up 20% to 105 community concert performances. That same year, Diana implemented the Indiana Avenue Legacy Series- a monthly concert program developed and curated by musicologist Kyle Long to celebrate living Jazz African American legends of the 1950's. Around this time, Indy hub's 1828 leadership program approached of Diana and invited her to take part and train through their exclusive leaders under 30 program.

Diana has served on the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council in Indianapolis's safety net hospital and has trained their music therapy staff on the differences between cultural appropriation and culturally responsive music programming. Diana has curated a comprehensive repository document of books for the public hospitals book share program and has included K-12 arts integration literature with lesson plans, adult books in in Spanish/English/Brail, and literature/music scores by the local BIPOC community. Diana has additionally advocated, and developed music administration and research internship opportunities for individuals with physical disabilities for Indianapolis's Public Hospital.

In February of 2020, in response to COVID-19, Diana executed the development of the internal virtual concert series, a program viewable in all patient rooms and waiting rooms. Diana created policies to compensate all artists for cancelled concerts, hired local musicians and developed partnerships to provide a digital performance platform from the United Nations employee orchestra, Concert Artists Guild, Honeywell Foundation, the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, and NPR's WFYI Small Studio Sessions. Additionally, Diana's music therapy program was categorized as an essential program during COVID-19, and was one of the few music therapy programs in the nation to have continuously seen patients in person since the beginning of the pandemic lockdown.

Diana has studied privately with Monica Ellis, Mark Goldberg, Gregg Henegar, William Ludwig, and Susan Nelson. Diana has performed with the Boston Philharmonic, Boston Opera Collaborative, La Filarmónica Joven de Colombia, Youth Orchestra of the Americas, Camerata New York Orchestra, MostArts Festival Orchestra, Gateway Orchestra, Noli Opera Orchestra of New York, and for the United Nations Symphony Orchestra's awareness concerts. Diana has also substituted with the Imani Winds for their holiday programming, the New Jersey Symphony Woodwind Quintet, has held residencies with Music for Autism through Altius Winds, facilitated Professional Development workshops on Music in Education at New York University and has appeared as a guest speaker at the Jordan School of Music at Butler University, has also facilitated beginner bassoon workshops at Butler Double Reed Day.

