

Dorothy Ziegler

Ziegler, Dorothy Miriam “Dottie” (1922–1972). American trombonist, pianist, and vocal coach. Born in Muscatine, Iowa, Dorothy Ziegler attended Eastman School of Music where she double majored in trombone and piano; she studied trombone with Emory Remington and in 1943, was the first female trombonist to be awarded Eastman’s performer’s certificate in trombone (she was also awarded a performer’s certificate in piano). In 1940, Dorothy Ziegler played first trombone with Leopold Stokowski’s first All-American Youth Orchestra (other members of the orchestra’s trombone section included Solomon Charles Gusikoff—at the time he was principal trombonist of the Philadelphia Orchestra—Thomas Cramer, and Edward Kleinhammer) and she was selected by Serge Koussevitzky to attend the Boston Symphony Orchestra’s Berkshire Music Center (now the Tanglewood Music Center) in 1941 and 1942. Ziegler held trombone positions with the National Symphony (1943–1944) and St. Louis Symphony (1944–1963; principal trombone, 1944–1958). During her tenure in St. Louis, she earned a master’s degree in piano from University of Southern California (1946) and a performer’s certificate in piano from the American Conservatory in Paris (1947). Ziegler was an accomplished pianist and vocal coach and served as accompanist for the St. Louis Grand Opera Guild; she was the Guild’s conductor and artistic director from 1955 to 1964. She left St. Louis in 1964 to become director of the Indiana University Opera Theater, and from 1966 to 1971, she taught at the University of Miami as director of the university’s opera theater while continuing to play and teach trombone. In 2012, the International Women’s Brass Conference (posthumously) recognized Dorothy Ziegler for her accomplishments as a pioneering female brass player.

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