

Artistic Director

Dr. Deborah Simpkin King is a choral and vocal performer and educator, working primarily in the northern New Jersey/NYC area. As Founding Artistic Director of the forty-voice choral ensemble *Schola Cantorum on Hudson*, her choral work is favorably reviewed. She is Director of Music at The First Presbyterian Church (Ramsey, NJ), and owns an independent voice studio in Essex County. She frequently guest-conducts and provides choral workshop sessions, focusing on vocal production, sight reading, and other matters of the choral art.

The thread of continuity that connects Dr. King's various activities is her fundamental belief that music is a gift, possessing the potential for profound impact on the human spirit, which can nurture all of us throughout our lives. It is this perspective that informs all of her activities, from polished performances to vigorous insistence on the development of fluency in sight singing. One reflection of her commitment to this mission is her initiation of competitive sight singing as part of the NJ-ACDA High School Choral Festival, which she has coordinated since 1994, and for which new material is commissioned annually. Equally consistent within her mission is the programming and polishing of performances for maximum impact on all those sharing them.

Dr. King is an active member of Chorus America, Classical Singer Society, American Choral Directors' Association, the National Association for Teachers of Singing, and the Conductors' Guild. She is privileged to have served on the NJ-ACDA Board of Directors since 1991.

Dr. King holds a Ph.D. in Musicology from the University of North Texas; a Master of Music in Music Education from North Texas State University; and a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from Texas Christian University. Her mentor of twenty years was Caro Carapetyan, whose choral work was the subject of Dr. King's master's thesis (*Caro Carapetyan: His Choral Beliefs and Practices*, 1981). Dr. King is also a published editor and writer. Her edition of full anthems by Baroque composer John Blow, published by Oxford University Press, has been very favorably reviewed, and her dissertation, *The Full Anthems and Services of John Blow and the Question of an English Stile Antico*, was honored with the 1990 University of North Texas Graduate Dean's Dissertation Award for Scholarly Communication. Dr. King continues her research and writing activities primarily through the development of programs and program notes for the three ensembles of Schola Cantorum on Hudson.

Dr. King has two sons: Patrick Daniel, Segment Producer with Comedy Central's *The Daily Show*; and Michael Alexander, currently a student in the Master of Divinity program of Westminster Seminary in Philadelphia.