



BIOGRAPHY

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Dr. Deborah Simpkin King

*Artistic Director and Founder Schola Cantorum on Hudson
Director and Founder of Project Encore™*

Dr. Deborah Simpkin King is a choral and vocal educator and performer who works in the New York metropolitan area. 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. It is this perspective that informs all of her activities.

A champion of ensemble singing, Dr. King founded the critically acclaimed choral ensemble *Schola Cantorum on Hudson* (SCH) in 1995. As the organization's Artistic Director, she has shaped the ensemble into a high-caliber performing force that has been invited to:

- present numerous premieres including the European premiere of an American work during the Salzburg Festival,
- perform for New Jersey Symphony Orchestra's annual Winter Festival (*Best of ... Italian Opera*, 2010, and *Paris: Fantasy & Discovery*, 2009), and
- appear on a national broadcast on the Telemundo television network.

Through many collaborations with composers, she recognized the significant barriers they face in bringing new choral music to audiences. In 2009, she founded *Project Encore™* of *Schola Cantorum on Hudson*, an innovative database initiative that advocates the programming of works that have acquired no significant second performance. The program launched the first-of-its-kind searchable database of contemporary choral works and is now in its third submission quarter. The host of the NPR program *Sounds Choral* selected *Project Encore™* and Schola Cantorum on Hudson as the subject for its May 23, 2010, broadcast on WWFM The Classical Network.

A voice teacher and conductor for more than thirty years, Dr. King is a sought-after choral clinician. She guest conducts choral workshops and festivals, and adjudicates choral and vocal events throughout Northern New Jersey. She frequently offers master classes on choral technique, vocal production, sight-reading, and other matters of the choral art. She has held graduate, undergraduate, and administrative posts on several campuses, teaching courses in music history, voice, sight singing, and choral conducting.

For the past sixteen years, Dr. King has coordinated the annual High School Choral Festival for the New Jersey Chapter of the American Choral Directors' Association. Under her tenure as Coordinator, the Festival, which attracts high school choirs throughout the state, incorporated competitive sight singing and now commissions its own material for that event. She has served on the state Board of Directors since 1991.



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Currently, Dr. King also serves as Director of Music at The First Presbyterian Church in Ramsey, New Jersey, where she is both choirmaster and organist. She is an active mezzo-soprano who sings as a cast member of the traveling *Schola Sings Solo* recital series.

Dr. King earned 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).

A published editor and writer, Dr. King has received favorable reviews of her edition of full anthems by Baroque composer John Blow, published by Oxford University Press. 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.

She is an active member of Chorus America, the Classical Singer Society, the National Association for Teachers of Singing, the Conductors Guild, the Royal School of Church Music, and the American Guild of Organists.

She has two sons: Patrick Daniel, Segment Producer with Comedy Central's *The Daily Show*; and Michael Alexander, a student at Westminster Seminary in Philadelphia and Manager of Wilson House of the Christian Union in Princeton.