

SCHOLA
CANTORUM
ON HUDSON

Deborah Simpkin King
Artistic Director & Founder

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**SCHOLA CANTORUM ON HUDSON
CELEBRATES ITS 15TH ANNIVERSARY**

The 2009-2010 season showcases all-American music and features composer Dr. Roger Wesby, Director of Choral Activities at Wagner College.

Jersey City, NJ – Schola Cantorum on Hudson (SCH), the critically acclaimed choral ensemble based in the New York/New Jersey Metropolitan area, marks its 15th Anniversary with “Celebrating American Stories”. The season will draw its repertoire exclusively from American-born and naturalized American composers, with an emphasis on the works of contemporary composers. Introducing its inaugural *Featured Composers Program*, SCH will present the works of Dr. Roger H. Wesby, Director of Choral Activities at Wagner College, throughout the 2009–2010 Season. Individual tickets for this season’s performances are offered at the special anniversary price of \$15.

Artistic Director Dr. Deborah Simpkin King founded the group as an independent choral ensemble in 1995 in Jersey City. It has since developed into an ensemble that performs equally in New York and northern New Jersey, and exhibits visionary leadership within the international choral community. Dr. King states, “We are so grateful to all singers, administrators, and funders, who have understood and become part of our dream for human impact through music over the past fifteen years of extremely rapid growth! It seems only right to celebrate this country, where pursuit of a dream is possible, through its choral music in this significant anniversary year.”

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Some highlights of the last fifteen years include:

- *Project Encore™* initiative to create a searchable database of newly premiered choral works designed to link composers with conductors/ensembles around the world
- International tour: Invitational appearance to present European premiere of Randall Svane's *Mass* during Salzburg Festival – 10-day concert tour through Austria and Czech Republic
- Major collaborations with prominent arts organizations: New Jersey Symphony Orchestra & NJPAC for *Video Games Live & Winter Festival*
- Broadcast appearance: “Las Comadres con Gloria B” on *Telemundo*
- Multimedia concert production: *Space, Light & Discovery*

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Schola Cantorum on Hudson (SCH) is a 35-voice choral ensemble based in Jersey City, New Jersey. Founded as an independent choral ensemble by Artistic Director Dr. Deborah Simpkin King in 1995, the group adopted a mission of enriching the life of the diverse New Jersey and New York communities. The ensemble has since grown dynamically to embrace a mission of global cultural impact—deepening and enlivening the human spirit through high-quality, passionate musical experiences. SCH members, supported by a dedicated Board and staff, endeavor to fulfill their mission through inspired artistic leadership that includes:

- Innovative programming representing a wide variety of musical styles,
- Active promotion of new choral works,
- Broad-reaching support for all aspects of the vocal art, and
- Commitment to a robust music education program.

Music education has been a cornerstone of SCH's outreach from its inception. In addition to the *Cantorum Young Singers* and *Choral Scholar Programs*, SCH's innovative *Member Inreach* program offers classes in vocal technique, performance presentation, assertive sight-singing and ensemble skills.

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Through its annual *Ethnic Celebration Series*, along with new initiatives including *Project Encore™* and the *Featured Composer Program*, SCH promotes expansive repertoire awareness. SCH also provides opportunities for professional soloists within the group to develop artistically through involvement in the *Schola Sings Solo* cast.

Schola Cantorum on Hudson is accredited as a provider of Professional Development credits for New Jersey public school teachers who participate in SCH's performance and educational offerings. More information about these initiatives may be found at <http://www.ScholaOnHudson.org>.

Schola Cantorum on Hudson is sponsored by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. The ensemble also receives generous funding from the Frank and Lydia Bergen Foundation, the Marjorie Bunnell Charitable Trust, ExxonMobil, and The Provident Bank Foundation. Schola Cantorum on Hudson is additionally supported by a dedicated Board and singing membership, as well as enthusiastic individuals and visionary business friends.

Additional information regarding Schola Cantorum on Hudson's 15th Anniversary, the ensemble and its activities can be obtained online at <http://www.ScholaOnHudson.org> or by calling (201) 918-3009.