

## Ember Ensemble Celebrates the Wisdom of Aging through Song in Season Finale Concert

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** New York, NY, March 22, 2019....A return to simplicity – and the possibility of sharing its joyful wisdom as we age – is the focus of the [Ember](#) ensemble concert titled *A Second Simplicity* that will take place on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> in NYC and Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> in Montclair, NJ. The concerts will conclude Ember’s year-long examination and celebration of the second half of life, in this case through the deepened life experience of a retirement aged population able to live happily with paradoxes, doubts and mysteries.

In *A Second Simplicity*, Ember turns to the wisdom offered by such disparate sources as Rabindranath Tagore, Ysaÿe Barnwell and Stephen Sondheim among others – and draws upon the extraordinary solo talents for which the Ember singing family is known.

“The two themes running through this concert are those of life as a voyage and memories,” says [Deborah Simpkin King, Ph.D.](#), Ember’s Artistic Director, Conductor and Founder. “We began the *Coming of Age* season on Veterans Day weekend exploring the wisdom and life perspective of elder veterans. In our March concert, we celebrated fresh opportunities appearing in the retirement years. And in our final concert we look at the possibility of a joyful return to simplicity, to our core essence with which each life on this earth begins,” she explains.

The concert will feature the world premiere of Matt Van Brink’s composition *With its Wonders*, on a text by Rabindranath Tagore, that speaks to the discovery that, as we age, “new melodies break forth... new country is revealed with its wonders.” Among the other compositions will be Ysaÿe Barnwell’s *Wanting Memories*, David Moore’s *Remembrance*, Sydney Guillaume’s *Le Dernier Voyage* and Eric Nelson’s *When Memory Fades*. Ember’s composer in residence, Cheryl B. Engelhardt, will premiere her new composition, *Taurus*. The concert is framed by portions of Stephen Sondheim’s *Into the Woods*.

*A Second Simplicity* will take place on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 P.M. at St. John’s in the Village Church, 218 W. 11<sup>th</sup> Street (at Waverly Place), NYC, and on Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at 5 P.M. at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 94 Pine Street, Montclair, NJ.

[Tickets](#) for both concerts can be purchased in advance online for \$20, or at the door for \$25. Seniors/students, \$15; children 18 and under are free of charge. For more information go to [www.EmberEnsemble.org](http://www.EmberEnsemble.org) or call 888-407-6002 Ext.5.

### About Ember

[Ember](#) is the performing ensemble of [Schola Cantorum on Hudson](#), founded in 1995 by Deborah Simpkin King, Ph.D., as an independent nonprofit organization. Ember performs its entire concert season in Manhattan and in Montclair, NJ. Its unique programming features new music (largely by living composers) with a socially pertinent message. The internationally recognized new music initiative, [PROJECT : ENCORE™](#), was founded through Schola and the organization supports multi-

pronged education and engagement programs in addition to its performing activities. Ember draws singers from eleven counties throughout New York and New Jersey. Schola is supported by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, the Marjorie Bunnell Foundation, and many other generous individuals, foundations and business partners.

**About Deborah Simpkin King, Ph.D.**

Deborah Simpkin King, Ph.D., is the Founder and Artistic Director of [Ember](#), the vocal ensemble of Schola Cantorum on Hudson (Schola), and of PROJECT : ENCORE™. Dr. King chairs the New York Choral Consortium (NYCC) and serves as the Director of Music at Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church and the Artistic Director of the Crescent Concert Series in Plainfield, NJ. Known as a visionary conductor, educator and advocate of new music and the choral community, Dr. King is a frequent presenter at professional conferences and active as a guest conductor and teacher of master classes and choral workshops.

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