

DEBORAH SIMPKIN KING, PhD

DeborahSKing.com

DeborahKing@DeborahSKing.com

973-698-6927

".....a choral force to be reckoned with in New York and north Jersey."

— American Record Guide

SUMMARY

Noted conductor, new music advocate, and program builder with record of producing outstanding artistic and organizational results in academic, non-profit and ecclesiastical environments. Founder and Artistic Director of successful independent choral, educational and advocacy 501(c)(3) organization. Sought-after clinician, guest conductor, and presenter. Published writer and performer. Track record of reinvigorating and growing departments of choral and vocal study. Known for creative programming, advocacy efforts and organizational program building.

STATEMENT OF PROFESSIONAL PATH AND MISSION

Acquisition of the necessary qualifications for a professional life on the campus has proven just as valuable in the non-profit world, and in an ever-broadening professional base as a conductor, artistic innovator and advocate and educator. Consistent mission within the broad professional activity spectrum is that of seeking to be instrumental to the deepening and enlivening of the human spirit through music.

CURRENT PROFESSIONAL MIX (overview)

Schola Cantorum on Hudson: Artistic Director and Founder

PROJECT : ENCORE™: Director & Founder * Ember: Artistic Director & Founder

Phoenix Initiative : Founding Director; PROJECT : ENCORE News for *Choral Journal*: Monthly columnist

Presbyterian Church of Chatham Township (PCCT): Director of Music

New York Choral Consortium: Chair

Guest Conductor & Clinician * Master Teacher of Voice and Conducting

Conductor

EMBER of Schola Cantorum on Hudson

(1995–present)

Semi-professional vocal ensemble programing full-season explorations of life/social issues through the music of living composers, leveraging an eclectic stylistic mix designed to tangibly impact the lives of both performers and audience members.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHATHAM TOWNSHIP Choir (2019 to present)

A multi-generational music program, with primary responsibility for training and programming adult Chancel Choir and playing services from organ. Oversight of associate's work with children's choirs and bell choirs; administration of music program budgeting, writing, etc.

GUEST CONDUCTING (examples)

- **Conductor with Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart**
 - Johnathan Dove's "In Search of Spring," summer of 2020
 - John Luther Adams's "In the Name of the Earth," summer of 2018
 - David Lang's "the public domain," summer of 2016
- **Conductor of professional recording ensemble for composer Bill Heigen premiere recording project; January 2019**
- **Tlaxcala Canta Choral Festival, November 2018**
- **Rockland County Music Educators' Association All County Choral Festival conductor, January of 2017 (other similar festival guest conducting historically)**
- **Union Theological Seminary Choir, February and March of 2016: service design, repertoire selection, and training of the singers**

Artistic Leadership

NEW YORK CHORAL CONSORTIUM

Chair

(Since 2012)

Initially co-chair with Kent Tritle; Chair since 2014. Primary hub for choral activity and awareness in New York City. Serves more than 75 member organizations. Has worked with the NY Philharmonic and with Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart Festival in producing large choral events.

PROJECT : ENCORE

Artistic Director and Founder

(2009-present)

International, online catalog of post-premiere contemporary choral music that has been blind-reviewed and endorsed by a select panel of renowned conductors. Has been heralded as establishing a new and necessary paradigm for score evaluation and promotion for the 21st century. Recognized by American Composers' Forum and by ASCAP.

Monthly "PROJECT : ENCORE News" column, published in American Choral Directors' Association's *Choral Journal*, with distribution of over 22,000, in 44 countries (since 2015).

PHOENIX SINGERS: a Schola-sponsored music program for high school-aged singers that provides young vocalists with an exciting and challenging choral performance experience and music and vocal training for a lifetime of musical involvement, whether avocational or professional, and the opportunity to develop transferrable leadership skills.

SOUNDS CHORAL, NPR Radio Host

(since fall of 2018)

Rotational writer and host of one-hour program focusing on various elements of the choral art. Once monthly. See archive of shows at: <https://www.wvfm.org/people/deborah-simpkin-king-stream/0>

Master Teacher

(examples)

- Conducting master classes: North Jersey Chapter of the AGO, Orange School District choral and instrumental conductors, etc
- Private conducting and studio voice lessons
- Rutgers University, New Brunswick, Choral Conducting sabbatical replacement

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

- Phd, Musicology: University of North Texas, 1990 (secondary: choral conducting)
- MMus, Music Education/Choral Conducting: North Texas State University, 1980
- BMus, Vocal Performance: Texas Christian University, 1976 (secondary: choral conducting)
- Formative mentor in vocal and choral study: Caro Carapetyan, 1971-1991.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- New York Choral Consortium (Chair)
- American Choral Directors' Association (writer & Coordinator of HS Choral Festival)
- Chorus America (conference panelist, interviewee)
- College Music Society
- Conductors' Guild
- New Jersey Choral Consortium

PUBLISHED WORK

Check News and Reviews and Publications at <http://deborahsking.com/> for updated information on published work and reviews.

Overview of past positions

CRESCENT CONCERTS (2017-2019)	Artistic Director
CRESCENT AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (2017-2019)	Director of Music Ministries
WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY (2015-2016)	Interim Director of Choral Activities
TRINITY AND ST. PHILIPS EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL, Diocese of Newark (August 2015 – 2017)	Director of Arts Ministries
BROOKSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH, Brookside, NJ (2012-2014)	Director of Music
SETAUKET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Setauket, NY (March-June 2014)	Interim Minister of Music
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of Ramsey, NJ (2007-2011)	Director of Music
CALDWELL COLLEGE (2006-07)	Full-time Interim Director of Choral Studies
KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY (1996-97)	Full-time Interim Director of Choral Studies
ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, Montclair, NJ (1994-2006)	Choirmaster and Organist
JERSEY CITY STATE COLLEGE (1991-1995) (1993-1995)	Coordinator of Choral and Vocal Studies Coordinator of Graduate Studies in Music

