

# DEBORAH SIMPKIN KING, PhD

DeborahSKing.com

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*"... 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

PROJECT : ENCORE News for *Choral Journal*: Monthly columnist

**Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church: Interim Director of Music**

**Crescent Concerts, Choral Society & Crescent Singers: Artistic Director**

**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.

### **CRESCENT SINGERS**

(2017–present)

A select ensemble focused on creative musical/liturgical experiences.

### **CRESCENT CHORAL SOCIETY**

(2017–present)

A community choir focused on major masterworks of the choral canon, performed semi-annual with orchestra.

### **CRESCENT AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

(2017–present)

Interim Director of Music. Program, train and direct the Crescent Chancel Singers. Provide instrumental support for all worship services (organ and piano). Administer all elements of the music ministry, in collaboration with pastoral staff and Worship, Music and Arts Committee.

### **GUEST CONDUCTING** (examples)

- Tlaxcala Canta Choral Festival, November 2018
- Conductor with John Luther Adams’s “In the Name of the Earth” through Mostly Mozart at Lincoln Center, summer of 2018
- Conductor with David Lang’s “the public domain” through Mostly Mozart at Lincoln Center, summer of 2016
- 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: Full responsibility for service design, repertoire selection, and training of the singers
- Manhattan Choral Ensemble, fall 2013 (sabbatical replacement): Full responsibility for repertoire/programming, auditioning and rehearsal/training, artistic integration with board and staff

## 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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).

## **CRESCENT CONCERTS**

(2017–present)

Artistic Director of multi-disciplinary presentation of vocal, instrumental, choral and orchestral events for the residents of Plainfield and the surrounding communities

## **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.

## **Master Teacher**

(examples)

- Conducting master classes, such as with 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**

- Ph.D., 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)
- Conductors' Guild
- New Jersey Choral Consortium
- College Music Society

## **PUBLISHED WORK**

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

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### **Overview of former activity -**

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