SCHOLA CANTORUM ON HUDSON
Deborah Simpkin King
Founding Artistic Director

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SCHOLA CANTORUM ON HUDSON REVOLUTIONIZES THE PROCESS OF PROGRAMMING NEW CHORAL MUSIC FOR COMPOSERS, CONDUCTORS AND ENSEMBLES AROUND THE WORLD

Project Encore™ *database and website launch scheduled for mid-September.*

Jersey City, NJ, August 31, 2009 -- Schola Cantorum on Hudson (SCH**)** kicks off its 15th Anniversary Season with the global launch of *Project Encore™,* a searchable database of choral works that have been premiered, but have not garnered significant additional performances. Dr. Deborah Simpkin King, Founding Artistic Director of SCH and of *Project Encore™* states, "The *Project Encore™* initiative arose through our collaboration with composers in response to their need for a channel to greater performance opportunities for deserving works." The database, accessible on SCH's newly revamped website http://www.ScholaonHudson.org, is designed to facilitate integration of new compositions into choral programming by providing detailed information about new works, links to composer and publisher websites, sound files and sample pages of scores.

Scheduled to launch mid-September, *Project Encore™* revolutionizes the process of programming new choral music for composers, conductors and ensembles around the world. John Nuechterlein, member of the *Project Encore™* Advisory Council and President/CEO of American Composers Forum, states,

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"Project Encore is a wonderful way to catalog and promote the best of new choral repertoire for the field. It is not always easy for composers to secure performances beyond the premiere, and I applaud the effort of Schola Cantorum on Hudson to share top-notch work with other choruses through this database." Other members of the Advisory Council include Robert Schuneman, President of ECS Publishing; American composer and choral conductor Z. Randall Stroope; and Nicholas Cleobury, Founder/Conductor of England's *Sounds New*.

Schola Cantorum on Hudson has established a formalized submission process that enables composers to submit one composition per calendar quarter for possible inclusion in the *Project Encore™* database. A review panel comprised of well-respected professionals in the international choral community will evaluate and, subsequently, recommend new postings from the body of works submitted. SCH supports the database initiative by committing to include *Project Encore™* works as a major portion of its season programming.

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Schola Cantorum on Hudson was founded as an independent choral ensemble in 1995, with 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. 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 receives generous funding from the Frank and Lydia Bergen Foundation, the Marjorie Bunnell Charitable Trust, ExxonMobil, dedicated Board members and singers, enthusiastic individuals and visionary business friends. The ensemble is sponsored in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council of the Arts/Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

Additional information regarding *Project Encore™,* the ensemble and its activities can be obtained online at http://www.ScholaonHudson.org or by calling (201) 918-3009.