

August 2017

Simon Holt, artistic director of Salt Marsh Opera and director of music at The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme, will be the new music director of the Cappella Cantorum MasterWorks Chorus, following Barry Asch's retirement as Founder and Music Director for 47 years!

Simon Holt Bio (2016) from Dec. 2016 Cappella Cantorum Program

Artistic Director Simon Holt has conducted numerous operas, operettas and musicals throughout his career. He is a sought-after performer in the eastern United States, and has recorded and produced several CDs. As founder of Salt Marsh Opera he has been the company's Music Director since its inception in 2000, becoming Artistic Director in 2005 and General Manager in 2016.

A graduate of The Royal College of Music, London, and Goldsmith's College, University of London, Simon was a prizewinner at The Royal College of Organists also in London. His credentials include four diplomas, two in performance and two in teaching.

Prior to joining Salt Marsh Opera, Simon was Director of Music at Bristol Cathedral School, the Bristol Cathedral School Choral Society, Bromsgrove Choral Society and the Birmingham University Chorus and Orchestra, with venues including Bristol Cathedral, Birmingham's Symphony Hall and The Royal Albert Hall in London.

As an organist, Simon has performed in Westminster Abbey, York Minster, Selby Abby, St. George's Chapel Windsor Castle, Reading Town Hall and the Cathedrals of Norwich, Carlisle, Portsmouth, Wells, Canterbury, Rochester and Gloucester. Simon has toured extensively in Europe performing at St. Mark's in Venice, Sacré Coeur and Notre Dame in Paris, and venues in Holland, Austria, Germany, the Czech Republic, Belgium and Switzerland. He has appeared several times on British and American radio and television.

In 1999 he and his family moved to Connecticut, where he became Director of Music and Organist at Calvary Church. He founded and served as Director of Calvary Music School and was Organist and Director of The Anglican Singers. He was also Director of Music at Pine Point School for several years after which he served as Director of Music in School at the renowned Saint Thomas Choir School in New York City. In 2010 he was for two years the Director of Music and Chair of Fine Arts at Saint James Episcopal School in Hagerstown, MD. He is currently the Director of Music at the First Congregational Church of Old Lyme, CT and Executive Director of the United Theatre in Westerly, RI