

Dr. Mark Simmons is currently Assistant Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at the University of Tennessee at Martin. He conducts the University Singers and the New Pacer Singers in addition to teaching advanced conducting and choral methods courses. Preparing future artist/teachers is a focus for him and vocal students from UTM have recently accepted positions in notable elementary and secondary music programs throughout the state of Tennessee as well as moving on to graduate programs focusing on advanced conducting study at nationally recognized schools of music.

Simmons undertook significant conducting studies with Dr. Janet Galván, Dr. David Stocker, and Dr. Doreen Rao. In 2006 he participated in the orchestral conducting symposium at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, spending a week working with notable conductors such as Christoph Eschenbach, Vance George, and Dwain Wolfe.

Choirs under his direction have toured 17 states as well as the countries of Austria, Hungary, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic, performing in prominent locations such as the Crystal Cathedral in California and St. Mathew's Cathedral in Vienna, Austria. Articles he has written on the subject of choral program development have appeared in two issues of the *Choral Journal* and a new composition, *Gloria*, was recently published on the Janet Galván Choral Series by Roger Dean Publications.

Simmons holds degrees in Music Education and Choral Conducting from Ithaca College, the Eastman School of Music, and Arizona State University.