
Deborah Mello



Deborah A. Mello is the Founder and Artistic Director of the Children's Chorus of Sussex County. She is the recipient of the Master Teacher Award from the New Jersey Music Education Association, the New Jersey Governor's Award for Arts in Education, and the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra Master Teacher Collaborative Award, sponsored by the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation. In May 2007, Debbie was one of fifty music educators in the United States to receive the inaugural Distinguished Music Educator Award from Yale University.

As a member of the American Choral Directors Association, Debbie has served on the Repertoire & Standards Committee for Children's Chorus as New Jersey State Chair, Eastern Division Chair and National Chair. She is currently serving the ACDA Eastern Division Board as Chair of Repertoire & Standards for Children's Chorus. A recipient of the Artist Teacher certificate from the Choral Music Education courses founded by Doreen Rao, Deborah has been a Teaching Associate in the CME courses taught in the United States, Canada, and in Europe, including England, Sweden, Scotland, Ireland and Wales.

She has conducted area, state, and regional honor choirs throughout the United States for children through mixed voice high school choirs. In addition to conducting, Deborah has presented numerous workshops on elementary music education, music curriculum, children's choirs, choral repertoire, and choral conducting for the New Jersey Music Educators, New York American Choral Directors Association, Massachusetts Choral Directors, Louisiana Choral Directors Association, Music Educators National Conference, National American Choral Directors Association and Oberlin Conservatory.

In collaboration with New Jersey composer, Jill Gallina, Debbie has written All-American Sing-Along Songs, a collection of patriotic songs and companion lesson plans, and For the Boys, a collection of songs that boys love to sing with background information and companion lesson plans. She has authored articles that have been published in the New Jersey Music Educators Journal, the Eastern Division American Choral Directors Newsletter, and The Choral Journal and most recently in a publication of the Music Educators National Conference.

After thirty-two years as a public school music educator-choral conductor, Deborah retired as Director of Choral Activities at Randolph High School in Randolph, New Jersey. Currently, she is teaching at Seton Hall University. In addition to teaching, Deborah serves as the Junior Choir Director at Christ Episcopal Church in Newton, New Jersey.
