

## DAVID PERKINS



A writer, editor, teacher, classical singer, and music director, **David Perkins** is the founder and director of the Hilltown Chautauqua in western Massachusetts

He taught in the Journalism Program at UMASS-Amherst for 12 years (2002-14), as a senior lecturer responsible for courses in newswriting, editing, online journalism, environmental journalism, and writing about the performing arts. He has also taught at N.C. State and Duke universities.

He has been a regular contributor of reviews and feature stories on classical music, theater and dance to the Boston Globe and other publications and websites.

In 2016, he launched the Hilltown Chautauqua, a non-profit organization that develops and produces an annual series of programs that address pressing social issues. The Hilltown Chautauqua's goals are providing cultural and intellectual stimulus, building community, and encouraging economic development in the hilltowns.

David Perkins began his journalism career as assistant editor of *The New Leader* magazine in New York City. He then ventured south to work as a prizewinning reporter for *The Anniston Star* (Ala.) and, later, at *The News and Observer* (Raleigh, N.C.). He was the *News and Observer's* book review editor (1992-1997), and its classical music critic for a decade. In 1997, he founded *Brightleaf*, a quarterly review of new writing of the South, of which he was editor and publisher until 2001.

Among his publications, he is the editor *Raleigh: A Living History of North Carolina's Capital* (John Blair Publishers, 1992), based on a supplement he edited for the *News and Observer* on the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Raleigh. He also edited *Books of Passage: Books That Changed Writers Lives* (Down Home Press, 1996).

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He is the author of the forthcoming *A Gathering of Originals*, a history of the New Hope, PA., artists colony (Hilltown Press, 2016).

After moving to Massachusetts in 2001, he founded the Wistaria Chamber Music Society, an ensemble of professional and semi-professional musicians who have performed more than 70 times in Holyoke, Amherst, Northampton, Greenfield, Plainfield, Boston and Cambridge. In 2013, he also became artistic director of the Concerts at 7 series with the Wistaria Chamber Society in Plainfield, MA., where he lives. As a singer, he has been a member of the Boston Symphony's Tanglewood Festival Chorus and other choruses, and performs often as a soloist in concert and in recital.

A *cum laude* graduate of Yale University, he has a master's degree in English literature from Cambridge University (UK). He was born in Princeton, New Jersey.