



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

He lectured in the Journalism Program at UMASS-Amherst for 12 years (2002-14), and earlier taught writing and journalism 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 produces an annual series of programs on pressing social issues in America. The Hilltown Chautauqua's goals are to provide cultural and intellectual stimulus, to build community, and encourage economic development.

David Perkins began his journalism career as assistant editor of *The New Leader* magazine in New York City. He then moved south and worked as a prizewinning reporter for *The Anniston Star* (Ala.) and *The News and Observer* (Raleigh, N.C.). At the latter, he was book review editor and classical music critic. In 1997, he founded *Brightleaf*, a quarterly review of new writing of the South, of which he was editor and publisher until 2001.

His books include *Raleigh: A Living History of North Carolina's Capital* (John Blair Publishers, 1992), based on a 100-page newspaper supplement he prepared on the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the state's capital city.

After moving to Massachusetts in 2001, he founded the Wistaria Chamber Music Society, an ensemble of professional and semi-professional musicians in western Massachusetts that gave more than 70 performances in Holyoke, Amherst, Northampton, Greenfield, Plainfield, Boston and Cambridge. In 2013, he became artistic director of the Concerts at 7 series in Plainfield, MA., where he lives. As a singer, he has been a member of the Boston Symphony's Tanglewood Festival Chorus, and has performed as a soloist and recitalist with Jhn van Buskirk, Tanya Blaich, Edward Rosser, and David Kramer.

A graduate of Yale University, he has a master's degree in English literature from Cambridge University (UK). He was born in Princeton, New Jersey, and grew up in Ithaca, New York