

## Artistic Director – Full Bio

**Rodney Wynkoop** has served as conductor and artistic director of the Choral Society of Durham since 1986. He is also the founding director of the Vocal Arts Ensemble of Durham, an elite chamber choir. He recently retired from Duke University, where he directed the Duke University Chorale for over 35 years, conducted the Duke Chapel Choir for almost 30 years, and served as the Director of University Choral Music. In the Music Department, he also taught choral conducting and served as Director of Performance.

### Honors

Dr. Wynkoop's work has earned him critical acclaim for artistic excellence and innovative programming. He has led both the Choral Society and the Vocal Arts Ensemble in invited appearances at national and regional conventions of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA). Locally, Dr. Wynkoop has received the James L. Nicholson award from the Durham Arts Council for his contributions in promoting the careers of local singers and composers, and the Lara Hoggard Award for Distinguished Service in Choral Music in North Carolina, presented by the North Carolina chapter of ACDA. In honor of his 35 years as their artistic director, the Choral Society recently established the Wynkoop Fellowship Program, dedicated to ensuring that membership in the group is equally accessible to everyone.

### Tours and Workshops

Dr. Wynkoop has led international concert tours to Cuba, Russia, South Africa, Brazil, and Spain as conductor of the Triangle Choral Exchange. He has led Duke choirs on many tours as well, including annual domestic tours with the Chorale and international tours to China, Greece, and various parts of Europe with both the Chapel Choir and the Chorale. He also served for one summer as the resident guest conductor of a professional civic chorus in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. He conducted singers from all his choirs in performances of Vaughan Williams's *Dona Nobis Pacem* at Carnegie Hall in 2006 and again in Vienna in 2009 as part of the International Haydn Festival. They returned to Carnegie Hall in 2016 to perform Haydn's *Mass in Time of War*. Domestically, Dr. Wynkoop has been the featured conductor at a variety of choral conducting workshops as well as all-state and all-district student choirs.

### Premieres and Recordings

Dr. Wynkoop has conducted world premiere performances of contemporary works by composers such as James MacMillan, René Clausen, and Steven Sametz, as well as newly discovered works by Mendelssohn and Ives. The Vocal Arts Ensemble has released two CD recordings: *My Spirit Sang All Day*, featuring 20/21st-century works (on the Arsis label), and *O Holy Night*, a holiday CD. His recordings with other choral groups include a live-performance CD of Orff's *Carmina Burana* by the Choral Society and numerous recordings of Handel's *Messiah* by the Duke Chapel Choir. Under his direction, annual *Messiah* performances at Duke Chapel were twice streamed globally via Trans World Radio.

### Education and Background

Dr. Wynkoop received his bachelor's degree in music from Yale University, his master's from the University of Wisconsin, and his doctorate from the Yale School of Music. Prior to coming to Duke in 1984, he held conducting positions at Yale, the University of Chicago, and Mount Holyoke College.