

## WILLIAM DEHNING

William Dehning retired in 2007 after fifteen years as Chairman of Choral Music at the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music, where he conducted the USC Chamber Choir and taught graduate choral conducting in a department of 15 resident graduate students. For twenty years prior to his appointment to USC, Dehning was Director of Choirs at the University of the Pacific, where he was recipient of the university's Distinguished Professor Award and its commencement speaker in 1991, and where he was honored by the alumni for his years of service.



Under his leadership, the Thornton Chamber Choir won seven prizes in international European competitions, including Grand Prizes in Varna, Bulgaria and Tours, France. During his tenure, the ensemble also appeared to standing ovations at ACDA conventions six times, including nationals in 2001 and 2005. They also completed a tour of East Asia in 2006, the highlight of which was a concert in the National Concert Hall in Taipei with 1500 in attendance. He prepared the Thornton Choral Artists for appearances with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra numerous times since and he also prepared the Los Angeles Master Chorale for performances of *Messiah* with the Pasadena Symphony in 2005, and the Mozart Requiem and *Coronation Mass* with Mainly Mozart of San Diego in 2006.

He has lectured at Munich's *Hochschule für Musik* and has appeared on occasion as a guest conductor and clinician both in the U.S. and abroad. In addition to appearances with professional choruses in Korea—including the National Chorus, the Bucheon City Chorus and the Pilgrim Mission Choir—past seasons have also included work as guest conductor of the Karlovy Vary Symphony in the Czech Republic.

He has performed or given presentations at divisional and national conventions of ACDA eleven times over the years, conducting ensembles from three different institutions, and he was awarded the Judges' Conducting Prize by a panel of ten judges at the 1999 International Choral Competition in Bulgaria. He is the author of the increasingly popular book, *Chorus Confidential*, and in 2003 the Thornton School awarded him the first annual Dean's Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching. He also is the 2007 recipient of the Ramo Award, the Thornton School's highest honor. He is a past-president and one of four founding members of the National Collegiate Choral Organization, which held its first biennial national conference in San Antonio in November, 2006.

During his thirty-seven-year collegiate teaching career, Dehning attained an enviable reputation as one of the more clear, evocative, versatile, and musical of today's choral conductors, as well as a master teacher. He is known on three continents for the profound sense of balance and integrity he brings to the craft, the student and the musical score.