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Columbia County Choral Society

-- PRESS RELEASE --



Columbia County Choral Society Hires New Artistic Director

June 4, 2018 (Evans, Georgia) The Columbia County Choral Society is pleased to announce that Dr. Jay B. Aiken has been hired as their new Artistic Director, replacing Dr. Don L. Cleary upon his retirement. Russ Blandin, current President of the Board of Directors stated, "The Board conducted nearly a year-long search and interviewed many candidates. I am really looking forward to working with Dr. Aiken over these next several years."

Dr. Aiken is an accomplished conductor, composer, and vocalist. As a conductor, he has conducted numerous large works including Mozart's *Die Entfuehrung aus dem Serail*, Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, Franck's *Solemn Mass in A*, Handel's *Messiah*, and Thompson's *Peaceable Kingdom*. As a composer, he was commissioned by Dekalb College (1977). The result of that commission was his two-act opera, *The Time Machine*. His *Sonata for Flute and Piano* was performed by The Atlanta Chamber Orchestra and he has church music published. His dissertation (The Choral Music of Daron Aric Hagen) was recently published in the ACDA Choral Journal.

Dr. Aiken holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in conducting from The University of South Carolina. His Master of Music degree in theory is from Georgia State University while his undergraduate degree, Bachelor of Music in theory/composition is from Samford University.

Dr. Aiken is currently the Music Director at Edgefield United Methodist Church. He has served numerous churches as music director during his professional career. He and his wife Becky live in North Augusta, South Carolina.

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