

## ABOUT DAVID PERKINS

A writer, editor and publisher, teacher, singer, and cultural entrepreneur, **David Perkins** is the founder and director of the Hilltown Chautauqua and editor and publisher of the *Hilltown Life*, an annual magazine.

He has worked in journalism for 35 years, and taught writing and journalism at UMASS-Amherst (2002-14), and at N.C. State and Duke universities.

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

In 2016, he launched the Hilltown Chautauqua, a non-profit that presents programs on pressing social issues in America in a varied format of speakers, panels, readings, and visual and performing arts. In 2016 and 2017, it presented three programs. (For details, see [www.hilltownchautauqua.org](http://www.hilltownchautauqua.org).)

In 2017, Perkins conceived *Hilltown Life*, an annual magazine devoted to issues, people, history, and ecology of the area of western Massachusetts known as the Hilltowns. The magazine's first issue appeared in February 2018.

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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 became 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 supplement he prepared for the *News and Observer* on the city's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and *Books of Passage: Writers on Books That Changed Their Lives* (Down Home Press, 1995).

As a programmer of concerts, he has worked for the North Carolina Symphony and the North Carolina Museum of Art.

After moving to Massachusetts in 2001, he founded the Wistaria Chamber Music Society, an ensemble of professional and semi-professional musicians that gave more than 70 performances of 35 programs in Holyoke, Amherst, Northampton, Greenfield, Plainfield, Boston and Cambridge. The society ceased operations in 2016.

In 2013, David became artistic director of the "Concerts at 7" in Plainfield, MA., where he lives.

As a singer, he has been a member of the Boston Symphony's Tanglewood Festival Chorus, and performs often as a soloist and recitalist.

An honors 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 there and in Ithaca, New York.

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