

**Candace Smith**, mezzo-soprano, was born in Los Angeles but has lived in Europe since 1975 (in Italy since 1978). She received her Bachelor's Degree in music in California (CSUN) and specialized in contemporary music before studying medieval music at the Schola Cantorum Basiliensis (Switzerland) under Andrea von Ramm. From 1978 to 1983, she studied and was the teaching assistant of Cathy Berberian, with whom she performed concerts of American music. In 1994 she earned a diploma in vocal pedagogy from the *Rabine-Institut für funktionale Stimmpädagogik* (Germany). Candace is quite active as a teacher throughout Europe, working with singers of varying repertoires (both classical and non), as well as actors, music teachers, psychiatric patients and others. Since 1995 she has taught singing at the Bernstein School of Musical Theatre in Bologna and was also on the faculty of the Accademia Teatrale Veneta in Venice (2012-2024).

She has collaborated and recorded with numerous ensembles of early music including *Studio der Frühen Musik* (Basel), *Sequentia* (Cologne/Paris), *P.A.N.* (Boston) and *The Newberry Consort* (Chicago). Her first experience with early music composed by women was with her ensemble, *Concerto delle Dame* (1978-89), one of the first groups to specialize in this repertoire. In 1991 she founded *Cappella Artemisia*, a women's ensemble dedicated to performing the music of Italian convents of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.

In 1997, together with her husband, American cornettist Bruce Dickey, she created Artemisia Editions, which publishes the repertoire of early music from Italian convents. There are currently twenty-eight titles available.