

Australian violist Deirdre Dowling completed her studies at the Melbourne University Conservatorium of Music in 1994, winning the university's JS Bach prize the same year. As a member of the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra, Deirdre's passion for playing music on historical instruments grew.

Grants from the Australia Council and the Ian Potter Foundation allowed her to move to the Netherlands to undertake post-graduate studies on baroque/classical viola. Her teachers included Enrico Gatti, Elizabeth Wallfisch, Ryo Terakado and Kati Debrezeni. Obtaining a Masters degree, Deirdre moved to France where she has been based since 2006.

She is principal violist of Collegium Vocale Gent (Herreweghe) and the Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra (Koopman). Other orchestras with whom she performs and records include Les Arts Florissants (Christie), Orchestra of the Eighteenth Century (Bruggen), Les Musiciens du Louvre (Minkowski) and the Netherlands Bach Society (van Veldhoven).

As guest principal violist of La Scintilla (the baroque orchestra of the Zurich Opera), Deirdre has toured the USA, Scandinavia and performed at many major festivals and concert halls throughout Europe.