

The Choral Foundation & the Kenneth Babcock Memorial Music Fund Present

CONVOCA**TION** 2020

Celebrating 35 Years of Festival Singers Tradition

Hosted by The William Baker Festival Singers

New South Festival Singers, Andrew Schmidt, Music Director

Kansas City Bronze

With Special Guests, Leawood MS Mixed Choir, Jennifer Lahasky, Music Educator

Sunday Afternoon, 23 February 2020

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Kansas City, Missouri



*When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun.
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun.*

SOLI DEO GLORIA

What wondrous love is this, O my soul?

The William Baker Festival Singers

William O. Baker, DMA

Music Director & Conductor

Jamea J. Sale, MME

WBCF Executive Associate Music Director
Director, Institute for Healthy Singing

Andrew Phillip Schmidt, MM

Music Director, New South Festival Singers
Music Director, Summer Singers of Atlanta

Amy Thropp, MM

Music Director, Zimria Festivale Atlanta

Norma Raybon, DMA

Music Director, Cobb Summer Singers

Christine M. Freeman, MME

Associate Music Director/Senior Vocal Coach

Scott C. Smith

Choral Associate & Administrator, Atlanta

Ed Frazier Davis, MM

Composer in Residence

Jennifer Lahasky, MM

Associate Music Director, Lee's Summit

Nicole Winney & Sydney Sewell

Student Interns

R. Douglas Helvering, DMA

Contributing Editor, Amber Waves Music

Wayne Burdette

Operations Manager, Atlanta

Chris Barnard

Concert Manager, Kansas City

Patrick Neas

Host, Choral Conversations Podcast

Leanne Elmer Herrmann, Staff Accompanist**Soo Jin Kim, DMA, Staff Accompanist****Steven McDonald, DMA, Staff Accompanist****Ivy Belk Pirl, Staff Accompanist****The William Baker Choral Foundation, Inc.**

5450 Buena Vista Street, Suite 100

Roeland Park, Kansas 66205 913.488.7524

HealthySinging.org SullivanChoralLibrary.org

FestivalSingers.org ChoralFoundation.org

Laura Rene Baker '99

Chris Barnard '09

David Beckers '02

Brenda Bennett-Pike '99

Jocelyn Botkin '04

Dale Bolyard '19

Joyce Braddock '07

William Brubaker '15

Sandra Buntin '15

Jerry Carpenter '04

Kim Claxton '12

Ed Frazier Davis '16

Laura Dickinson '04

Kent Dickinson '03

Eric Edman '12

Elizabeth Fairfield '19

Emily Fish '18

Christine M. Freeman '06

**Karen Kay Hall '12*

Mallory Harrington '19

Marcia Higginson '02

Jill Holtkamp '07

Daniel Huxman '19

Amy Imperato '17

Jim Jandt '01

**Gary Jarrett '02*

Jill Jarrett '12

Kathleen Kennedy '11

Amanda Kimbrough '08

Ross Kimbrough '11

**Jennifer Labasky '14*

Katie Lorand '16

Roger McDougale '18

Kimberly Megow '19

Ken Moncrieff '19

Kelissa Monroy '19

Nathaniel Murken '18

Martina Pezzino '16

**Brad Piroutek '01*

Julie Piroutek '07

Jamea Sale '02

Erica Seago '17

Ethan Sberman '17

Cindy Sheets '09

Pratima Singh '06

Stephanie Sullivan '11

Sean Sweeden '16

Jessika Toro '19

Denice Trawicki '03

Ted Williams '18

Niccole Winney '14

Ann Woodyard '01

Doug Woolery '17

**Section Leader*

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Dr. William O. Baker, Music Director & Conductor



William O. Baker has earned a reputation as an entrepreneurial conductor and creator of choral organizations. He founded the DeKalb Choral Guild in 1978 at the age of 19. By the age of 21 he had conducted Brahms' *Ein deutsches Requiem*, Vivaldi's *Gloria*, Schubert's *Mass in G*, and Handel's *Messiah* with professional orchestras, launching a career of ambitious artistic leadership that now has extended over forty years. In the last decade alone he has conducted the *St. Matthew Passion* and the *Mass in B minor* of Bach, and the *Sacred Service* of Ernest Bloch, at the time of the performances the only Kansas City-based conductor to lead the works in over a quarter-century.

Baker created the Atlanta-based William Baker Festival Singers, originally called Gwinnett Festival Singers, in 1985, and established the William Baker Choral Foundation in 1990. In 1998 the conductor moved his home to the Kansas City area and created the Kansas City ensemble of the Festival Singers. The Choral Foundation has created over a dozen ensembles based in three states, involving hundreds of singers each year. His choirs have performed for numerous conventions of the American Choral Directors Association, the National Association for Music Education, and the American Guild of Organists, in addition to the 1982 World's Fair and music festivals in the United States and Great Britain, most notably appearances before capacity audiences at Charleston's Piccolo Spoleto Festival since 1989. He has led the Festival Singers in the production of over two dozen nationally released recordings and in television and radio appearances across the nation, including *The First Art*, *The Sounds of Majesty* and National Public Radio's *Performance Today*.

No stranger to the orchestral podium, William Baker created the Mountain Park Wind Symphony in 1994 and the Kansas City Wind Symphony in 1998. Primary orchestral performances have included Vivaldi: *The Seasons*, Sibelius: *Finlandia*, Bach: *Brandenburg Concerto No. 2*, Bizet: *Suite L'Arlesienne*, Haydn: *Symphony No. 59 "Fire,"* Mozart: *Symphony No. 41*, Beethoven: *Symphony No. 7* and *Symphony No. 9*. Choral collaborations have included projects with members of the Kansas City Symphony, the Kazanetti Chamber Orchestra, the Atlanta Youth Symphony Orchestra, the Kansas City Civic Orchestra, the Baton Rouge Symphony, the Gwinnett Symphony Orchestra, the Charleston Symphony Orchestra and the Orchestra of the American Heartland.



Dr. Baker served as Minister of Music for significant Lutheran, Presbyterian and United Methodist congregations across the South and the Midwest. Major appointments have included the historic Grace United Methodist Church in Midtown Atlanta and The Village Church in suburban Kansas City, the nation's second largest Presbyterian congregation. From 2012-2017 he served as director of The Cathedral Chorale, the choir for Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral in Kansas City's 8:00 AM Eucharist. He is the author of *Hearts & Hands & Voices: Weekly Reflections on Music and the Church*, published by Amber Waves Music. Dr. Baker is co-host of *Choral Conversations*, a monthly podcast with legendary classical music commentator Patrick Neas.

An Atlanta native, Dr. Baker studied voice and choral conducting at Mercer University and the University of Georgia before culminating his formal education at the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago where he earned the Doctor of Musical Arts in Choral Conducting. His accomplishments have been recognized in his home states through proclamations by two Georgia Governors, Joe Frank Harris and Sonny Purdue, by Kansas Governor Jeff Colyer, by United States Congressman Phil Gingrey, by proclamations from the cities of Kansas City, MO and Roeland Park, KS, by the Johnson County (KS) Commission, and by a 2015 proclamation by the State of Georgia House of Representatives. In 2012 he was honored for his contributions to the cultural life of his hometown by the Pro-Mozart Society of Atlanta. In 2015 he was named Conductor Emeritus of The DeKalb Choral Guild.

The William Baker Festival Singers

Music of Timeless Beauty and Worth from Kansas City Since 1998



The William Baker Festival Singers has been hailed by *The Kansas City Star* as “The best of the several volunteer choirs in the city...” Though the membership of the 55-voice semi-professional chorale is comprised entirely of volunteers, a large majority of the singers hold music degrees and many are vocational musicians. It is the mission of the Festival Singers to bring the highest standards of musicianship and professionalism to the realm of volunteer choirs. Now in its 22nd concert season, the metro Kansas City-based ensemble has enjoyed numerous triumphs through a tradition of ambitious concerts, recording, touring and broadcasting.

Tours have included performances in some of America’s most prestigious venues, including Trinity Wall Street Church in New York City, The National Cathedral and the Basilica of the National Shrine in Washington, DC, the Cathedral Basilica in St. Louis, St. James Cathedral in Chicago, St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans, the Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Atlanta, and Helzberg Hall in Kansas City. Their richness of tone, diversity of programming and expressiveness has won praise from audiences and critics alike. In April 2013 the Festival Singers presented their debut concert in Helzberg Hall, a performance that featured the *Requiem* of Maurice Durufle performed with members of the Kansas City Symphony. John Heuertz, in the *Kansas City Star* said, “It’s hard to know where to begin praising this chorus’ performance...What came across Thursday night above all was the great warmth in this chorus’ singing. It was almost like hearing a family.”

The signature repertoire of the William Baker Festival Singers is short-form sacred a cappella classics and spirituals from all eras and cultures. The chorus also performs a major choral/orchestral masterwork each spring. Recent concerts have included the *Requiems* of Faure, Durufle, Mozart, Brahms and Rutter, the *Dona Nobis Pacem* of Vaughan Williams, and the *Laudes Organi* of Kodaly. The Festival Singers own the distinction of being the first Kansas City-based ensemble to perform the *Mass in B minor* and the *St. Matthew Passion* of Bach, in addition to Ernest Bloch’s *Avodath Hakodesh (Sacred Service)* in a quarter century.

Visit Us On: Facebook (*William Baker Festival Singers*)
Twitter (@WBFS_KC) YouTube (WBakerCF) Instagram (choralfoundation)



The Festival Singers is an ensemble of **The William Baker Choral Foundation**, a national organization based in Roeland Park, Kansas, that presently sponsors choral ensembles based in three states involving hundreds of men, women and youth. The Foundation also sponsors **Amber Waves Music Publishing**, the **Jane Sullivan Choral Resource Library**, the **Institute for Healthy Singing**, and an ambitious continuing education program for **Student Interns** at the master’s level and **Choral Scholars** at the doctoral level.

For additional information, please call the Home Office of the Choral Foundation at 913.488.7524, or email Mail@FestivalSingers.org.

Kansas City Bronze

Dr. William O. Baker, Music Director

The Reverend Gabe Combs, Associate Music Director



Kansas City Bronze was established in September 2018 as the region's newest community handbell ensemble. KCB is an ensemble of the Choral Foundation. Rehearsals are conducted at the Jane Sullivan Choral Resource Library at the Choral Foundation offices in Roeland Park, Kansas. The group made its debut at the Tree Lighting Ceremony in Roeland Park on December 5, and then made its first concert appearances in "Candlelight, Carols & Cathedral 2018." Led by Music Director William Baker and Associate Music Director Gabe Combs, Kansas City Bronze rings four octaves of Malmark bells in worship services, public concerts

and community events. For membership information, please visit www.FestivalSingers.org/kcbronze

Terese Babcock

Laura Rene Baker

Chris Barnard

Joyce Braddock

Amy Chinnery-Valsamei

Gabe Combs

Jill Jarrett

Rebecca McConnell

Kimberly Megow

Kelissa Monroy

Sheila Ogden

Paul Priefert

Cindy Sheets

Ethan Sherman

Margaret Vaughn

Leawood Middle School Mixed Choir

Jennifer Labasky, Music Educator

Charlie Accurso

Alegria Aguilera

Aqeel Ahmed

Cormac Babcock

Katie Beck

Miriam dela Rosa

Ryan Danda

Hailey Dannewitz

Sam Frager

Jada Farrington

Ella Grant

Maya Greene

Rowan Hall

Kristin Herre

Anne Henderson

Reese Hirschler

Angelina Jansen

Erica Kanan

Brendan Kelly

Liberty Lanfranca

Marquis Long

Areli Martinez

Jake McRae

Laci Oberding

Alex Plas

Maggie Ruckman

Nicholas Saadat

Addie Sandford

Jack Sutton

CJ Slutsky

Izzy Strickert

Ava Vaupell

Neeti Ved

Henry Wainscott

Grace Waldron

Margaret Wilkinson

Joscelyn Gimenez Wilson

Greysen Williams

Alex Wolf

Cameron Wood

JAMEA SALE, WBCF Executive Associate Music Director Director of the Institute for Healthy Singing

Jamea Sale is a native of Colby, Kansas. She graduated from Kansas State University in Manhattan in 1987 with a Bachelor of Music in Voice and Instrumental Music Education, and in 2012 she completed the Master of Music in Vocal/Choral Pedagogy at the University of Kansas in Lawrence. She met rigorous requirements for membership to the International Voice Care Network at St. John's University in 2010. Other memberships include ACDA, NAFME, NATS, and Olathe Music Teachers Association.

Jamea has been a member and soloist with the William Baker Festival Singers and the Summer Singers of Kansas City since 2002, and served as Student Intern for the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 concert seasons. She was appointed as Choral Assistant in Kansas City in August 2012, Education Director for the Institute for Healthy Singing in 2016, Executive Associate Music Director of the William Baker Choral Foundation in 2017, and Director of the Institute for Healthy Singing in 2018.



With a certification in Preschool Musikgarten Education, Jamea led experiential music programs for parents and toddlers for five years. She served as Assistant Choral Director and Vocal Coach at St. James Academy High School in Lenexa, Kansas, for 3 years and has taught Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade music in the Olathe School District. Presently she serves as the Vocal Coach and Choral Assistant for *Allegro con Brio & Allegro con Moto*. In her Mission, KS studio (JameaSale.com) Ms. Sale works with singers of all ages, including persons in need of vocal recovery treatment.

In cooperation with the Institute for Healthy Singing and Allegro Choirs of KC, and in collaboration with the Zhuhai Classical Children's Chorus and the University of Kansas' Dr. Melissa Grady, Ms. Sale is conducting a Longitudinal Examination of the Progression of Voice Change in Adolescent Females. The study in process is documenting 100 young female singers' vocal development over the course of 9 months. Ms. Sale is available for group workshops and private consultation through the Institute for Healthy Singing.

CHRISTINE M. FREEMAN, Associate Music Director & Senior Vocal Coach

Christine M. Freeman was appointed Associate Music Director of Kansas City ensembles and Senior Vocal Coach for the William Baker Choral Foundation in August 2011. She is a native of Topeka, Kansas. Mrs. Freeman holds a Bachelor of Music Education, emphasis Voice, and a Master of Music Education in Choral Pedagogy from the University of Kansas in Lawrence. She was appointed to membership in The William Baker Festival Singers in 2006, and served as Student Intern for the Choral Foundation in the 2007-2008 season, where she conducted Foundation ensembles in Kansas City, Atlanta, and at the Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston. Christine Freeman has conducted the Festival Singers and the Summer Singers of Kansas City, along with members of the Kansas City Symphony, in performances of Vivaldi *Beatus Vir*, Haydn *Te Deum*, and Mozart *Regina Coeli*. She recently conducted the Festival Singers in performances at the National Cathedral, the Basilica of the National Shrine, and at the historic Christ Church in Alexandria, Virginia. She appears as soloist on recordings of the Festival Singers and as conductor on *A Festival for Christmas*, *Promised Land*, *The Sacred Fire*, and the newest release *True Religion*. She has been a featured soloist for the Lee's Summit Summer Singers and the *Hark! Christmas Spectacular*.



In addition to her work with the Choral Foundation, Mrs. Freeman is a Music Educator and is beginning her seventh year in the Blue Valley School District instructing middle school choral music. She previously taught elementary and middle school music for eight years in the Archdiocese of Kansas City, Kansas. She has been a clinician for honor choirs in Kansas and Missouri. Mrs. Freeman is active in professional organizations and was recently awarded by her colleagues the (ECKMEA) East Central Kansas Music Educators Association "Outstanding Middle Level Choir Teacher of the Year" Award. She was previously nominated for the (KCDA) Kansas Choral Directors Association "Prelude" Award. She was the KCDA Repertoire and Standards Chair for Children's Choirs from 2012-2015 where she organized the Statewide Treble Honor Choir. With her husband Daniel, their three-year-old daughter, and newborn son, she makes her home in Olathe, Kansas.

ED FRAZIER DAVIS, Composer-in-Residence

Ed Frazier Davis (b. 1989) is an English-American composer, baritone, and conductor living and working in Kansas City, Missouri. He was appointed Composer-in-Residence for the William Baker Choral Foundation in August 2016.



Lauded for its "compelling, [...] colourful orchestration" (Musical Toronto), Ed's music is poly-stylistic and draws from many eclectic influences, from Medieval song to post-minimalism and practically everything in between. He has composed music for a wide variety of media, but as an experienced singer he has a particularly strong affinity for writing choral music. His music has been commissioned and performed throughout the world by many renowned performers and organizations, including Access Contemporary Music, the Aspen Music Festival, Bella Voce, The Crossing, soprano Erin Wall, the Lincoln Trio, PLEXUS, and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. Ultimately, he seeks to write music that breaks established artistic binaries—e.g. traditional vs. modern, accessible vs. unfamiliar—to create art that is fulfilling to as wide an audience as possible.

Ed's career has developed considerable momentum in the past few years. From 2012 to 2016, he served as Composer-in-Residence for the Chicago Chamber Choir, the last season of which was under renowned conductor and educator Doreen Rao. In 2014, he was named second place winner of the American Prize in Choral Composition (Student Division), as well as a finalist in Chanticleer's annual student composer competition. In 2015, he received the premiere of his first international commission from the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and Children's Chorus (conducted by Sir Andrew Davis), and was selected as one of four

composition fellows at the very first Big Sky Choral Initiative. In 2016, he made his Southern Hemisphere debut with an acclaimed commission from Melbourne-based chamber ensemble PLEXUS.

THE NEW SOUTH FESTIVAL SINGERS

Founded February 26, 1985 as Gwinnett Festival Singers

William Baker Festival Singers Atlanta 1998-2015 Lynn Swanson Festival Singers 2015-2017

Andrew Phillip Schmidt, Music Director & Conductor

Sydney Sewell, Student Intern Scott Smith, Choral Associate



Founded in 1985 by Music Director William O. Baker and his long-time associate Janis Lane, the choir now known as New South Festival Singers is the Choral Foundation's oldest ensemble. A rich history of artistic accomplishment includes appearances at regional conventions of the American Choral Directors Association, the National Association for Music Education, the American Guild of Organists, the DeKalb International Choral Festival, the Arts International Festival, the Bristol Music Festival, and the Canterbury Cathedral Concert Series. New South Festival Singers has performed annually to capacity audiences at Charleston's Piccolo Spoleto Festival since 1989. The chorus has appeared on national radio programs, including *Performance Today*, and on local television throughout the South. The 40-voice choir specializes in sacred a cappella classics, spirituals, and folk music from across the globe.

The choir took the name **New South Festival Singers** in 2017 in in homage to Henry W. Grady's description of Atlanta's historic legacy of tolerance, justice, opportunity and enterprise. The Festival Singers performs annual concerts of choral/orchestral masterworks, including Bach's *Mass in B minor* and *St. John Passion*, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Brahms, *Ein deutsches Requiem*, Stravinsky's *Mass* and *Symphony of Psalms*, among many others. On March 15, 2020, the Festival Singers celebrate the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth with a performance of his *Mass in C*.

Andrew Phillip Schmidt is a native of Southern Illinois. He holds the Master of Music in Choral Conducting from the University of Washington where he studied with Drs. Geoffrey Boers and Giselle Wyers. He also holds the Bachelor of Music Education from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. He currently teaches at the Midtown International School in Atlanta. Prior to his 2017 appointment as Music Director & Conductor of The New South Festival Singers his work with the Masterworks Chorale (Belleville, IL) was aired on St. Louis Public radio's "Cityscape." Additionally, he has conducted at the Sarteano Chamber Choir Festival, Princeton Festival, National Conductor's Symposium, Rodney Eichenberger Conducting Workshop, University of Illinois Conductor's Symposium, Atlanta Choral Institute, and Montreal Choral Masterclass. Mr. Schmidt held a University of Washington Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship for Estonian and Baltic/Western European Studies. He was the recipient of a U.S. Student Fulbright Fellowship to Estonia. He lived, studied and researched in Tallinn, Estonia, while singing and touring with Tallinna Kammerchor. He has performed with nationally renown groups including Seattle Pro Musica, Kinnara Ensemble, The Esoterics, and has worked as a soloist throughout the Pacific Northwest, American Southwest and central Midwest regions.



Terrell Abney '07	Bob Ferrell '20	Marcia Mein '09	Justin Scott '11
Joseph Battle '12	Marla Franks '03	Bess Miller '19	Jessica Shepherd '09
Kristin Boyle '14	Harley Granville '14	David Nieland '12	Scott Smith '94
Alice Blanco '93	Michelle Haynes '19	Yolanda Phillips '03	Charles St. Clair '11
Laura Blanco '17	Jamie Hillyer '09	Susan Pierce '10	Mary Anne Valenti '18
Steve Brailsford '14	Alex Johnson '17	LaDonna Pitts '14	William Valenti '18
Morgan Copeland '18	Maddy Kallman '18	James Ranson '17	Ronnie Vaughn '16
Allison Drinkard-Holden '18	Jody Kershner '09	Sarah Sambol '14	Ann Vines '09
Matthew Edwards '19	Susan Lawton '14	Sydney Sewell '19	Laura Youngblood '07

CHORAL FOUNDATION CONVOCATION 2020

Celebrating Thirty-Five Years of Festival Singers Tradition

Sunday Afternoon, 23 February 2020, 3:00 PM, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Kansas City

Please Silence Electronics & Please Withhold Applause Until the Conclusion of Each Set

Welcome by Father Charles Everson, Priest-in-Charge, Historic St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Hosted by Yolanda Phillips, Former Member of the Choral Foundation Board of Trustees

I

AL SHLOSHA D'VARIM

Allan E. NAPLAN, Born 1972

THREE QUOTES BY MARK TWAIN

Andrea RAMSEY

The Silent Fool

Telling the Truth

My Dear Mother

BONSE ABA

Victor JOHNSON, Born 1978

The Leawood Middle School Mixed Choir, *Jennifer Labasky, Music Educator*

Ms. Labasky served as Choral Foundation Student Intern for the 2015-2016 Season

II

O VIRTUS SAPIENTAE

Hildegard VON BINGEN, 1098-1179

Arranged by Andrew Schmidt

GOD IS SEEN*

American Traditional arranged by Alice Parker

CHRIST THE APPLE TREE

Stanford SCRIVEN, Born 1988

HARK, I HEAR THE HARPS ETERNAL*

American Traditional arranged by Alice Parker

The New South Festival Singers

Created as Gwinnett Festival Singers in February 1985

Known as William Baker Festival Singers Atlanta, 1998-2015 & Lynn Swanson Festival Singers, 2015-2017

Andrew Phillip Schmidt, Music Director & Conductor Jessica Shepherd, soloist

Scott Smith, Choral Associate Sydney Sewell, Student Intern

III

IN TIMES AND PLACES

Sandra EITHUN, Born 1963

Conducted by Associate Music Director Gabe Combs

GAUDEAMUS

Arnold SHERMAN, Born 1948

FINLANDIA

Jean SIBELIUS, 1865-1957

Arranged by Dale Wood

Kansas City Bronze

William O. Baker, Music Director & Conductor Gabe Combs, Associate Music Director

Geoffrey Wilcken, organ

IV

LET MY LOVE BE HEARD

Jake RUNESTAD, Born 1986

Conducted by Christine Freeman, Associate Music Director

THE EXALTATION OF CHRIST

Charles FORSBERG, Born 1942

SWING DOWN CHARIOT

American Spiritual arranged by Ed Frazier Davis

Premiered by the William Baker Festival Singers, Sunday, 3 November 2019

The William Baker Festival Singers

Christine Freeman, Associate Music Director Nicole Winney, Student Intern Ed Frazier Davis, soloist

V

HALLELUJAH, AMEN! (*Judas Maccabaeus*)

Georg Frideric HANDEL, 1685-1759

Conducted by Amy Thropp, Music Director of Zimria Festive Atlanta

HALLELUJAH (*Mt of Olives*)

Ludwig van BEETHOVEN, 1770-1826

Conducted by Andrew Phillip Schmidt, Music Director of New South Festival Singers

HEALER IN THE HOUSE

Randy PHILLIPS, Born 1954

Scott Smith, soloist Natalie Hackler, piano

AMAZING GRACE*

American Traditional arranged by Janis M. Lane

Christine Freeman, soloist

Combined Choral Ensembles & Festival Singers Alumni

Alumni of the Festival Singers Will Please Come Forward & Join Us for Amazing Grace

**Selection recorded by the Festival Singers on Amber Waves Recordings. Available at the Information Table and online.*

***Please Join Us for a Wine & Homemade Cookie Reception in the Parish Hall
Celebrating the 35th Anniversary of the Festival Singers Tradition***

The 8th Annual Kenneth Babcock Memorial Masterworks Concert

THE MUSIC OF ED FRAZIER DAVIS - KANSAS CITY COMPOSER

Sir Andrew Davis, Guest Conductor, Conductor Laureate BBC Symphony

The William Baker Festival Singers & Symphony Orchestra

William Jewell Concert Choir, Dr. Anthony Maglione, Conductor

Sarah Tannehill Anderson, Coloratura Soprano

ONE PERFORMANCE ONLY - FRIDAY, 6 MARCH 2020 at 8:00 PM

Helzberg Hall of the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Tickets at the Door or Online: www.KauffmanCenter.org

Advance Purchase of Concert Tickets & Parking Passes Strongly Recommended

TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

Leawood Middle School Mixed Choir

AL SHLOSHA D'VARIM

The world is sustained by three things:
By truth, by justice, and by peace.

-Jewish Morality Law

BONSA ABA

All children who sing have the right
To be called children of God.

-Zambian Folk Song

New South Festival Singers

O VIRTUS SAPIENTIAE

O strength of Wisdom who circling, circled
Enclosing all in one life-giving path, three wings you have:
One soars to the heights, one distills its essence upon the earth,
And the third is everywhere.
Praise to you, as is fitting, O Wisdom.

-Hildegard von Bingen, 1098-1179

GOD IS SEEN

Through all the world below God is seen, all around,
Search hills and valleys through, there He's found.
The growing of the corn, The lily and the thorn,
The pleasant and forlorn, all declare, God is there,
In meadows dressed in green, God is seen.

See springing waters rise, fountains flow, rivers run,
The mist that veils the sky hides the sun.
Then down the rain doth pour,
The ocean it doth roar and beat upon the shore,
And all praise, in their ways,
The God Who ne'er declines His designs.

The sun with all his rays speaks of God as he flies,
The comet in her blaze, "God" she cries;
The shining of the stars, the moon when she appears,
His awful Name declares; see them fly through the sky,
And join the solemn sound all around.

CHRIST THE APPLE TREE

The tree of life my soul hath seen
Laden with fruit and always green
The tree of life my soul hath seen
Laden with fruit and always green
The trees of nature fruitless be
Compared with Christ the Apple Tree

His beauty doth all things excel
By faith I know but ne'er can tell
His beauty doth all things excel
By faith I know but ne'er can tell
The glory which I now can see
In Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

For happiness I long have sought
And pleasure dearly I have bought
For happiness I long have sought

And pleasure dearly I have bought
I missed of all but now I see
'Tis found in Christ the Apple Tree

I'm weary with my former toil
Here I will sit and rest a while
I'm weary with my former toil
Here I will sit and rest a while
Under the shadow I will be
Of Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive
It keeps my dying faith alive
This fruit doth make my soul to thrive
It keeps my dying faith alive
Which makes my soul in haste to be
With Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

-Attributed to Richard Hutchins, 18th century

HARK I HEAR THE HARPS ETERNAL

Hark, I hear the harps eternal ringing on the farther shore,
As I near those swollen waters with their deep and solemn roar.

Hallelujah! Praise the Lamb!
Hallelujah! Glory to the great I AM!

And my soul, though stained with sorrow,
Fading as the light of day,

Passes swiftly o'er those waters to the city far away.
Souls have crossed before me saintly,

To that land of perfect rest;
And I hear them singing faintly in the mansions of the blest.

William Baker Festival Singers

LET MY LOVE BE HEARD

Angels, when you soar up to God's own light,
Take my own lost bird in your hearts tonight;
And as grief once more mounts to heaven and sings.
Let my love be heard
Whispering in your wings.

-Alfred Noyes, 1880-1958

THE EXALTATION OF CHRIST

Alleluia, Exalted Christ! Deo Gratias!
Being in the form of God,
Humbled as a Servant,
Obedient unto death, even the death of the Cross.
Being highly lifted up, Name above every Name.
Every knee shall bow.
Of things in Heaven and things on Earth,
And things under the Earth.
Every tongue confess: Domine Deus, Jesu Christe!
Blessing and honor, power and glory
To the Lamb upon the throne. Alleluia!

-Philippians 2:7-11

SWING DOWN CHARIOT

Swing down sweet chariot, stop and let me ride,
Rock me Lord, rock me Lord, calm and easy.
I got a home on the other side.

Well, Ezekiel looked down in the middle of the field,
He saw an angel workin' on the chariot wheel.
He wasn't so particular 'bout workin' on the wheel,
He just wanted to see how the chariot feel.

Well, Ezekiel looked out as he got on board,
He saw the chariot bumpin' on down the road.
He wasn't so particular 'bout bumpin' on down the road,
He just wanted to lay down his heavy load.

Mass Choir Selections

HALLELUJAH, AMEN (*Judas Maccabaeus*)

Hallelujah! Amen.
Rejoice, O Judah, and, in songs divine,
With cherubim and seraphim harmonious join!
-Thomas Morrell, 1703-1784

HALLELUJAH (*Christ on the Mount of Olives*)

Hallelujah unto God's Almighty Son!
Praise the Lord ye bright angelic choirs in holy songs of joy!
Man, proclaim His praise and glory.

HEALER IN THE HOUSE

Now it was told that the Holy Healer,
He was passing by one day.
There was a man who was afflicted,
But he had the faith to say,
"If I could ever get to Jesus, My healing will be the proof.

If I can get through door, I'll tear off the roof,
'Cause there's a Healer in the house today!"

Now if you're sick, or you're feeling lonely,
I have good news to bring,
For this Healer, His Name is Jesus,
And He is the King of all Kings,
He rides on the winds of mercy,
And there's healing in His wings.
So, take the roof off your doubt and let your faith come out,
'Cause there's a Healer in the house today.

AMAZING GRACE

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come.
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten-thousand years
Bright, shining, as the sun.
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun.

-John Newton, 1725-1807

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Have you considered remembering the work of the William Baker Choral Foundation in your will, in your estate plan or through a donor advised fund? At the Choral Foundation we are working to build an organization that will connect people with music of timeless beauty and worth for many generations to come. Your gift to our work through your estate will help us bring the life-changing joys of participation in the performance of great music to thousands of men, women, youth and children yet unborn. Your gift may be designated to support the work of the Choral Foundation in a specific community, or through a particular ensemble, or in support of a special project.

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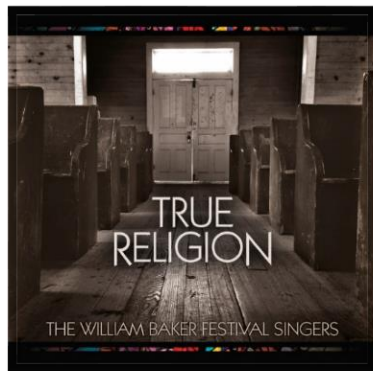
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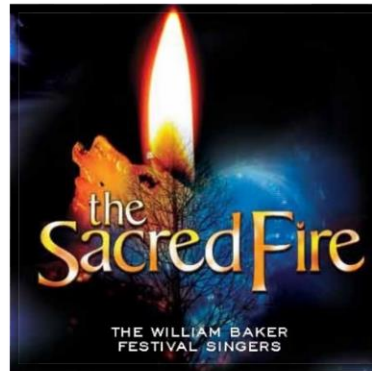
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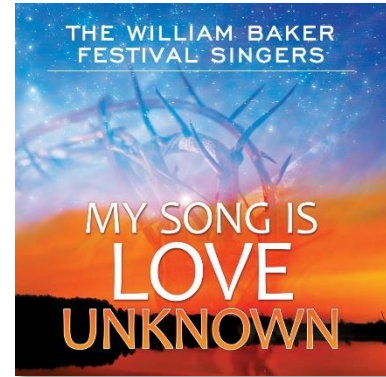
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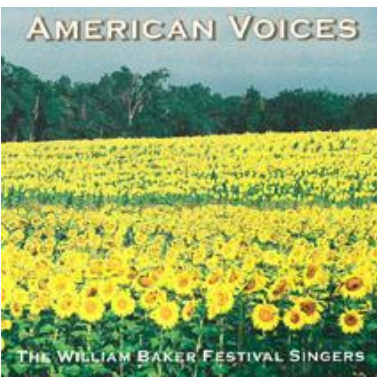
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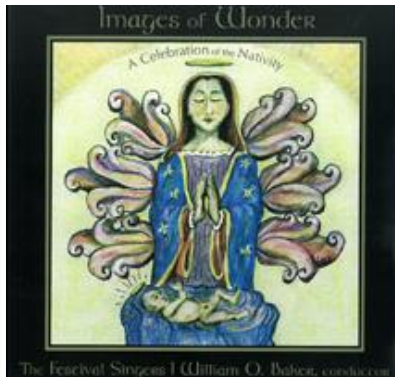
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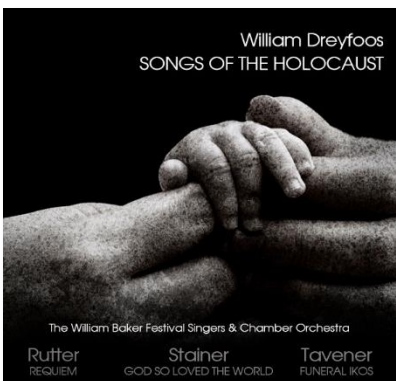
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 OF THE
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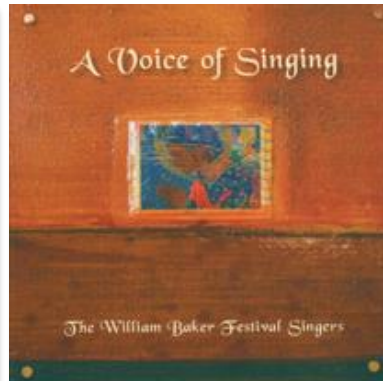
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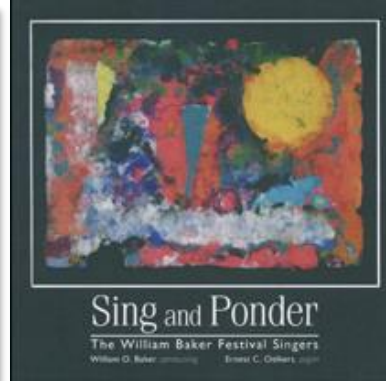
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SYDNEY SEWELL, Student Intern/Atlanta

Sydney Sewell comes to the William Baker Choral Foundation from a rich musical background. She began her musical studies in the Atlanta area as a student in the Atlanta Area Suzuki Piano Association, where she studied piano under Robin Blankenship for thirteen years. Sydney later attended Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, where she graduated with the Bachelor of Music Education. She taught choral music at the high school level for two years after graduating. Sydney has also directed and assisted with several church choirs in the Statesboro and Atlanta areas. She was appointed Student Intern in May. She conducted selections with the 2019 Cobb Summer Singers under Dr. Norma Raybon, in the current season, and assisted with the Summer Singers of Atlanta under Dr. William Baker.

Sydney's long-term goals include completing her master's and doctorate in choral conducting and conducting a collegiate or professional ensemble. She is thrilled to be a part of the Choral Foundation and is enjoying her work as Student Intern for the 2019-2020 New South Festival Singers under the direction of Music Director Andrew Phillip Schmidt.



NICCOLE WINNEY, Student Intern/Kansas City

Nicole Winney was appointed Student Intern for the William Baker Choral Foundation on February 1, 2018. She will serve through the 2019-2020 concert season. She is a graduate of Kennesaw State University in Georgia, earning the Bachelor of Music Education. Her Minor was Linguistic Studies. She began studies toward the Master of Music Education in Choral Pedagogy at the University of Kansas in June. She has been a member of several Choral Foundation ensembles since 2014, including The New South Festival Singers, the Cobb Summer Singers, the Baroque Summer Institute, and the Summer Singers of Atlanta. At Kennesaw State she studied voice, organ, piano and conducting, and participated in the Kennesaw State Chorale and the Women's Choir. She has served as Staff Singer and Assistant Children's Choir Director for the St. Benedict's Episcopal Church in Smyrna, Georgia. Ms. Winney is in her second year as Music Educator for the Ray Marsh Elementary School in Shawnee, Kansas. Her internship includes study with William Baker, Christine Freeman and Jamea Sale. She made her Choral Foundation debut with the Summer Singers of Atlanta in August 2018. Her debut with the William Baker Festival Singers in October 2018 included conducting a work in the Washington National Cathedral. Ms. Winney makes her home in Kansas City, Missouri.



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The William Baker Festival Singers, Prairie Village, Kansas, 1998

The Summer Singers of Atlanta, Midtown Atlanta, 1990

Andrew Phillip Schmidt, MM, Music Director & Conductor

The New South Festival Singers, Atlanta, Georgia, 1985

Gwinnett Festival Singers, 1985-1998 William Baker Festival Singers Atlanta, 1998-2015 Lynn Swanson Festival Singers, 2015-2017

Andrew Phillip Schmidt, MM, Music Director & Conductor

Zimria Festivale Atlanta, Dunwoody, Georgia, 2014

Amy Thropp, MM, Music Director & Conductor

The Summer Singers of Kansas City, Kansas City, Missouri, 1999

William O. Baker, DMA, Music Director & Conductor

The Cobb Summer Singers, Marietta, Georgia, 2006

Norma Raybon, DMA, Music Director & Conductor

The Summer Singers of Lee's Summit, Lee's Summit, Missouri, 2014

William O. Baker, DMA, Music Director & Conductor

The Institute for Healthy Singing, Roeland Park, Kansas, 2015

Jamea J. Sale, MME, Director

Kansas City Bronze, Roeland Park, Kansas, 2018

Choral Conversations Podcast with Patrick Neas & William Baker, Roeland Park, Kansas, 2018

The Jane Sullivan Choral Resource Library, Roeland Park, Kansas, 2016

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