The Choral Foundation and the Piccolo Spoleto Festival, An Outreach of the City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs, Present

The Lynn Swanson Festival Singers

Gwinnett Festival Singers 1985-1998 William Baker Festival Singers Atlanta 1998-2015 Performing at Charleston's Piccolo Spoleto Festival Since 1989

Lynn Swanson, Music Director & Conductor Andrew Schmidt, Music Director Elect Scott Smith, Choral Associate & Administrator

PICCOLO SPOLETO 2017

Piccolo Spoleto "Bon Voyage" Concert

Saturday, 29 April 2017, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Decatur, Georgia Sunday, 30 April 2017, St. John United Methodist Church, Atlanta, Georgia

Piccolo Spoleto Festival of Churches & Synagogues

Monday, 29 May 2017, The Circular Church, Charleston, South Carolina

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 Lynn Swanson Festival Singers

Becoming The New South Festival Singers for the 2017-2018 33rd Concert Season

Lynn Swanson, MME

Music Director & Conductor WBCF Executive Associate Music Director

William O. Baker, DMA Founder & WBCF Music Director

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Lynn Swanson, Music Director & Conductor Director of the Institute for Healthy Singing



Lynn Swanson is a native of Atlanta. A life-long resident of the area, she has served the metro community as a leader in the musical arts for nearly 30 years. She holds the Bachelor of Music in Organ Performance from Shorter University in Rome, Georgia, and the Master of Music Education in Choral Pedagogy from the University of Kansas.

She has served as Music Director for several Greater Atlanta churches, building strong and diverse music programs in each. She was appointed Music Director & Organist for the St. Benedict's Episcopal Church in Smyrna, Georgia in August 2011. In less than six months she created a children's music ministry in the young and rapidly growing congregation, and led an acclaimed performance of Handel's *Messiah* with the 70-voice choir and chamber orchestra before a standing-room-only audience from the parish and the wider community. In the six years of her tenure, the

Choir of St. Benedict's has performed Antonio Vivaldi's *Gloria* and *Beatus Vir*, Franz Joseph Haydn's *The Creation*, and Gabriel Faure's *Requiem*. The program is now a comprehensive music ministry with graded children's choral and handbell ensembles, in addition to a very active parish choir.

In addition to her service as Executive Associate Music Director of the William Baker Choral Foundation, Ms. Swanson is the Founder of the Northside Young Singers, the Summer Singers of Lee's Summit (co-founder) and the Cobb Summer Singers. In June 2015 she became Music Director of the organization's oldest Festival Singers ensemble. Now called the Lynn Swanson Festival Singers, the chorus was founded in 1985 as Gwinnett Festival Singers. In August 2017, Lynn Swanson will begin an appointment with the Zhuhai Classical Children's Chorus in Zhuhai, China. Zhuhai is about an hour by ferry from Hong Kong. The Chorus is a program of the Webb-Mitchell Arts Center, in partnership with the British



Schools Foundation. Ms. Swanson will remain Director of the Institute for Healthy Singing on a leave of absence. Upon her return to the United States she will become Music Director for the Choral Foundation's first fully professional ensemble, The Lynn Swanson Chorale.

Recent choral/orchestral masterworks have included Handel's Messiah; Mozart's Solemn Vespers; Faure's Requiem; Schubert's Mass in G; Haydn's Te Deum, Mendelssohn: Elijah; Beethoven's Mass in C, Vivaldi's Beatus Vir, in addition to Bernstein: Chichester Psalms & Missa Brevis; Brahms: A German Requiem; Handel: Dettingen Te Deum & Water Music Suite, Mozart: Exsultate Jubilate, Eine kleine Nachtmusik and Coronation Mass; Bach: Brandenburg Concerto No. 2 in F, Cantata No. 51 "Jauchzet Gott in allen Landen," Mass in B Minor and Magnificat. Her choral ensembles have been featured recently as headline performers at the Christmas Atlanta Festival, Arts International, and appear annually at the Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston, South Carolina.

The Lynn Swanson Festival Singers

Becoming the New South Festival Singers for the 2017-2018 33rd Concert Season

Music of Timeless Beauty and Worth in Atlanta Since 1985



The Lynn Swanson Festival Singers traces its history to the 1985 creation of Gwinnett Festival Singers by founder William Baker and his long-time associate, Janis Lane. The ensemble was known as William Baker Festival Singers from 1998-2015. With the appointment of Lynn Swanson as the second Music Director & Conductor of the ensemble in June 2015 the choir took the name Lynn Swanson Festival Singers. The chorus will, under the direction of new Music Director Andrew Phillip Schmidt, become The New South Festival Singers for the 2017-2018, 33rd concert season.

The 50-voice Festival Singers specializes in short-form sacred a cappella classics and spirituals, in addition to annual performances of masterworks for chorus and chamber orchestra. Major concerts have included a performance of Brahms *Ein deutsches Requiem* with the Gwinnett Symphony Orchestra, and a performance in Spivey Hall of Johann Sebastian Bach's *St. John Passion* and *Mass in B Minor*. Other masterworks over the years have included Stravinsky *Symphony of Psalms*, Bernstein *Chichester Psalms*, Mozart's *Requiem*, *Solemn Vespers*, *Missa Brevis in D*, and *Mass in C minor*; Buxtehude's *Membra Jesu Nostri*, and Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb* and *Ceremony of Carols*, along with dozens of works from Palestrina to Kodaly. The Festival Singers performed the Ernest Bloch *Avodath Hakodesh* for the rededication of the magnificent pipe organ at The Temple on Peachtree, and at the historic Community Christian Church in Kansas City, a performance broadcast in its entirety by Kansas Public Radio on the eve of Passover 2012.

The ensemble is known for its expressive memorized performances of signature a cappella concerts demonstrating a striking diversity and depth of repertoire. The sound of the Festival Singers has been hailed by music critics and the general public, including The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, "Sensuous tonal beauty....a level of balance, blend, intonation and expressiveness that puts the average community chorus to shame..." The Charleston Post & Courier, "...the South's premier a cappella choir...exceptional tone and ferocious emotion..." and the New Orleans Times-Picayune, "...inspiring and exbilarating."

The Festival Singers has produced 23 nationally released recordings and has been featured in local television programs across the South, and on national radio programs that include *The Sounds of Majesty*, *The First Art* and National Public Radio's *Performance Today*. They have toured throughout the South and Midwest in the United States and Great Britain, having appeared in Birmingham's Divinity Chapel, Atlanta's Spivey Hall, the DeKalb International Choral Festival, Canterbury Cathedral, and the Bristol (England) Festival, in addition to annual performances before capacity audiences at the Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston, South Carolina, since 1989.



The Festival Singers has become a model for professionallevel volunteer choruses that have inspired the creation of similar organizations in the Atlanta area and across the nation. Indeed, the ambitious chorus that met for a first rehearsal in the basement of a Norcross church in 1985 is now the flagship ensemble of a national arts organization that through the years has created over a dozen choirs involving hundreds of men, women and young people in Georgia, Kansas and Missouri.

THE NEW SOUTH FESTIVAL SINGERS

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

A NEW ERA FOR ATLANTA'S BELOVED A CAPPELLA CHOIR ANDREW PHILLIP SCHMIDT, Music Director & Conductor

"The Festival Singers is one of the very finest choral groups of any size or genre in the Southeastern United States and beyond. Their annual performances at the Piccolo Spoleto Festival, usually before standing room only audiences, are excellent, breathtaking and inspiring."

-Ellen Dressler Moryl, Former Director, Cultural Affairs for the City of Charleston, Founder of Piccolo Spoleto

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The Lynn Swanson Festival Singers at Piccolo Spoleto, 1989-2017 Gwinnett Festival Singers, 1985-1998 William Baker Festival Singers Atlanta, 1998-2015 Becoming The New South Festival Singers for the 2017-2018 Season

Saturday Evening, 29 April 2017, 7:00 PM, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Decatur, Georgia Sunday Afternoon, 30 April 2017, 3:00 PM, St. John United Methodist Church, Atlanta, Georgia Monday Afternoon, 29 May 2016, 3:00 PM, The Circular Church, Charleston, South Carolina

In addition to celebrating performances of the Festival Singers at Charleston's Piccolo Spoleto Festival over the past 28 years, in these concerts we bid farewell to Music Director Lynn Swanson and express our deepest appreciation to her for the brilliant leadership she has given to the ensembles of the Choral Foundation since 2008, and as director of our legacy chorus since 2015. Ms. Swanson will remain with the Choral Foundation as Director of the Institute for Healthy Singing and as Conductor of the Lynn Swanson Chorale.

Introit

THE HEART WORSHIPS

Gustav HOLST, 1874-1934 Stainer & Bell Music, Ltd

Silence in Heaven. Silence on earth. Silence within! Thy hush, O Lord, o'er all the world covers the din. I do not fear to speak of Thee in mortal kind And yet to all Thy namelessness I am not blind. Only I need and kneel again Thy touch to win; Silence in Heaven. Silence on earth. Silence within!

-Alice M. Buckton, 1867-1944

Welcome

I

THE WORD WAS GOD

Rosephayne POWELL, Born 1962 Gentry Publications 08739771

In the beginning was the Word, And the Word was with God. The same was in-a the beginning with God. All things were made that has been made, Nothing was made that He has not made. All things were made by Him. -The Gospel of John the Evangelist 1:1-3

O TASTE AND SEE Ralph VAUGHAN WILLIAMS, 1872-1958

Oxford University Press

O taste and see how gracious the Lord is, Blest is the man that trusteth in Him.

-Psalm 34: 8

Charla Williams, soloist

LIGHT EVERLASTING

Olaf CHRISTIANSEN, 1901-1984 Neil A. Kjos Music ED 5110

O Light everlasting, O Love never failing, Illumine our darkness, and draw us to Thee; May we from Thy Spirit receive inspiration That brethren together Thy wisdom might see, Make known to all nations Thy peace and salvation, And help us, O Father, Thy temple to be.

HYMN TO THE MOTHER OF GOD

Sir John TAVENER, 1944-2013 Chester Music Limited CH61599

In You, O Woman full of Grace, The angelic choirs, and the human race, All creation rejoices.

O sanctified Temple, Mystical Paradise, And glory of Virgins.

In You, O Woman full of Grace, All creation rejoices. All praise be to You

-Liturgy of St. Basil

SONG FOR ATHENE

Sir John TAVENER, 1944-2013 Chester Music CH60991

Alleluia, May flights of angels sing thee to thy rest. Remember me O Lord when You come into Your kingdom. Give rest O Lord to Your handmaid who has fallen asleep. The Choir of Saints have found the wellspring of life And opened the door of paradise. Life: a shadow and a dream. Weeping at the grave creates the song: Alleluia! Come, enjoy the crowns and rewards I have prepared for you. -Mother Thekla, 1918-2011

Recorded by the Festival Singers on the Amber Waves Sound Recordings album "Promised Land"

III

EVEN WHEN HE IS SILENT

Kim André ARNESEN, Born 1980 Norsk Musikforlag

I believe in the sun, even when it's not shining. I believe in love, even when I feel it not. I believe in God, even when He is silent. -Anonymous, 20th century

UBI CARITAS

Rene CLAUSEN, Born 1953 Mark Foster Music MF2156

Sung in Latin

Where charity and love are, God is there.

The love of Christ has gathered us into one. Let us rejoice and be pleased in Him. Let us fear and let us love the Living God, And let us love Him with a sincere heart.

As we are gathered into one body, Beware, lest we be divided in mind. Let evil impulses stop, let controversy cease, And may Christ be in our midst.

And may we also with the saints, Gloriously see Thy face, O Christ. The joy that is immense and good, Unto the ages through infinite ages. Amen. -Ancient bymn thought to be French, 10th century

IV

A RED, RED ROSE

Scottish Traditional arranged by James Mulholland European-American Music Publishers

Oh, my love's like a red, red rose, That's newly sprung in June. O my love's like a melody That's sweetly played in tune.

As fair art thou my bonnie lass, So deep in love am I, I will love thee still, my dear, Till a' the seas gang dry.

I will love thee still, my dear, While the sands of life shall run, Till the seas gang dry, my dear, And rocks melt with the sun.

As fair art thou my bonnie lass, So deep in love am I. I will love thee still my dear, Though it were ten thousand mile.

-Robert Burns, 1759-1796

Terrell Abney, soloist

BLACK IS THE COLOR OF MY TRUE LOVE'S HAIR

American Folk Song arranged by Stuart Churchhill Shawnee Press A-100

Black is the color of my true love's hair, Her lips are something wondrous fair. The purest eyes and daintiest hands, I love the grass on wher she stands.

I love my love, and well she knows. I love the grass on where she goes If she on earth no more I see My life would quickly fade away.

V

SOMETIMES I FEEL American Spiritual arranged by Alice Parker Lawson Gould Music 51112

Sometimes I feel like a moaning dove, Wring my hands and cry. Sometimes I feel like a motherless child, Wring my hands and cry. Sometimes I feel like I gotta no home, Wring my hands and cry. Sometimes I feel like an eagle in the air, Spread my wings and fly.

Alexis LaSalle, soloist

MY GOD IS A ROCK

African-American Spiritual Arranged by Alice Parker Lawson-Gould Music 51107

My God is a rock in a weary land, Shelter in the time of storm.

Stop and let me tell you about the Chapter One When the Lord God's work has just begun. Stop and let me tell you about the Chapter Two When the Lord God's written His Bible through. Stop and let me tell you about the Chapter Three When the Lord God died on Calvary. Stop and let me tell you about the Chapter Four When the Lord God visit among the poor.

Stop and let me tell you about the Chapter Five When the Lord God brought the dead alive. Stop and let me tell you about the Chapter Six, He went in Jerusalem and healed the sick.

Stop and let me tell you about the Chapter Seven, Died and risen and went to heaven. Stop and let me tell you about the Chapter Eight, John seen Him standing at the Golden Gate. Stop and let me tell you about the Chapter Nine, Lord God turned the water to wine. Stop and let me tell you about the Chapter Ten, John says He's coming to the world again!

Scott Smith, soloist

AIN'T NO GRAVE CAN HOLD MY BODY DOWN

American Spiritual Arranged by Paul Caldwell and Sean Ivory earthsongs

Ain't no grave can hold my body down, There ain't no grave that can keep a sinner underground. Oh, I will listen for the trumpet sound. Ain't no grave can hold my body down.

You know they rolled the stone on Jesus And then they tried to bury me. But then the Holy Ghost it freed us So we could live eternally.

Sister, you better get your ticket if you want to ride. Catch a ride in the morning when Jesus calls my number. I'll be on the other side. Ain't no serpent gonna trick me, I will fly to Jesus in the morning when I die. Don't look here. I'll be way up in the sky. Soon one day He's gonna call me Up to Heaven for a chariot ride.

Ivy Belk Pirl, piano

Recorded by the Lynn Swanson Festival Singers on the Amber Waves Sound Recordings album "Between Heaven & Earth," now available on iTunes.

Please enjoy 23 recordings by the Festival Singers, including 7 currently available on iTunes, Spotify, Amazon and CD Baby, along with over 135 video clips of performances by Choral Foundation ensembles at WBakerCF on YouTube.com.



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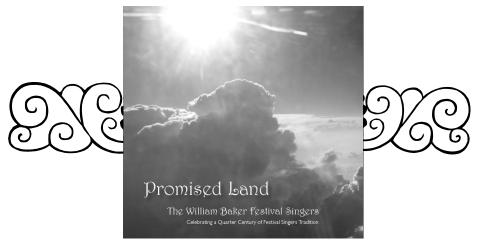
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