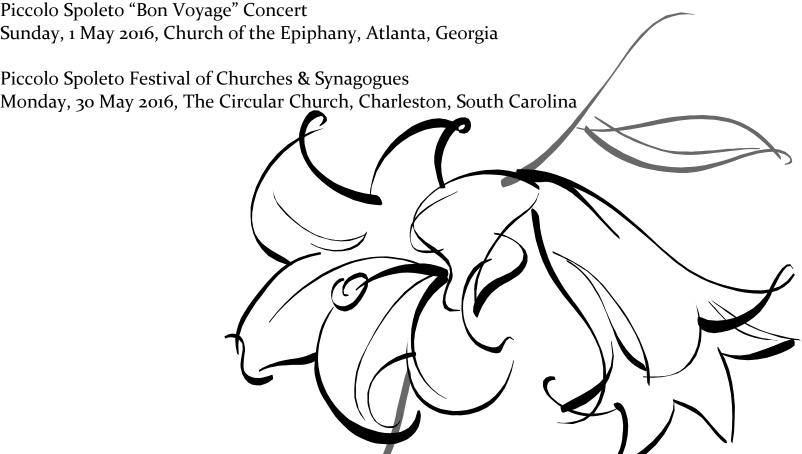
The Choral Foundation and the Piccolo Spoleto Festival, An Outreach of the City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs, Present

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 Scott Smith, Choral Associate Thomas Sheets, Assistant Conductor

PICCOLO SPOLETO 2016



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

Gwinnett Festival Singers 1985-1998

William Baker Festival Singers Atlanta 1998-2015

Lynn Swanson, N	MME
-----------------	------------

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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 five 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 (cofounder) 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.



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, 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.

Upcoming engagements with Lynn Swanson on the podium include an Atlanta performance of Mandelssohn's *Elijah* and a Kansas City performance of Haydn: *The Creation* in August with the Summer Singers of Lee's Summit and members of the Kansas City Symphony.

The Lynn Swanson Festival Singers

Gwinnett Festival Singers 1985-1998 William Baker Festival Singers Atlanta 1998-2015

Music of Timeless Beauty and Worth in Atlanta for 31 Seasons



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 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 exhilarating."

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 professional-level 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 31 years ago 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 LYNN SWANSON FESTIVAL SINGERS

Gwinnett Festival Singers, 1985-1998 William Baker Festival Singers, 1998-2015

Lynn Swanson, MME, Music Director & Conductor Scott Smith, Choral Associate Thomas Sheets, Assistant 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, 1989-2016

Gwinnett Festival Singers, 1985-1998 William Baker Festival Singers Atlanta, 1998-2015 Sunday Afternoon, 1 May 2016, 3:00 PM, Church of the Epiphany, Atlanta, Georgia Monday Afternoon, 30 May 2016, 3:00 PM, The Circular Church, Charleston, South Carolina

Introit

JUBILATE DEO

Giovanni GABRIELI, 1557-1612 The Choral Public Domain Library

Sung in Latin

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness, And come before His presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord, He is God, It is He that has made us and not we ourselves, We are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise, Be thankful unto Him and bless His Name. For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting; And His truth endureth throughout all generations.

-Psalm 100

Sung from the Rear of the Nave

Welcome

Ι

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

CANTIQUE DE JEAN RACINE

Gabriel FAURÉ, 1845-1924 Broude Brothers BB801

Sung in French

O Redeemer Divine, our sole hope of salvation,
Eternal Light of the earth and the sky,
We kneel in adoration, O Savior turn on us Thy loving eye.
Send down on us the fire of Thy grace all illumining,
Whose wondrous might disperse the powers of hell,
And rouse our slumbering souls with radiance all illumining,
That they may waken Thy mercy to tell.
O Christ bestow Thy blessing unto us we implore Thee
Who here are gathered on penitent knee.
Accept the hymns we chant to Thine eternal glory
And these Thy gifts we return unto Thee.
-Jean Racine, 1639-1699

Jack Walker, alto flute, Charleston concert Student Intern Albert Clark, conducting Lynn Swanson, piano

Recorded by the William Baker Festival Singers on the da Chiesa Sound Recordings album "People of God"

П

NUNC DIMITTIS

Sergei RACHMANINOV, 1873-1943 Musica Russica

Sung in Church Slovak

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace,
According to Thy Word.
For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
Which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people.
A light to the revelation of the Gentiles
And the glory of Thy people, Israel.

-The Gospel of Luke the Evangelist 2:29-32

John Harr, soloist

NORTHERN LIGHTS

Ola GJEILO, 1978 Walton Music Publishing WW 1447

Sung in Latin

Thou art beautiful, O my love, Sweet and comely as Jerusalem, Terrible as an army set in array. Turn away thy eyes from me For they have made me flee away.

-Anonymous

O SALUTARIS HOSTIA

Ēriks EŠENVALDS, Born 1977 Musica Baltica

Sung in Latin

O sacrifice that brings salvation, You who open wide the gate of heaven. We are hard pressed by hostile war; Give strength, bring help.

All praise and thanks to Thee ascend For evermore, blest One in Three; O grant us life without end In our fatherland with Thee.

-St. Thomas Aquinas, 1225-1274

Jessica Shepherd & Charla Williams, soloists

Ш

SKÖNA MAJ

Lars Magnus BĒEN, 1820-1905 Gehrmans Musikforlag GH.LUN-570-0775

Sung in Swedish

Lovely May, welcome to our home again! Lovely May, welcome friend of our games! The divine flame of emotions has awakened in your dawn.

The earth and the golden skies stammer Love, bliss and delight, Sorrow flees for spring, Happiness smiles through tears.

Now out of the bosom of the grove And out of the flower buds We rise to meet you with joyous offerings. Only your leaves slowly slough, Those fresh rose hedges, In your honor cheerfully resound our silver streams.

Listen! With thankful tongue Thousands of birds are singing, Just like us! Welcome lovely May!

-Johan Ludvig Runeberg, 1804-1877

CELESTIAL SPRING

F. Melius CHRISTIANSEN, 1871-1955 Augsburg Publishing House

Mellow music mingles with every Mood of reawakening spring.
Lingers like a beautiful balm of benediction, Rises on wing and impels my spirit to sing.
O be joyful, sing to your Maker,
Lord and Master Who can adorn
Hill and valley, lost and forlorn,
With splendor richer, rarer than morn,
Soul arise, you're heavenly born.

How can gladness ever borrow
Of the somber hues of sorrow
When the springtime is here!
No, when myriad hosts are bringing
To the hills in happy singing the assurance of grace.
Then distrusts within surrender,
Till the heart is touched and tender
Like a heavenly face.

How can spirits bow in silence when the song upon The highlands is announcing the year?

Mellow music rises with every Scent of reawakening spring. Fragrantly ascending the heights, Is stimulation sweetly to bring Angel-ward on spiritual wing. O be joyful, sing to your Maker, Let His grace bedeck and adorn Heart and hope and spirit forlorn, Like incense lit on altars of morn, Soul, arise, you're heavely born.

Hosanna, a new Hosanna within its ringing, New glory bringing to God on high, Who has exalted this lowly mortal To heaven's portal beyond the sky. Hosanna, a new Hosanna all life embraces, While growing praises to God arise: Soon my spirit shall sing victorious With Him, the glorious, in Paradise. A new Hosanna shall arise! A new Hosanna now is ringing and My heart is singing now. Alleluia!

-Oscar R. Overby, 1892-1964

Recorded by the William Baker Festival Singers on the da Chiesa Sound Recordings album "A New Hosanna"

\mathbf{IV}

THIS OLD HAMMER

American Folk Song arranged by John W. Work Galaxy Music 1.0629.1

This old hammer killed John Henry, but it won't kill me. This old hammer shines like silver, but it rings like gold.

Take this hammer to the walking boss. Tell him I'm gone! If he asks you any questions, tel him you don't know.

I don't mind a 'skeeter lightin' But Mister Skeeter please don't sit down.

Wayne Burdette & Scott Smith, soloists

SHENANDOAH

American Folk Song arranged by James Erb Lawson-Gould Music 51846

O Shenando' I long to see you and hear your rolling river. We're bound away, across the wide Missouri. I long to see your smiling valley, and hear your rolling river. We're bound away, across the wide Missouri. 'Tis seven long years, since last I see you, And hear your rolling river. We're bound away, across the wide Missouri.

Recorded by the William Baker Festival Singers on the da Chiesa Sound Recordings album "Live in Concert"

SAME TRAIN

Spiritual arranged by Alice Parker Lawson Gould Music 51113

Same train, carry my mother. Same train. Same train, carry my brother. Same train. Same train, carry my sister. Same train. Same train, be back tomorrow. Same train, waiting at the station. Same train, carry everybody. Same train. Same train, carry me to heaven. Same train.

YOU MUST HAVE THAT TRUE RELIGION

American Spiritual arranged by Roland Carter Lawson-Gould Music 52159

Oh, you must have that true religion, You must have your soul converted, You must have that true religion or you can't cross there.

Where have you been poor sinner? Where have you been, I say? I've been way down to the River of Jordan. No, you can't cross there.

Where have you been poor mourner? Where have you been, I say? I've been way down to the River of Jordan. No, you can't cross there.

Where have you been good Christian? Where have you been so long? I've been way down in the valley for to pray, And I ain't done praying yet.

O give me that old time religion, It's good enough for me.

Fessica Shepherd, soloist

Recorded by the William Baker Festival Singers on the Amber Waves Sound Recordings album "A Voice of Singing"

Please enjoy 23 CD recordings by the Festival Singers, including 7 currently available on iTunes, Spotify, Amazon and CD Baby, and also over 120 video clips of performances by the Festival Singers and our sister William Baker Choral Foundation ensembles at WBakerCF on www.YouTube.com

The Festival Singers express appreciation to Scott Watson, Director of the City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs and the Piccolo Spoleto Festival, and to William Schlitt, Chair of the Festival of Churches & Synagogues for their gracious support of today's concert.

Also, to St. Benedict's Episcopal Church in Smyrna, Georgia, providing a rehearsal home for the Festival Singers since 2015.

Lynn Swanson Festival Singers Staff



Scott Smith, Choral Associate, is a native of Chicago, IL, He has made Atlanta his home since 1992. A graduate of the University of Illinois, Scott has enjoyed many different aspects of music. Scott has been a member of many different choirs including The Soul Children of Chicago, University of Illinois Concert & Chamber Choirs, Augustana College Handel Oratorio Society, Chordbusters, The Michael O'Neal Singers, St. Mark UMC Chancel Choir, Summer Singers of Atlanta, Just Voices and the William Baker, now Lynn Swanson, Festival Singers. Scott has performed the role of Joe in "Showboat", Andy Lee in "42nd Street" and Balthazar in "Amahl and the Night Visitors" and he has published a setting of the spiritual "Nobody Knows the Trouble I See" through Amber Waves.

Scott stepped on the podium for the first time as a conductor in 1997 when he took on the role of choral assistant for the 125-member Summer Singers of Atlanta. He continues to serve in the capacity of Trustee Emeritus and Choral Associate for the William Baker Choral Foundation's Atlanta ensembles.

Scott is employed by IBM and lives in Southwest Atlanta with his partner Mark. When he's not singing, Scott enjoys cooking, gardening and growing orchids.



Thomas Sheets, Assistant Conductor, grew up on a dairy farm near LaGrange, Georgia. He holds the Bachelor of Music Education from Carson-Newman University, the Master of Music from Columbus State University, and Master of Divinity from the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He has been a full time Minister of Music for 13 years in Southern Baptist churches and as a part-time Minister of Music in Atlanta area United Methodist churches, including Hapeville United Methodist Church where he presently serves. He has also been a music educator in the Cobb County Schools, where he was known for recruitment and program building. He has been a member and soloist with the Savannah Symphony Chorale, the Columbus Civic Chorale and the Lynn Swanson (formerly William Baker) Festival Singers. He makes his home in central Atlanta.



Albert Clark, Student Intern, originally from Baltimore, Maryland, was appointed Student Intern for the Cobb Summer Singers and the Lynn Swanson Festival Singers in May 2015. He holds the Bachelor of Music from the University of South Carolina School of Music in Columbia. There he studied voice with Dr. Tina Milhorn Stallard, and was a member of the exclusive USC Concert Choir. Mr. Clark has served as staff singer for the Trinity Episcopal Church in Columbia, SC. His ensemble participation has taken him to performances in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, Gloucester Cathedral and Canterbury Cathedral in the United Kingdom, and the National Cathedral in Washington, DC. He presently studies conducting with Lynn Swanson. Over thirty students at the Master's & Doctoral level have participated in the Choral Foundation's Student Intern & Choral Scholars program. For additional information call 913-403-9223.

THE CHORAL FOUNDATION BY THE NUMBERS

561 Men, women and youth participated in Choral Foundation ensembles between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015
 24 Number of languages performed by the Festival Singers 19 Number of states where our choruses have performed \$218,000 Operational Budget for FY2016 for all ensembles in all cities

\$39,500 Anticipated revenues from concert tickets

17% Percentage of needed operational funds will be received from concert tickets
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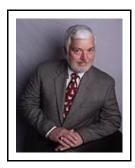
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The heart of our parish life is worship and sharing in the Eucharist which feeds us spiritually as a community. Our liturgies center around <u>The Book of Common Prayer</u>, <u>1979</u>, and we use the new <u>Revised Common Lectionary</u>.

8:45 a.m. & 11:15 Holy Eucharist

We sing the Eucharistic prayer at both services. The

morning liturgies follow a similar pattern of Eucharistic prayers, music, readings, and preaching.

6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Our 6:00 p.m. service is a Rite III liturgy. This means we use Eucharistic prayers from Enriching our Worship, an alternative liturgies text sanctioned by the Episcopal Church USA. We sing varied music, and typically gather around the altar for the Eucharistic prayer.



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