The William Baker Choral Foundation in Georgia

Candlelight & Carols With the Festival Singers

Our 33rd Annual Celebration of the Beauty & Wonder of Christmas

The New South Festival Singers

Founded in 1985 as Gwinnett Festival Singers Known as William Baker Festival Singers from 1998-2015; Lynn Swanson Festival Singers 2015-2017

Andrew Phillip Schmidt, Music Director & Conductor

Sunday Afternoon, 3 December 2017 Saint Mark United Methodist Church Atlanta, Georgia

> Never the Morning Star so radiant Followed His course o'er eastern skies. What is this Light so fair, so tender Breaking upon our wondering eyes? Come in, ye kings, and kiss the feet of God!

SOLI DEO GLORIA

What wondrous love is this, O my soul?

The New South Festival Singers

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

Andrew Phillip Schmidt, MM

Music Director, New South Festival Singers

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> **The William Baker Choral Foundation, Inc.** 5450 Buena Vista Street, Suite 100 Roeland Park, Kansas 66205 913.403.9223

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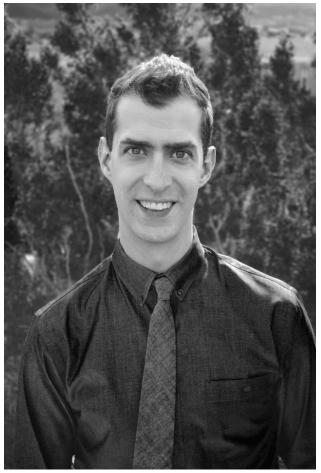
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Andrew Phillip Schmidt is a native of Southern Illinois. His parents passed along their love and respect for music by enrolling their son in piano lessons at age six, and adding oboe lessons at age nine. High school choir sparked a passion for choral music that has since become the driver of Andrew's life. He holds a M. M. in Choral Conducting from the University of Washington under the tutelage of Dr. Geoffrey Boers and Dr. Giselle Wyers, as well as a B.M.E. from Northwestern University, Evanston, IL.

Before coming to Atlanta in July, Andrew was Music Director of the Sangre de Cristo Chorale in Santa Fe, NM. He also held the position of Lead Voice Faculty and Officer of Assessment at the Santa Fe University of Art and Design.

Andrew was appointed Music Director & Conductor of the Choral Foundation's original Festival Singers ensemble in June 2017.

Andrew Schmidt's 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, Big Sky Choral Masterclass, and Montreal Choral Masterclass.

Andrew held a University of Washington FLAS (Foreign Language Area Studies) Fellowship for

Estonian and Baltic/Western European Studies. He was also the recipient of a U.S. Student Fulbright Fellowship to Estonia where he lived, studied, and researched in Tallinn, Estonia as well as sang and toured with Tallinna Kammerkoor. He has also sung with nationally renowned groups like Seattle Pro Musica (Dir. Karen P. Thomas), the Kinnara Ensemble (Dr. J.D. Burnett) and The Esoterics (Dir. Eric Banks), and worked as a soloist with choirs throughout the Pacific Northwest, American Southwest, and Central Midwest regions.

The New South 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**, a creative company that offers more than 50 quality titles in worldwide distribution (www.AmberWavesPublishing.com). The Choral Foundation offers a year-round Student Intern program for conductors in masters-level study, and a Choral Scholar program for conductors studying at the doctoral level, and is the sponsoring organization for the **Jane Sullivan Choral Resource Library** and the **Institute for Healthy Singing**. The unique continuing education program enables aspiring conductors to gain practical experience in musical leadership and management of a major arts organization. The staff of the Choral Foundation also offers consulting services nationwide for church, community, and professional musical organizations. For additional information, please call the Office of the Choral Foundation at 913.403.9223, or email Mail@FestivalSingers.org.

The New South Festival Singers

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

Music of Timeless Beauty and Worth in Atlanta Since 1985

The New South 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. With the appointment of Andrew Phillip Schmidt in 2017 as the third Music Director & Conductor the ensemble is now "New South Festival Singers" in homage to Henry W. Grady's description of Atlanta's historic legacy of tolerance, justice, opportunity and enterprise.

The 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 Hakodesb* 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 New South Festival Singers first masterworks performance, led by Music Director Andrew Schmidt, will be the *Requiem* of Maurice Durufle to be performed in March 2018.

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 25 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, SC, 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 in 1985 is now the flagship ensemble of the William Baker Choral Foundation, 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.

www.FestivalSingers.org

THE CHORAL FOUNDATION BY THE NUMBERS

673 ...men, women and youth have participated in Choral Foundation ensembles since June 1, 2016

17% ... the percentage of operational funds received from concert tickets in a typical year.

30 ... the average number of WBCF concerts nation-wide in a typical year

10,000 ... the average number of listeners enjoying those concerts

25 ...the number of nationally-released recordings by the Festival Singers since 1986

29 ... years the Festival Singers have performed at the Piccolo Spoleto Festival

\$261,847 ... the operational budget of the Choral Foundation in 2017

\$50,000 ... our goal for the 2017 Annual Gifts Campaign

THE CHORAL FOUNDATION PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR THOUSANDS TO EXPERIENCE LIFE-CHANGING MUSIC

THE CHORAL FOUNDATION HAS A THREE-DECADE HERITAGE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT & FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

THE CHORAL FOUNDATION DEPENDS ON YOUR SUPPORT

PLEASE CONSIDER A GIFT TO THE CHORAL FOUNDATION TO ENSURE THAT CONCERTS LIKE THE ONE YOU ENJOY TODAY WILL CONTINUE



Making a contribution is easy. You may use the strange symbol here, called a QR code, to link directly to the "Make a Gift" page on the Choral Foundation's website. Just activate the QR Reader on your smart phone. You may visit <u>www.ChoralFoundation.org/Make-a-Gift</u>

Or, you may send your tax deductible gift (check to WBCF) in support of the Festival Singers directly to our office.

The William Baker Choral Foundation 5450 Buena Vista Street, Suite 100, Roeland Park, KS 66205

www.ChoralFoundation.org

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

AUDITIONS



Celebrating Our 33rd Concert Season in Atlanta

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For Information or to Schedule an Audition Appointment Please Call 913-403-9223 or Email Mail@FestivalSingers.org

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Candlelight & Carols With the Festival Singers

Sunday Afternoon, 3 December 2017 Saint Mark United Methodist Church, Atlanta, Georgia

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GOOD CHRISTIAN MEN REJOICE

Narration

LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING

A SPOTLESS ROSE

Scott Smith, soloist

Narration

O COME, O COME EMMANUEL

O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM

O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament, that the animals should see the newborn Lord lying in a manger! Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy to bear Christ the Lord. Alleluia!

REMEMBER, O THOU MAN

Narration

I SAW THREE SHIPS

STILL, STILL, STILL

MARY'S LULLABY Incorporating SILENT NIGHT, Franz GRUBER, 1787-1863 Laura Blanco, soloist

Narration

I WONDER AS AI WANDER

Terrell Abney, soloist

GLORY, GLORY TO THE NEWBORN KING

James Ranson, soloist

The Musical Family of the William Baker Choral Foundation Wishes You and Yours a Blessed Christmas and a Joyful New Year!

Thomas RAVENSCROFT, 1582-1633

English Carol arranged by Alice Parker

Austrian Carol arranged by Norman Luboff

Fredrik SIXTEN, Born 1962

John Jacob NILES, 1892-1980

Spiritual arranged by Moses Hogan

German Traditional set by Hugo Distler

German Traditional arranged by Alice Parker

Herbert HOWELLS, 1892-1983

Gregorian Chant arranged by Alice Parker

Tomas Luis DA VICTORIA, 1548-1611

Sung in Latin

THE WILLIAM BAKER FESTIVAL SINGERS





AVAILABLE AT THE INFORMATION TABLE AT TODAY'S CONCERT

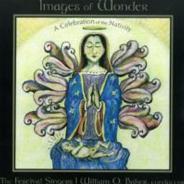
WWW.FESTIVALSINGERS.ORG/ RECORDINGS

ENJOY ONLINE AT AMAZON, CD BABY, ITUNES AND SPOTIFY

THE NEWEST RECORDING OF THE FESTIVAL SINGERS, 2017



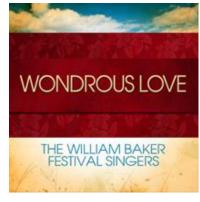
Works from Barber, Thompson & Other American Composers



A Celebration OF the Nativity



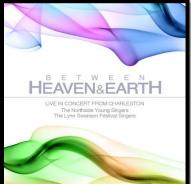
A CELEBRATION OF THE HOLIDAYS WITH CHOIRS, BRASS & ORGAN



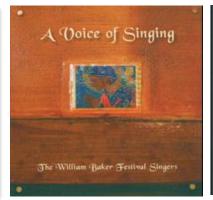
RECORDED FROM 1998-2008



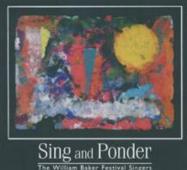
FIRST AMERICAN RECORDING OF RUTTER'S BELOVED REQUIEM



Northside Young Singers & Lynn Swanson Festival Singers



CLASSIC A CAPPELLA ANTHEMS & SPIRITUALS



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Thinking About Summer, Even Before Christmas?!

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The Baroque Summer Institute An Entire Summer Season in 15 Days!

MUSIC OF THE ITALIAN BAROQUE featuring Vivaldi's GLORIA Andrew Schmidt, Music Director & Conductor Ivy Belk Pirl, Accompanist REHEARSALS IN THE SMYRNA-VININGS AREA

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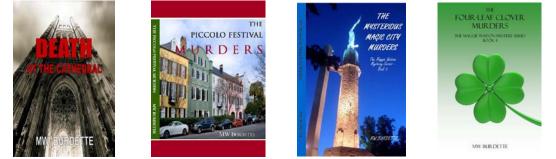
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Author of *The John Bremen Chronicles* and the *LT Maggie Watson Murder Mysteries* Series

Burdette's fiction falls into two genres–crime and mystery novels. His first three works–*In Search of an Identity, The Ultimate Challenge,* and *A Resolution of Honor* are three novels in his trilogy about John Bremen, the super sleuth, and his sidekick and Vietnamese friend Klahan. Together they track down a dangerous U.S. Army traitor, Danny Briggs, who is smuggling arms into the United States. His last book in the John Bremen Chronicles is Murdering the Peacekeepers, and it will be available for purchase online in the spring of 2018.



His mysteries revolve around LT Maggie Watson, a hard hitting detective who solves murders for a small city in Illinois. *Death at the Cathedral* and *The Piccolo Festival Murders*, *The Mysterious Magic City Murders*, and *The Four-Leaf Clover Murders* are the first of his stories about this detective.



To order novels go to <u>http://www.mwburdettesbooks.com</u> or Amazon.com/books and type in the words MW Burdette's Books. Most paperbacks are \$9.95 each and available for immediate shipment.

The William Baker Choral Foundation

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

The Summer Singers of Atlanta, Midtown Atlanta, 1990 William O. Baker, DMA, Music Director & Conductor

The Baroque Summer Institute, Marietta, Georgia, 2017Lynn Swanson, MME, Music Director & ConductorAndrew Phillip Schmidt, MM, 2018 Guest 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 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

The Kansas City Honors Choral Institute, Bonner Springs, Kansas, 2016

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

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www.ChoralFoundation.org

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