The Choral Foundation & the Piccolo Spoleto Festival, An Outreach of the City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs, With Support from the Georgia Council for the Arts and the Grace Episcopal Church Concert Series, Proudly Presents

The New South Festival Singers

Lynn Swanson, MME, Music Director & Conductor

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

Piccolo Spoleto 2023

Sunday Afternoon, 7 May 2023, Grace Episcopal Church, Gainesville, Georgia Monday Afternoon, 29 May 2023, 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.

What wondrous love is this, O my soul?

SOLI DEO GLORIA

The New South Festival Singers

Lynn Swanson, MME	Terrell Abney '07	Sue Lawton '14
Director, New South Festival Singers Director, Cobb Summer Singers Creator, Institute for Healthy Singing	Kristin Boyle '14	Camille McLean '23
	Steve Brailsford '14	Sarah Means '10
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	David Folkes '22	Benjamin Raynor '22
Andrew Phillip Schmidt, MM Music Director, Summer Singers of Atlanta	Marla Franks '03	Heather Sabatino '09
	Cornelia Hamilton '15	Sarah Sambol '14
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Lynn Swanson, Music Director & Conductor



Lynn Swanson, Director of the Cobb Summer Singers and The New South Festival Singers, is a native of the Atlanta suburb of Marietta, Georgia. She holds the Bachelor of Music in Organ Performance from Shorter College, and the Master of Music Education in Choral Pedagogy from the University of Kansas.

Ms. Swanson is one of the most consequential leaders in the nearly four-decade history of the Choral Foundation. She is, unmistakably, one of the most significant music leaders of our time in Atlanta.

She has enjoyed an accomplished international career, serving church positions in Germany that included a performance in the iconic Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. Significant church positions where she has served as Music Director and as Organist/Choirmaster, include All Saints Cathedral in Milwaukee, St. Benedict's Episcopal Church in Smyrna, Georgia, Due West United Methodist Church in

Marietta and, presently, Grace Episcopal Church in Gainesville.

From 2017-2018 she served as Assistant Director of the Zhuhai Classical Children's Choir in Zhuhai, China, near Hong Kong. During her lauded tenure there she conducted the chorus at Central Conservatory in Beijing where the performance was viewed on Chinese National Television. She also led the first-ever Buddhist Monastery Choir in a classical performance at the Beijing International Music Festival. From 2018-2020 she served as Executive Artistic Director of the Milwaukee Children's Choir.

Ms. Swanson served a number of leading positions with the Choral Foundation from 2006-2018. She founded the Cobb Summer Singers in 2006, the Northside Young Singers in 2008, the Cobb Festival Singers in 2009, the Institute for Healthy Singing in 2015. She served as associate director of the Choral Foundation's original ensemble, now called The New South Festival Singers, from 2010 to 2015, before her appointment as the second music director of the ensemble in 2015, a position she held from 2015-2017 and resumed in 2021. Lynn Swanson co-created the Summer Singers of Lee's Summit in 2014, and served as Executive Associate Music Director of the Choral Foundation from 2011-2017.

Ms. Swanson's conducting portfolio of choral-orchestral masterworks is extensive, including Brahms Ein deutsches Requiem, Bach: Mass in B Minor, Christ lag in todesbanden, and Wachet auf, Handel: Messiah, Israel in Egypt, Dettingen Te Deum and Coronation Anthems, Mozart: Coronation Mass, Solemn Vespers, and Missa Brevis in D, Beethoven: Mass in C and Mendelssohn: Elijah, along with many other works. Collaborations have involved musicians from the Kansas City Symphony, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, and the Kazinetti Quartet.

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The New South Festival Singers

Music of Timeless Beauty and Worth from Atlanta Since 1985



Conductor Lynn Swanson.

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 choir was known as The William Baker Festival Singers from 1998-2015. The Festival Singers was led by its founder through its 30th concert season. The ensemble is now "The New South Festival Singers" in homage to Henry W. Grady's description of Atlanta's historic legacy of tolerance, justice, opportunity and enterprise. The Choral Foundation's original choral ensemble is now in its fourth season under the leadership of Music Director &

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's Symphony of Psalms, Bernstein's 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 Festival Singers' recording of the Requiem of John Rutter and Songs of the Holocaust by William Dreyfoos was reviewed graciously in the December 2020 edition of American Record Guide.

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 hailed in reviews by *The Atlanta Constitution* and *The American Record Guide*. The choir 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 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 youth in Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, and Missouri.

www.NewSouthFestivalSingers.org

THE NEW SOUTH FESTIVAL SINGERS

Lynn Swanson, MME, Music Director & Conductor Scott Smith, MBA, Choral Associate & Administrator Jamea J. Sale, MME, WBCF Executive Associate Director Dr. Sean Sweeden, Composer in Residence

AUDITIONS



The New South Festival Singers has delighted audiences throughout the South and Midwest, including annual performances before capacity audiences at Charleston's Piccolo Spoleto Festival since 1989.

The Festival Singers' 2023-2024 Concert Season signature programming includes short-form sacred a cappella classics and spirituals in addition to the annual Andrew Cain Memorial Masterworks Concert with orchestra.

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For Information or to Schedule an Audition Appointment Please Call TODAY 913-488-7524 or Email Mail@FestivalSingers.org

www.NewSouthFestivalSingers.org

Mysteries We Share - Imagined and Real

Sunday Afternoon, 7 May 2023, 4:00 PM, Grace Episcopal Church, Gainesville, Georgia Monday Afternoon, 29 May 2023, 3:00 PM, The Circular Church, Charleston, South Carolina The New South Festival Singers, Lynn Swanson, Music Director & Conductor

Dr. Jamea Sale, WBCF Executive Associate Director Scott Smith, Choral Associate & Administrator Dr. Sean Sweeden, Composer in Residence Dr. William O. Baker, Founder of the Festival Singers & Head of the Choral Foundation

Repertoire for Today's Concert Will Be Chosen From the Following

Introit

PANGE LINGUA

Gregorian Chant

Sung in Latin

Pange lingua gloriosi, Corporis mysterium.
Sanguinis que pretiosi, Quem in mundi pretium.
Fructus ventris generosi
Rex effudit gentium.
Genitori Genitoque, laus et jubilation,
Salus honor, virtus quoque sit et benediction,
Procedenti ab utroque, compar sit laudation. Amen.

Sing, my tongue, the Savior's glory,
Of His flesh the mystery sing;
Of the Blood, all price exceeding,
Shed by our immortal King,
Destined, for the world's redemption,
From a noble womb to spring.
To the Father and to the Son be praise,
Glory, salvation, honor, power and benediction also!
And to Him proceeding from Them both be equal praise.
Amen.

-St. Thomas Aquinas, 1225-1274 Solemnity of Corpus Christi

Alexis LaSalle, soloist

AT THE ROUND EARTH'S IMAGINED CORNERS

Williametta SPENCER, Born 1927 Shawnee Music Press

At the round earth's imagined corners, Blow your trumpets, angels, and Arise, arise from death, You numberless infinities of souls, And to your scattered bodies go, All whom the flood did,
And fire shall, overthrow,
All whom war, dearth,
Age, agues, tyrannies,
Despair, law, chance, hath slain,
And you whose eyes,
Shall behold God and never taste death's woe.
But let them sleep,
Lord, and me mourn a space;
For, if above all these,
My sins abound,

Tis late to ask
Abundance of Thy grace,
When we are there.
Here on this lowly ground,
Teach me how to repent;
For that's as good
As if Thou had'st sealed my pardon with Thy blood!

-7ohn Donne, 1572-1631

I

COOL OF THE DAY

Jean RITCHIE, 1922-2015, disputed Arranged by John Ratledge Alliance Music Publishing AMP-0176

My Lord, He said on to me: Do you like my garden so fair? And if you live in My garden you must feed My lambs, And I'll return in the cool of the day.

Now is the cool of the day. Oh, the earth is a garden, the garden of my Lord, And He walks in His garden in the cool of the day.

Audra Pagano, soloist

Recorded by the Fesival Singers on the album A New Hosanna

IN PARADISIUM (Requiem)

Gabriel FAURÉ, 1845-1924 Hinshaw Music Publishing

Sung in Latin

May the angels lead you into paradise; May the martyrs greet you at your arrival And lead you into the holy City of Jerusalem. May the choir of Angels greet you and like Lazarus, Who once was a pauper, may you have eternal rest.

VERLEIH' UNS FRIEDEN

Felix MENDELSSOHN, 1809-1847 Choral Public Domain Library

Sung in German

Grant us peace.

Stephanie Wilson & Ben Raynor, soloists

II

DAWN

Karin R. BANKS Composer Manuscript

An Angel robed in spotless white, Bent down and kissed the sleeping night, Night woke to blush, the sprite was gone! Men saw the blush and called it Dawn.

PACEM

BANKS

Composer Manuscript

Grant us peace.

David Folkes, soloist

Ш

STARS

Kyle PEDERSON, Born 1971 Carl Fischer Music

Legacies of light Ages ago you spun light into the bleak Ancient light lands in tonight's sky Ancient light falls on my eye And I?
A star
Sacred stellar dust casting light out through time
In whose sky will my light fall?

-Kyle Pederson

BREATHE

Coleman PETERSON, Born 1997 Santa Barbara Music Publishing SBMP 1674

Come shelter in my arms my dear.

I will assist you through your fear.

Though I may not defeat your worry, you and I can breathe.

Together we shall face the world, whatever terrors may unfold.

Though poisoned skies may cloud your journey, still, with you, I'll breathe.

Breathe, and know the wind will roar. Do not fear the air. Take it all in deep. Feel the breath we share.

-Coleman Pederson

Terrell Abney, soloist

OVER THE RAINBOW

Harold ARLEN, 1905-1986 Arranged by Sean Sweeden

Commissioned and premiered in 2022 by The New South Festival Singers, Lynn Swanson, conducting

When all the world is a hopeless jumble
And the raindrops tumble around, heaven opens a magic lane.
When all the clouds darken up the skyway
There's a rainbow highway to be found.
Leading from your windowpane to a place behind the sun,
Just a step beyond the rain.

Somewhere over the rainbow, way up high, There's a land that I heard of once in a lullaby. Somewhere over the rainbow skies are blue, And the dreams that you dare to dream really do come true.

Someday I'll wish upon a star And wake up where the clouds are far behind me. Where troubles melt like lemon drops Away above the chimney tops, that's where you'll find me.

Somewhere over the rainbow, bluebirds fly. Birds fly over the rainbow, Why, then, O why can't I?

If happy little bluebirds fly beyond the rainbow, Why, then, O why can't I?

-Yip Harburg, 1896-1981

Laura Hotchkiss, soloist

MY SONG

Ēriks EŠENVALDS, Born 1977 Musica Baltica

My song will be like a pair of wide wings to your dreams, Like the fond arms of love it will wind its music around you. When my voice is silent, I will live in you.

-Rabindranath Tagore, 1861-1941

Steve Brailsford, soloist

IV

WALK TOGETHER CHILDREN

American Spiritual arranged by Moses Hogan Hal Leonard Music Publishing

Walk together, children, don't you get weary There's a great camp meeting in the promised land!

> Recorded by the Festival Singers on the Amber Waves album "American Voices"

LET ME FLY

American Spiritual arranged by Robert Cormier Lawson Gould Music Publishing

Way down yonder in the middle of the field, Angel working at the chariot wheel, Not so particular 'bout working at the wheel, Just want to see how the chariot feels Oh let me fly, oh let me fly Let me fly to Mount Zion, Lord, Lord

Well I got a mother in the promised land Ain't gonna stop till I shake her hand Not so particular 'bout shaking her hand Just wanna get to the promised land

I heard such a rumbling in the sky I thought my Lord was passing by It was the good old chariot drawing nigh Oh well it shook the earth swept the sky Let me fly to Mount Zion, Lord, Lord!

Scott Smith, soloist

Recorded by the Festival Singers on the Amber Waves album "A Voice of Singing"

\mathbf{V}

THE GOSPEL MASS

Robert RAY, 1946-2022 Jenson Publications

Kyrie - Lord Have Mercy

Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Send us a Savior, grant us Your peace. You are the Way, the Truth, and the Light. I love You more each day and each night. Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Jesus the Rock of our salvation, Light of the world, Have mercy on us.

Mark Kagika, Mr. Folkes & Yolanda Phillips, soloists Ivy Belk Pirl, piano Chris Wright, bass

Credo - I Believe in God

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost. Born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, Crucified, died and was buried, He descended into Hell. On the third day He arose! He ascended to Heaven, from death He was set free. Now He sits at the right hand and He's waiting for you and me. He will judge all the Earth. He will judge you and me. I believe in the Holy Spirit and the holy catholic Church. I believe, Lord, in one Baptism For the remission of sin and rebirth. I believe in the resurrection and the communion of saints. I believe when my life is over I'm going home Just to live with my God.

Ms. LaSalle & Ms. Hotchkiss, soloists Ms. Pirl, piano Mr. Wright, bass

The New South Festival Singers
Express Our Affection and Appreciation to the
Members and Staff of

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William Baker Festival Singers, Prairie Village, Kansas, 1998

New South Festival Singers, Atlanta, Georgia, 1985 Lynn Swanson, MME, Music Director & Conductor

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Summer Singers of Kansas City, Kansas City, Missouri, 1999 William O. Baker, DMA, Music Director & Conductor

> Cobb Summer Singers, Marietta, Georgia, 2006 Lynn Swanson, MME, Founder & Music Director

Summer Singers of Lee's Summit, Lee's Summit, Missouri, 2014 Jennifer Lahasky, MME, Music Director & Conductor

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> **Institute for Choral Creativity,** Chicago, Illinois, 2020 Ed Frazier Davis, MM, Director

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Candid.

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