

The Summer Singers of Kansas City

The William Baker Choral Foundation
5450 Buena Vista Street #100, Roeland Park, KS 66205 913.488.7524
Mail@FestivalSingers.org www.ChoralFoundation.org

Friday, March 1, 2024

INVITING YOU TO JOIN US IN HELZBERG HALL FOR BLOCH'S "SACRED SERVICE"

Dear Singing Friends,

I am writing to invite you to be a part of one of the most significant events in the history of our Summer Singers tradition. Our 2024 performance will be in Helzberg Hall of the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, one of the world's finest performing stages.

Our featured work will be the AVODATH HAKODESH, or *Sacred Service*, of 20th century composer Ernest Bloch. We are singing it using the scoring for organ and percussion, utilizing the hall's magnificent Casavant 102-rank organ of 5,548 pipes. Distinguished baritone **Joshua Markley** will be in the role of the Cantor.

We will be joined in the concert by an ensemble from the **Allegro Choirs of Kansas City**, one of the most respected youth music programs in America. Allegro Choirs of Kansas City have recently signed a partnership agreement with the Choral Foundation. I am also please to announce that **Choral Foundation Composer in Residence, Dr. Sean Sweeden**, is writing a new work for this gala concert. That work will be performed by the Summer Singers, the Allegro Choirs ensemble, and the Casavant organ. This will be a memorable event.

Rehearsals will be Tuesday evenings, 7:00-9:30, at Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral in downtown Kansas City, beginning June 11. Because of the availability of Helzberg Hall, the dress rehearsal and the concert will be the same day, Sunday, August 25. Rehearsal will be at 1:00, followed by a dinner break and the concert at 6:00.

As always, there will be no audition for participation in the 2024 Summer Singers of Kansas City. All adults and mature youth (16 & older) are invited to participate. Youth younger than 16 may participate only if a parent or guardian is present with them at all times. The Summer Singers program is not recommended for youth below the age of 12.

As always Summer Singers members will enjoy instruction and support from the fellows of the Institute for Healthy Singing & Voice Research, led by Associate Director Christine Freeman and IHS&VR Director, Dr. Jamea Sale. A generous rehearsal schedule will afford us adequate time for mastering the musical score and the Hebrew language.

Tuition for 2024 is unchanged from last year: \$95, or \$85 if paid by May 1. Students, and members of ACDA, AGO, MMEA, KMEA and/or NafME will enjoy an any-time tuition of \$70. This tuition helps cover the cost of staff, music scores, royalties, programs, orchestral musicians, promotion and concert production expenses. As a Core Value, the Choral Foundation will not deny participation to anyone because of inability to pay tuition. We do ask, however, that a request for tuition assistance **ONLY** be made if the need is genuine.

You may register by completing the form enclosed with this letter and mailing it to the Choral Foundation office with your check. Or, if you prefer to use your credit card, you may register online at www.ChoralFoundation.org/registernow. Please register today, and please forward this opportunity to every singing friend you know.

Soli Deo Gloria,
William O. Baker, DMA, Founder & Music Director

THE 2024 SUMMER SINGERS OF KANSAS CITY FAQ

Who is invited to participate in Summer Singers?

All adults regardless of their musical background are invited to sing. No audition is required. Mature youth in grades 9-12 are invited to participate. Youth under the age of 16 may participate only if a parent or guardian is a registered, participating member of the Summer Singers. Summer Singers is not recommended for youth under the age of 12.

What is the schedule of rehearsals and concerts?

TU	June	11:	7:00-9:30	Rehearsal 1	Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral
TU	June	18:	7:00-9:30	Rehearsal 2	Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral
TU	June	25:	7:00-9:30	Rehearsal 3	Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral
TU	July	2:	-----	***NO REHEARSAL - HAPPY JULY 4 th ***	
TU	July	9:	7:00-9:30	Rehearsal 4	Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral
TU	July	16:	7:00-9:30	Rehearsal 5	Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral
TU	July	23:	7:00-9:30	Rehearsal 6	Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral
TU	July	30:	7:00-9:30	Rehearsal 7	Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral
TU	August	6:	7:00-9:30	Rehearsal 8	Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral
TU	August	13:	7:00-9:30	Rehearsal 9	Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral
TU	August	20:	7:00-9:30	Rehearsal 10	Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral
<u>SU</u>	August	25:	1:00-3:30	On-Site Rehearsal	Helzberg Hall, Kauffman Center
SU	August	25:	5:00	Final Concert Preparation	Helzberg Hall
			6:00	PERFORMANCE	Helzberg Hall

Where are rehearsals located?

All rehearsals and our performance will be at Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral, Broadway at 13th Street in downtown KCMO. There is free off-street parking on the church property.

What is the tuition, and where does the money go?

Tuition for the 2024 Summer Singers of Kansas City is \$95, or \$85 if paid before May 1. A special rate of \$65 is available for Students and Choral Directors (members of ACDA, AGO, MMEA, KMEA or NafME). Those electing to pay tuition early enable the Foundation to save money by making purchases in advance of need. The tuition helps fund the Choral Foundation, paying staff salaries, promotional mailings and announcements, printed materials and music scores. For the record, tuition payments and concert donations pay only a small portion of these expenses. The balance is made up by generous gifts to the Choral Foundation and the Summer Singers of Kansas City from individuals and organizations. **Tuition is NOT refundable for any reason**, but may be applied to any future Summer Singers if you are unable to participate.

What is the Choral Foundation?

The Choral Foundation is a national arts organization founded in Atlanta in 1990. It is best known in Kansas City, where it is now headquartered, as the sponsoring organization for The William Baker Festival Singers and the Summer Singers of Kansas City, the Summer Singers of Lee's Summit, along with the Jane Sullivan Choral Resource Library and the Institute for Healthy Singing & Voice Research. In all, the twelve ensembles of the Choral Foundation will register over 600 men, women and youth in the course of the year. The Choral Foundation is a 501-c-3 tax exempt corporation of the State of Kansas, licenced to conduct business in Georgia, Illinois and Missouri. To learn more please visit our website at www.ChoralFoundation.org and/or Guidestar.org/profile/48-1214336 .

What if I can't pay tuition?

The By-Laws and Core Values of the Choral Foundation (read them at www.ChoralFoundation.org) direct that no one will ever be denied the benefits of the Choral Foundation based on ability to pay. Full tuition assistance, partial tuition assistance and extended tuition payment arrangements are available upon request. We rely on an honor system and ask that singers make application ONLY in case of genuine need.

I would love to sing, but my family will be away on vacation and I might miss one or two rehearsals.

The Summer Singers of Kansas City is, obviously, a "summer" chorus. We realize that summer is the vacation season and that most members will miss a rehearsal or two. We ask that every member do their very best to be present for all rehearsals possible and that, to the extent of their ability, every singer practices his/her music at home between rehearsals.

I sang in choir in high school and college, but I am WAY out of practice. Is there any program that will help me learn my music? Is my out-of-practice voice going to be a problem?

One of the great things about the Summer Singers is that it gives singers a chance to get their voices back in shape, or keep them in shape during the traditional off-season. Sectional rehearsals are held periodically to help singers learn their part. We would also recommend that singers purchase a recording of the scheduled works. Listening to a quality recording will help you understand how the parts fit together. It will also increase your excitement for the concerts.

May I enroll in both the Summer Singers of Lee's Summit and the Summer Singers of Kansas City?

Yes! Of course. The Summer Singers of Lee's Summit will be performing a thrilling work, the MISSA CRIOLLA of Ariel Ramirez, reflecting the exuberance of Hispanic tradition. Rehearsals are Thursday nights in downtown Lee's Summit, beginning June 6, with dress rehearsal and concert, Saturday/Sunday/Monday, July 27/28/29. Tuition is the same. Enrolling in an additional summer chorus will require payment of tuition for the second program.

What do singers wear for concerts?

Men are asked to wear a dark suit with a white shirt and a long dark tie. Women are asked to wear a black dress, or black blouse with black trousers. All are asked to wear black shoes. You do not need to purchase any attire for Summer Singers' concerts. Get as close as you can with items from your own closet. However, ALL SINGERS are asked to refrain from fragrances at ANY rehearsal or concert.

More Questions? Call the Choral Foundation Home Office at 913-488-7524, or email Mail@FestivalSingers.org Information about the Summer Singers, and registration materials can be found at www.ChoralFoundation.org.

PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ENJOY GREAT MUSIC
FEEL FREE TO COPY AND DISTRIBUTE THIS INFORMATION FAR AND WIDE

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING
THE SUMMER SINGERS OF KANSAS CITY**

The Summer Singers of Kansas City

A Program of The William Baker Choral Foundation, Inc.

5450 Buena Vista Street, Suite 100, Roeland Park, Kansas 66205 Office: 913-488-7524

E-mail: Mail@FestivalSingers.org Internet: www.ChoralFoundation.org

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY SEASON REGISTRATION - 2024

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!

Name _____

Voice Part: S1 S2 A1 A2 T1 T2 B1 B2

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone (_____) _____ Cell Phone (_____) _____

E-mail _____

Do you presently sing with a local community chorus and/or church choir? Yes No

If so, please list the name(s) of the choir(s) and the conductor(s):

Choir _____ Conductor _____

Choir _____ Conductor _____

Are there any events between June 11 & August 25 that you know now you must miss?

If so, please CIRCLE the dates here:

June 11 June 18 June 25 July 9 July 16 July 23

July 30 August 6 August 13 August 20 August 25 (dress rehearsal/concert)

Your signature is a commitment to participate in the 2024 Summer Singers of Kansas City. If possible, please include your check with this registration. If necessary, however, you may pay tuition at the first rehearsal or apply for tuition assistance. Though unexpected the Choral Foundation reserves the right to change announced repertoire, instrumentation, and/or soloists if such becomes necessary for any reason.

Signature/Date _____

Please make your check payable to: **Summer Singers of Kansas City** and mail it to:

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

_____ \$95 tuition enclosed (\$85 before May 1) _____ (\$70 Student/Director)

_____ Pay at First Rehearsal _____ Tuition Assistance Information Requested

*** Prefer to use your credit card? Please register online at www.ChoralFoundation.org/registernow ***

The Summer Singers of Kansas City

WILLIAM O. BAKER, DMA, Music Director & Conductor
CHRISTINE M. FREEMAN, MME, Associate Music Director
JAMEA J. SALE, PhD, Executive Associate Director

OUR 25th ANNIVERSARY SUMMER OF SINGING Ernest Bloch's Sacred Service AVODATH HAKODESH

Rehearsals Tuesday Evenings, 7:00-9:30, beginning June 11
GRACE & HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL - KANSAS CITY
Concert Sunday, August 25
Helzberg Hall of the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Tuition Only \$95 (\$85 if paid before May 1, 2024)
(\$70 Students & Members of ACDA, AGO, MMEA, KMEA or NAFME)
Confidential Tuition Assistance Available In Cases of Need
Participation in Both Lee's Summit & Kansas City Summer Singers Welcome

NO AUDITION REQUIRED

Adult Singers & Mature Youth 16 & Older

Call 913-488-7524 or e-mail Mail@FestivalSingers.org

Register online at www.ChoralFoundation.org/registernow

The Summer Singers of Kansas City is an ensemble of The William Baker Choral Foundation, Inc.