

The Summer Singers of Kansas City

The William Baker Choral Foundation, Inc.
Home Office: 5450 Buena Vista Street #100, Roeland Park, KS 66205
913.403.9223 Mail@FestivalSingers.org www.FestivalSingers.org

Tuesday, 1 March 2017

Dear Singing Friends & Colleagues,

Writing in a leading newspaper, music critic Pierre Ruhe called the Summer Singers experience "...the best of amateur music making." Since coming to Kansas City in 1999, the Summer Singers has brought people together from across the region to prepare and perform immortal masterworks along with a diverse collection of choral classics, folk songs and spirituals. For our 2017 summer of singing we have chosen a work that is one of the most respected oratorios in music history, **Handel's JUDAS MACCABAEUS**. We will perform the oratorio with soloists Sarah Tannehill Anderson, Kristee Haney, David Adams and Joshua Lawlor with members of the Kansas City Symphony. The performance length of the work as edited for our purposes will be about 90 minutes.

The Summer Singers of Kansas City will rehearse each Tuesday evening, 7:00-9:30, beginning June 6, in Haden Hall at the Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral, Broadway at 13th Street in downtown Kansas City. (There will be a mid-summer break with no rehearsals July 4 & 11.) Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral is easily accessible by interstate highways from any part of the Kansas City region. Our summer will culminate in a public performances on Sunday afternoon, August 20, also at the Cathedral.

You are receiving this special invitation because you are a member or alumnus of the Summer Singers, or the William Baker Festival Singers, or it has been forwarded to you by a friend. Membership in the 2017 Summer Singers of Kansas City is limited to the first 150 registrants. Since we know that this exciting and diverse music will be very popular with prospective members, we want to ensure that our loyal friends have an opportunity to secure their place in the chorus before public media announcements are made.

The following YouTube clips will give you a taste of the Summer Singers experience. They are excerpts from the 2012 and 2013 Summer Singers of Kansas City: <http://youtu.be/jMhLIiTviMQ> <http://youtu.be/jMhLIiTviMQ> and the full performance of the Mozart REQUIEM from 2015: <https://youtu.be/eIXQc8zMfd4>

Tuition for the 2016 Summer Singers is only \$85 per person. Students and Music Directors who are members of ACDA, AGO, KMEA, MMEA or NafME may register anytime for \$50. Tuition is not refundable, but you may apply it to a future season of the Summer Singers if you are unable to participate. Tuition assistance is available in cases of financial need. As a Core Value of the Foundation, no one is ever denied a benefit of our organization based on the ability to pay.

To ensure your place in the 2017 Summer Singers of Kansas City, please complete the enclosed form and return it with your tuition check to the address indicated. **If you prefer to register online, you may do so beginning March 1 at www.FestivalSingers.org**. You will receive a confirmation of your registration by email. You are also encouraged to photocopy these materials and share them with a friend or colleague.

We are counting on seeing you, and hearing you, in Kansas City this summer!

Soli Deo Gloria,

Dr. William Baker, Music Director

THE 2017 SUMMER SINGERS OF KANSAS CITY F-A-Q

Who is invited to participate in Summer Singers?

All adults regardless of their musical background are invited to sing, but the ability to read music is strongly recommended. No audition is required. Places in the chorus are assured for the first 150 registrants. 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.

What is the schedule of rehearsals and concerts?

| | | | | |
|----|--------|-----|------------|--|
| TU | June | 6: | 7:00-9:30 | Rehearsal |
| TU | June | 13: | 7:00-9:30 | Rehearsal |
| TU | June | 20: | 7:00-9:30 | Rehearsal |
| TU | June | 29: | 7:00-9:30 | Rehearsal |
| TU | July | 4: | 7:00-9:30 | NO Rehearsal - Independence Day |
| TU | July | 11: | 7:00-9:30 | NO Rehearsal - Break for Choral Honors Institute |
| TU | July | 18: | 7:00-9:30 | Rehearsal |
| TU | July | 25: | 7:00-9:30 | Rehearsal |
| TU | August | 1: | 7:00-9:30 | Rehearsal |
| TU | August | 8: | 7:00-9:30 | Rehearsal |
| TU | August | 15: | 7:00-9:30 | Rehearsal |
| ST | August | 19: | 9:00-12:00 | Final Rehearsal |
| SU | August | 20: | 12:30 | Warm-up Call |
| | | | 2:00 | PERFORMANCE |

Where are rehearsals and concerts located?

All rehearsals are in Haden Hall at Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral, Broadway at 13th Street in KCMO. Concerts are in the Cathedral nave. Plenty of off-street parking is available on site.

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

Tuition for the 2016 Summer Singers of Kansas City is \$85. Students and Music Directors, members of ACDA, AGO, MMMEA, KMEA or NafME may register at anytime for \$50. Those electing to pay tuition early enable the Foundation to save money on flights and music by making purchases well in advance of need. The tuition helps fund the Choral Foundation, paying staff salaries, orchestra costs, promotional mailings and announcements, printed materials, music scores and inter-city transportation for our conductor. For the record, tuition payments and concert ticket sales pay only a portion of these expenses. The balance is made up by generous gifts to the Choral Foundation. Tuition is NOT refundable for any reason.

What is the Choral Foundation?

The Choral Foundation is a national organization founded in Atlanta in 1990. Based in KC since 1998, it sponsors three adult semi-professional choruses, the William Baker Festival Singers in Kansas City, the Lynn Swanson Festival Singers in Atlanta and Zimria Festivals, in addition to the Summer Singers of Atlanta begun in 1990, the Summer Singers of Kansas City begun in 1999, and the Cobb Community Summer Singers begun in 2006. The Summer Singers of Northwest Georgia was added in 2010, and the Summer Singers of Lee's Summit in 2014. The Foundation (www.FestivalSingers.org) also includes Amber Waves Music (www.AmberWavesPublishing.com) and the Institute for Healthy Singing (www.HealthySinging.org). The Choral Foundation is a 501-c-3 tax exempt corporation.

What if I can't pay tuition?

The By-Laws and Core Values of the Choral Foundation (read them at www.FestivalSingers.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 tuition assistance application ONLY if the need is truly genuine.

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

Yes, of course. Tuition of the Summer Singers of Lee's Summit is also \$85. The Summer Singers of Lee's Summit will be performing a program called SUMMER MUSIC FIT FOR A KING to include Handel CORONATION ANTHEMS, Mozart: CORONATION MASS, and spirituals on "kingly" themes.

I would love to sing, but my family will be away on vacation and I will 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.

In addition to William Baker, who is on the staff of the Summer Singers?

Dr. Baker will personally direct all rehearsals of the Summer Singers with the single exception of his own vacation week with his family. He will be assisted by Christine Freeman, Associate Music Director & Senior Vocal Coach for Kansas City area ensembles who has been on our staff since 2008. Education Director Jamea Sale and Organist/Accompanist Dr. Steven McDonald will complete the staff.

What do singers wear for concerts?

Men are asked to wear a black (or dark) suit with white shirt and long dark tie. Ladies are asked to wear a black dress, or black blouse with black skirt or slacks. 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.

The concert is open to the public. What are ticket prices?

Tickets are \$20 adults/\$15 students with ID to the general public. Youth 17 & under are welcomed for \$5. Audience members who cannot afford the concert ticket are welcomed to their seat without charge according to the Foundation's "no barriers" policy. (See our Mission & Core Values at www.FestivalSingers.org.) Again, we rely on the honor system to ensure that the inability to pay for tickets is genuine.

More Questions? Call 913.403.9223 or e-mail Mail@FestivalSingers.org Information about the Summer Singers, and registration materials can be found at www.FestivalSingers.org.

Please Enjoy Videos of Summer Singers concerts on our YouTube Channel: WBakerCF

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF 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: 913.403.9223

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NINETEENTH SEASON REGISTRATION - 2017

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!

Name _____

Voice Part: S1 S2 A1 A2 T1 T2 B1 B2

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Cell Phone (_____) _____ Other (_____) _____

E-mail _____

Do you presently sing with a local 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 rehearsals or concerts between June 6 & August 20 that you know now you must miss?

If so, please CIRCLE the dates here:

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| June 6 | June 13 | June 20 | June 27 | |
| July 18 | July 25 | August 1 | August 8 | August 15 |
| August 19 (final rehearsal) | August 20 (concert) | | | |

Your signature is a commitment to participate in the 2017 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. Tuition is not refundable 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
_____ \$85 tuition enclosed _____ \$50 Student/Music Director
_____ Pay at First Rehearsal _____ Tuition Assistance Information Requested

Prefer to use a credit card? Please register online at www.FestivalSingers.org

The Summer Singers of Kansas City

Dr. William O. Baker, Music Director & Conductor

Christine Freeman, Associate Music Director & Vocal Coach

Jamea Sale, Education Director Dr. Steven McDonald, Accompanist

**Kansas City's Original Summer Chorus Invites
YOU to Join Our Nineteenth Summer of Singing**

GEORG FRIDERIC HANDEL JUDAS MACCABAEUS

Sung in English - 90 Minute Edition

PERFORMED WITH PROFESSIONAL ORCHESTRA & SOLOISTS

**Rehearsals Tuesday Evenings, 7:00-9:30, beginning June 6
Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral, Broadway at 13 in Kansas City**

TUITION ONLY \$85

SPECIAL RATE: STUDENTS & MEMBERS OF ACDA, AGO MMEA & KMEA: \$50
CONFIDENTIAL TUITION ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE IN CASES OF GENUINE NEED

NO AUDITION REQUIRED

Adult Singers & Mature Youth in Grades 9-12

Membership Limited to the First 150 Singers - Register Today!

Recent Concert Excerpts On YouTube (WBakerCF)

Call 913.403.9223 or e-mail Mail@FestivalSingers.org

You may register online using your credit card at

www.FestivalSingers.org