

The Choral Foundation & the Georgia Council for the Arts presents

# Carols By Candlelight With the Festival Singers

*Our 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration of the Beauty & Wonder of Christmas*

## The New South Festival Singers

**Lynn Swanson, Music Director & Conductor**

Jeffrey Kershner, percussion    Vince Evans, organ

Ivy Belk Pirl, piano    George Bulter, cello

Amy Thropp & Kristin Moores, recorder

Sunday Evening, 4 December 2022

St. John United Methodist Church

Atlanta, Georgia

*Awake the sleeping world with song,  
This is the day the Lord has made.  
Assemble here celestial throng,  
In royal splendor come arrayed.  
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

**Lynn Swanson, MME**

Director, New South Festival Singers  
Director, Cobb Summer Singers  
Creator, Institute for Healthy Singing

**William O. Baker, DMA**

Creator & Director of the Choral Foundation

**Jamea J. Sale, Ph.D.**

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**The William Baker Choral Foundation, Inc.**

5450 Buena Vista Street, Suite 100

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*Terrell Abney '07*

*Kristin Boyle '14*

*Steve Brailsford '14*

*James Cordell '21*

*George Evans '16*

*Vince Evans '14*

*David Folkes '22*

*Marla Franks '03*

*Felicia Hernandez '04*

*Laura Hotchkiss '21*

*Mark Kagika '14*

*Jody Kershner '09*

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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 in Atlanta. She is, unmistakably, one of the most significant music leaders of our time in the Atlanta community.

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*



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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 &

Conductor Lynn Swanson.

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,



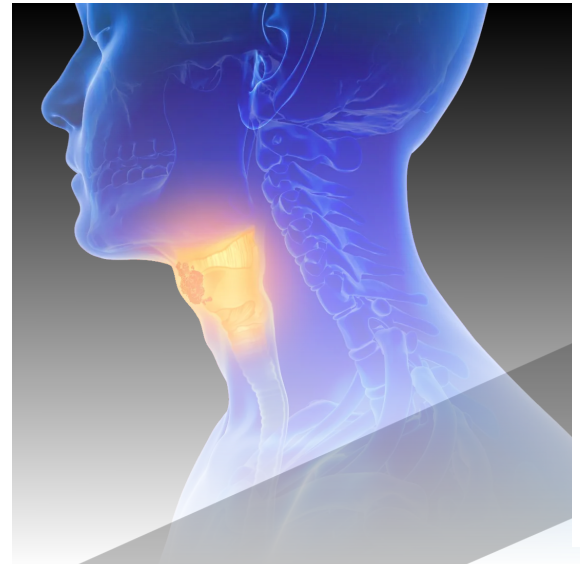
having appeared in Birmingham’s Divinity Chapel, Atlanta’s Spivey Hall, the DeKalb International Choral Festival, Canterbury Cathedral, and the Bristol (England) Festival, in addition to annual performances before capacity audiences at the Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston, South Carolina, since 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, North Carolina and Missouri.

[www.NewSouthFestivalSingers.org](http://www.NewSouthFestivalSingers.org)

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*Come to Bethlehem and see Him Whose birth the angels sing,  
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the New-Born King!  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

*See Him in a manger laid, Whom the choirs of angels praise;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise!  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

**In the Bleak Midwinter** - Gustav HOLST, 1874-1934; Words of Christine Rossetti, 1830-1894

*In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.*

*Angels and archangels may have gathered there,  
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;  
But His mother only, in her maiden bliss,  
Worshipped the Beloved with a kiss.*

**O Come, All Ye Faithful** - Latin Traditional; Arranged by David Willcocks

*O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold Him, Born the King of Angels:  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!*

*The highest most holy, Light of Light eternal,  
Born of a Virgin, a mortal He comes,  
Son of the Father, now in flesh appearing:  
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!*

*Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above,  
Glory to God, Glory in the highest,  
O Come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!*

**READING III** *Seek the Lord while He may be found...*

**COMFORT, COMFORT NOW MY PEOPLE**

*German Traditional arranged by John Ferguson*

**RIU, RIU, CHIU**

*Spanish Traditional arranged by Noah Greenberg*

Scott Smith, David Folkes & Felicia Hernandez, soloists

**GAUDATE! CHRISTUS NATUS EST**

*Anonymous, Piae Cantiones, 1582, arranged by Adrian M. Wall  
George Evans, Scott Smith, Terrell Abney & Sue Lawton, soloists*

**THE BOAR'S HEAD**

*English Traditional arranged by Alice Parker*

Men of the Festival Singers

Vince Evans, James Cordell, Benjamin Raynor & Steve Brailsford, soloists

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE WASSAIL

*English Traditional arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams*

Benjamin Raynor, Mark Kagika, Jody Kershner, Kristin Moores, Steve Brailsford, Kristin Boyle, Yolanda Phillips, Sarah Sambol, Terrell Abney, James Cordell & George Evans in solo and ensemble

**READING IV** *How beautiful upon the mountains...*

## GLORY, GLORY TO THE NEWBORN KING

*American Spiritual arranged by Moses Hogan*

David Folkes, soloist

## RETIRING PROCESSION “Hark, the Herald Angels Sing”

MENDELSSOHN

*The Audience Will Please Rise and Sing*

*Hark, the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.  
Joyful all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies.  
With angelic hosts proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”  
Hark, the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”*

*Christ by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of the Virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail th’Incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as Man with men to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.  
Hark, the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”*

*Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace, hail the Son of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glories by; born that Man no more may die.  
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.  
Hark, the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”*

*The Musical Family of the Choral Foundation & The New South Festival Singers  
Wishes You and Yours a Merry Christmas & A Joyous New Year!*

## *Organist Vince Evans*

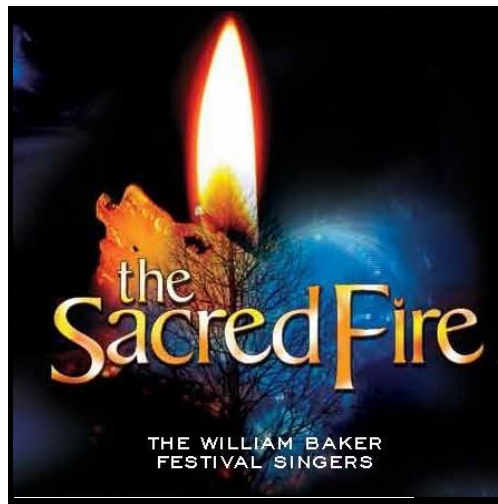


Vince Evans began his journey in the musical world with piano studies at age 5 and organ studies at age 10. At age 15 he was given the post of associate organist and music assistant at the First Baptist Church of Jasper, GA. The church also provided Vince the opportunity to study organ with Sarah Martin in Atlanta during his high school years. After high school graduation, he attended Shorter College in Rome, GA studying organ with Dr. Peter DeWitt earning bachelor degrees in Church Music/Organ and Vocal Performance. Vince pursued graduate studies in organ with Wilma Jenson at Scarritt Graduate School, Nashville and then later with Dr. Albert Travis at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth completing masters degrees in both organ and vocal performance. Vince presently serves Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Marietta, GA as full-time Minister of Music and Organist, and also the Lovett School as chapel organist.

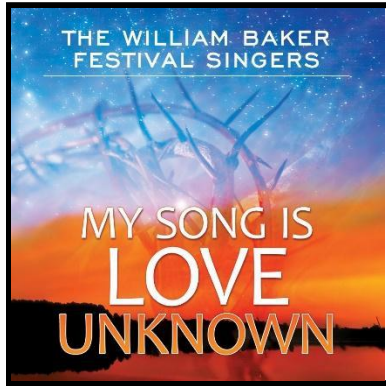


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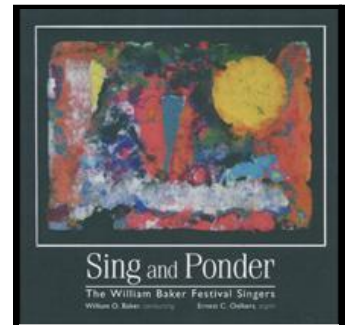
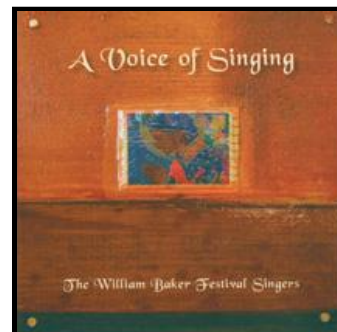
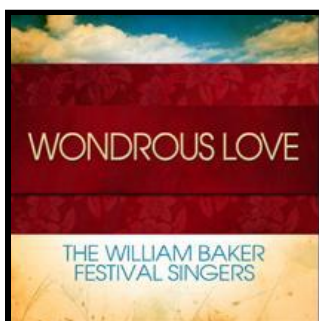
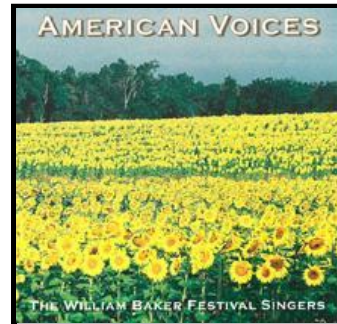
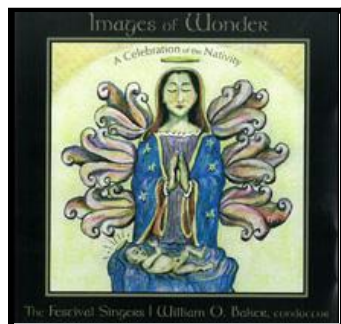
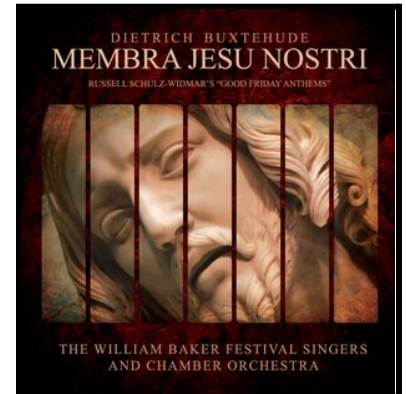
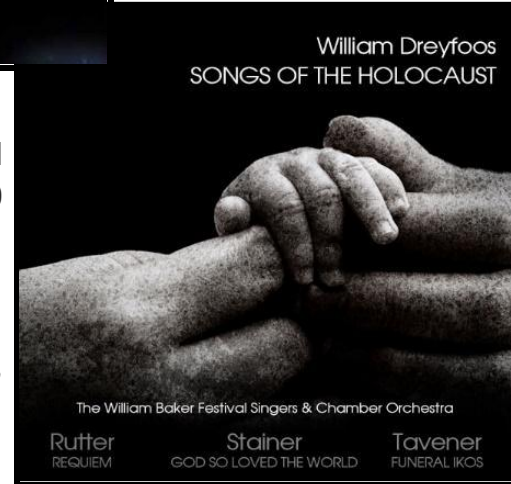


THE SACRED FIRE  
 January/February 2020



Rutter REQUIEM  
 November/December 2020

Both lauded in  
*The American Record Guide*



# William Baker Choral Foundation Center

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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

**Summer Singers of Atlanta**, Midtown Atlanta, 1990

Andrew Phillip Schmidt, MM, Music Director & Conductor

**Zimria Festivale Atlanta**, Dunwoody, Georgia, 2014

Amy Thropp, MM, Music Director & Conductor

**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

**Voces Festivas**, Roeland Park, Kansas, 2021

Leilani Velasco Vaughn, Music Director

**Kansas City Bronze**, Roeland Park, Kansas, 2018

**Vox Venti**, Chicago, Illinois, 2022

Ed Frazier Davis, MM, Music Director & Conductor

**Smoky Mountain Summer Singers**, Waynesville, North Carolina, 2023

Amy Thropp, MM, Music Director & Conductor

**Institute for Healthy Singing & Voice Research**, Roeland Park, Kansas, 2015

Jamea J. Sale, PhD, Director Lynn Swanson, MME, Founder

**Institute for Choral Creativity**, Chicago, Illinois, 2020

Ed Frazier Davis, MM, Director

**Choral Conversations Podcast with William Baker & Jamea Sale**, Roeland Park, Kansas, 2018

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