

*The Choral Foundation & the Kenneth Babcock Memorial Music Fund,  
With Support from ArtsKC, Presents Our 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Home Concert*

# **The William Baker Festival Singers**

Dr. William O. Baker, Music Director & Conductor

Christine Freeman, MME, Associate Music Director & Senior Vocal Coach

Jamea J. Sale, MME, Executive Associate Director   Lynn Swanson, MME, Guest Conductor

Ed Frazier Davis, MM, Director, Institute for Choral Creativity

Dr. Sean Sweeden, Composer in Residence   Emily Fish, Choral Intern

## ***Kansas City Home Concert***

***With Allegro Con Spirito, Kelli Baker, director***

Sunday Afternoon, 1 May 2022

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Kansas City, Missouri



*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.*

**SOLI DEO GLORIA**

*What wondrous love is this, O my soul?*

# The William Baker Festival Singers

**William O. Baker, DMA**

Founder & Music Director

**Jamea J. Sale, MME**

WBCF Executive Associate Director  
Director, Institute for Healthy Singing

**Lynn Swanson, MME**

Music Director, New South Festival Singers  
Music Director, Cobb Summer Singers  
Music Director, Smoky Mountain Summer

**Andrew Phillip Schmidt, MM**

Music Director, Summer Singers of Atlanta

**Amy Thropp, MM**

Music Director, Zimria Festivale Atlanta

**Jennifer Lahasky, MM**

Director, Summer Singers of Lee's Summit

**Leilani Velasco Vaughn**

Music Director, Voces Festivas

**Ed Frazier Davis, MM**

Senior Composer in Residence  
Director, Institute for Choral Creativity  
Music Director, Vox Venti Chicago

**Christine M. Freeman, MME**

Associate Music Director/Kansas City

**Scott C. Smith**

Choral Associate & Administrator, Atlanta

**Sean Sweeden, DMA**

Composer in Residence

**Emily Fish**

Choral Intern

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

5450 Buena Vista Street, Suite 100

Roeland Park, Kansas 66205 913.488.7524

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*Daniel Baker '22*

*Laura Rene Baker '99*

*Chris Barnard '09*

*David Beckers '02*

*Dale Bolyard '19*

*William Brubaker '15*

*Jamie Cailteux '21*

*Ed Frazier Davis '16*

*Eric Edman '12*

*Emily Fish '18*

*Christine M. Freeman '06*

*Emily Freeman '21*

*Karen Kay Hall '12*

*Chip Handrich '21*

*Marcia Higginson '02*

*Jill Holtkamp '07*

*Daniel Huxman '19*

*Jim Jandt '01*

*\*Gary Jarrett '02*

*Kathleen Kennedy '11*

*Amanda Kimbrough '08*

*Ross Kimbrough '11*

*\*Section Leader*

*\*Jennifer Labasky '14*

*Roger McDougale '18*

*Kimberly Megow '19*

*Ken Moncrieff '19*

*Megan Moore '20*

*Martina Pezzino '16*

*\*Brad Piroutek '01*

*Julie Piroutek '07*

*Jamie Roberts '12*

*Jamea Sale '02*

*Erica Seago '17*

*Ethan Sberman '17*

*Cindy Sheets '09*

*Pratima Singh '06*

*Sean Sweeden '16*

*Jessika Toro '19*

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## *Dr. William O. Baker, Music Director & Conductor*



**William O. Baker** has earned a reputation as an entrepreneurial conductor and creator of choral organizations. He founded the DeKalb Choral Guild in 1978 at the age of 19. By the age of 21 he had conducted Brahms' *Ein deutsches Requiem*, Vivaldi's *Gloria*, Schubert's *Mass in G*, and Handel's *Messiah* with professional orchestras, launching a career of ambitious artistic leadership that now has extended 45 years. In the last decade alone he has conducted the *St. Matthew Passion* and the *Mass in B minor* of Bach, and the *Sacred Service* of Ernest Bloch, at the time of the performances the only Kansas City-based conductor to lead the works in over a quarter-century.

Baker created the Atlanta-based William Baker Festival Singers, originally called Gwinnett Festival Singers, in 1985, and established the William Baker Choral Foundation in 1990. In 1998 the conductor moved his home to the Kansas City area and created the Kansas City ensemble of the Festival Singers. The Choral Foundation has created over a dozen ensembles based in five states, involving hundreds of musicians each year. His ensembles have performed for conventions of the American Choral Directors Association, the National Association for Music Education, and the American Guild of Organists, in addition to the 1982 World's Fair and music festivals in the United States and Great Britain, most notably appearances before capacity audiences at Charleston's Piccolo Spoleto Festival since 1989. He has led the Festival Singers in the production of over two dozen nationally released recordings and in television and radio appearances across the nation, including *The First Art*, *The Sounds of Majesty* and National Public Radio's *Performance Today*.

No stranger to the orchestral podium, William Baker created the Mountain Park Wind Symphony in 1994, the Kansas City Wind Symphony in 1998 and Kansas City Bronze in 2018. Primary orchestral performances have included Vivaldi: *The Seasons*, Sibelius: *Finlandia*, Bach: *Brandenburg Concerto No. 2*, Bizet: *Suite L'Arlesienne*, Haydn: *Symphony No. 59 "Fire,"* Mozart: *Symphony No. 41*, Beethoven: *Symphony No. 7* and *Symphony No. 9*. Choral collaborations have included projects with members of the Kansas City Symphony, the Kazanetti Chamber Orchestra, the Atlanta Youth Symphony Orchestra, the Kansas City Civic Orchestra, the Baton Rouge Symphony, the Gwinnett Symphony Orchestra, the Charleston Symphony Orchestra and the Orchestra of the American Heartland.



Dr. Baker served as Minister of Music for significant Lutheran, Episcopal, Presbyterian and United Methodist congregations across the South and the Midwest. Major appointments have included the historic Grace United Methodist Church in Midtown Atlanta and The Village Church in suburban Kansas City, the nation's second largest Presbyterian congregation. He presently serves as Music Director for the historic St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Lee's Summit, Missouri. He is the author of two devotional books: *Hearts & Hands & Voices* and *Wonder, Love & Praise*. Dr. Baker is co-host of *Choral Conversations*, a monthly podcast with Jamea Sale.

An Atlanta native, Dr. Baker studied voice and choral conducting at Mercer University and the University of Georgia before culminating his formal education at the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago where he earned the Doctor of Musical Arts in Choral Conducting. His accomplishments have been recognized in his home states through proclamations by two Georgia Governors, Joe Frank Harris and Sonny Purdue, by Kansas Governor Jeff Colyer, by United States Congressman Phil Gingrey, by proclamations from the cities of Kansas City, MO and Roeland Park, KS, by the Johnson County (KS) Commission, and by a 2015 proclamation by the State of Georgia House of Representatives. In 2012 he was honored for his contributions to the cultural life of his hometown by the Pro-Mozart Society of Atlanta. In 2015 he was named Conductor Emeritus of The DeKalb Choral Guild.

# *The William Baker Festival Singers*

*Second Place National Winner of the 2021 American Prize in Choral Performance*  
*Second Place National Winner of the 2021 Ernst Bacon Award for American Music*



The William Baker Festival Singers has been hailed by *The Kansas City Star* as “The best of the several volunteer choirs in the city...” Though the membership of the 50-voice semi-professional chorale is comprised entirely of volunteers, a large majority of the singers hold music degrees and many are vocational musicians. It is the mission of the Festival Singers to bring the highest standards of musicianship and professionalism to the realm of volunteer choirs. Now culminating its 24<sup>th</sup> concert season, the metro Kansas City-based ensemble has enjoyed numerous triumphs through a tradition of ambitious concerts, recording, touring and broadcasting.

Tours have included performances in some of America’s most prestigious venues, including Trinity Wall Street Church in New York City, The National Cathedral and the Basilica of the National Shrine in Washington, DC, the Cathedral Basilica in St. Louis, St. James Cathedral in Chicago, St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans, the Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Atlanta, and the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts in Kansas City. Their richness of tone, diversity of programming and expressiveness has won praise from audiences and critics alike. In April 2013 the Festival Singers presented their debut concert in Helzberg Hall, a performance that featured the *Requiem* of Maurice Durufle performed with members of the Kansas City Symphony. John Heuertz, in the *Kansas City Star* said, “It’s hard to know where to begin praising this chorus’ performance...What came across Thursday night above all was the great warmth in this chorus’ singing. It was almost like hearing a family.”

The signature repertoire of the William Baker Festival Singers is short-form sacred a cappella classics and spirituals from all eras and cultures. The chorus also performs a major choral/orchestral masterwork each spring. Recent concerts have included the *Requiems* of Faure, Durufle, Mozart, Brahms and Rutter, the *Dona Nobis Pacem* of Vaughan Williams, and the *Laudes Organi* of Kodaly. The Festival Singers own the distinction of being the first Kansas City-based ensemble to perform the *Mass in B minor* and the *St. Matthew Passion* of Bach, in addition to Ernest Bloch’s *Avodath Hakodesh (Sacred Service)* in a quarter century.

***Please Follow and Like Us On: Facebook (William Baker Festival Singers)***  
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The 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 five states involving hundreds of men, women and youth. The Foundation also sponsors **Amber Waves Music Publishing**, the **Jane Sullivan Choral Resource Library**, the **Institute for Healthy Singing**, the **Institute for Choral Creativity**, the **Choral Conversations Podcast**, and an ambitious continuing education program for **Choral Interns**.

For additional information, please call the Home Office of the Choral Foundation at 913.488.7524, or email [Mail@FestivalSingers.org](mailto:Mail@FestivalSingers.org).

## **JAMEA SALE, WBCF Executive Associate Music Director Director of the Institute for Healthy Singing**

**Jamea Sale** is a native of Colby, Kansas. She graduated from Kansas State University in Manhattan in 1987 with a Bachelor of Music in Voice and Instrumental Music Education, and in 2012 she completed the Master of Music in Vocal/Choral Pedagogy at the University of Kansas in Lawrence. She met rigorous requirements for membership to the International Voice Care Network at St. John's University in 2010. Other memberships include ACDA, NAFME, NATS, and Olathe Music Teachers Association.

Jamea has been a member and soloist with the William Baker Festival Singers and the Summer Singers of Kansas City since 2002, and served as Student Intern for the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 concert seasons. She was appointed as Choral Assistant in Kansas City in August 2012, Education Director for the Institute for Healthy Singing in 2016, Executive Associate Music Director of the William Baker Choral Foundation in 2017, and Director of the Institute for Healthy Singing in 2018.



With a certification in Preschool Musikgarten Education, Jamea led experiential music programs for parents and toddlers for five years. She served as Assistant Choral Director and Vocal Coach at St. James Academy High School in Lenexa, Kansas, for 3 years and has taught Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade music in the Olathe School District. Presently she serves as the Vocal Coach and Choral Assistant for Allegro con Brio & Allegro con Moto. In her Roeland Park, KS studio (JameaSale.com) Ms. Sale works with singers of all ages, including persons in need of vocal recovery treatment.

In cooperation with the Institute for Healthy Singing and Allegro Choirs of KC, and in collaboration with the Zhuhai Classical Children's Chorus and the University of Kansas' Dr. Melissa Grady, Ms. Sale is conducting a Longitudinal Examination of the Progression of Voice Change in Adolescent Females. The study in process is documenting 100 young female singers' vocal development over the course of 9 months. Ms. Sale is available for group workshops and private consultation through the Institute for Healthy Singing. Contact her directly at JSale@FestivalSingers.org.

## **CHRISTINE M. FREEMAN, Associate Music Director & Senior Vocal Coach**

Christine M. Freeman was appointed Associate Music Director of Kansas City ensembles and Senior Vocal Coach for the William Baker Choral Foundation in August 2011. She is a native of Topeka, Kansas. Mrs. Freeman holds a Bachelor of Music Education, emphasis Voice, and a Master of Music Education in Choral Pedagogy from the University of Kansas in Lawrence. She was appointed to membership in The William Baker Festival Singers in 2006, and served as Student Intern for the Choral Foundation in the 2007-2008 season, where she conducted Foundation ensembles in Kansas City, Atlanta, and at the Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston. Christine Freeman has conducted the Festival Singers and the Summer Singers of Kansas City, along with members of the Kansas City Symphony, in performances of Vivaldi *Beatus Vir*, Haydn *Te Deum*, and Mozart *Regina Coeli*. She recently conducted the Festival Singers in performances at the National Cathedral, the Basilica of the National Shrine, and at the historic Christ Church in Alexandria, Virginia. She appears as soloist on recordings of the Festival Singers and as conductor on *A Festival for Christmas*, *Promised Land*, *The Sacred Fire*, and the newest release *True Religion*. She has been a featured soloist for the Lee's Summit Summer Singers and the *Hark! Christmas Spectacular*.



In addition to her work with the Choral Foundation, Mrs. Freeman is a Music Educator and is beginning her seventh year in the Blue Valley School District instructing middle school choral music. She previously taught elementary and middle school music for eight years in the Archdiocese of Kansas City, Kansas. She has been a clinician for honor choirs in Kansas and Missouri. Mrs. Freeman is active in professional organizations and was recently awarded by her colleagues the (ECKMEA) East Central Kansas Music Educators Association "Outstanding Middle Level Choir Teacher of the Year" Award. She was previously nominated for the (KCDA) Kansas Choral Directors Association "Prelude" Award. She was the KCDA Repertoire and Standards Chair for Children's Choirs from 2012-2015 where she organized the Statewide Treble Honor Choir. With her husband Daniel and their two children, she makes her home in Olathe, Kansas.

## **ED FRAZIER DAVIS, Director of the Institute for Choral Creativity & Senior Composer in Residence**

**Ed Frazier Davis** (b. 1989) is an English-American composer, baritone, and conductor living and working in Kansas City, Missouri. He was appointed Composer-in-Residence for the William Baker Choral Foundation in August 2016 and Director of the Institute for Choral Creativity in 2020.



Lauded for its "compelling, [...] colourful orchestration" (Musical Toronto), Ed's music is poly-stylistic and draws from many eclectic influences, from Medieval song to post-minimalism and practically everything in between. He has composed music for a wide variety of media, but as an experienced singer he has a particularly strong affinity for writing choral music. His music has been commissioned and performed throughout the world by many renowned performers and organizations, including Access Contemporary Music, the Aspen Music Festival, Bella Voce, The Crossing, soprano Erin Wall, the Lincoln Trio, PLEXUS, and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. Ultimately, he seeks to write music that breaks established artistic binaries—e.g. traditional vs. modern, accessible vs. unfamiliar—to create art that is fulfilling to as wide an audience as possible.

Ed's career has developed considerable momentum in the past few years. From 2012 to 2016, he served as Composer-in-Residence for the Chicago Chamber Choir, the last season of which was under renowned conductor and educator Doreen Rao. In 2014, he was named second place winner of the American Prize in Choral Composition (Student Division), as well as a finalist in Chanticleer's annual student composer competition. In 2015, he received the premiere of his first international commission from the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and Children's Chorus (conducted by Sir Andrew Davis), and was selected as one of four

composition fellows at the very first Big Sky Choral Initiative. In 2016, he made his Southern Hemisphere debut with an acclaimed commission from Melbourne-based chamber ensemble PLEXUS.

## ***Dr. Sean Sweeden, Composer in Residence***



A native Arkansan, **Sean Sweeden** began studying music with his parents at a young age, singing in church choirs, various ACDA honor choirs, and musical theatre. He studied percussion with Philip Parker, voice with Dr. Jon Clements, and saxophone with Kenneth Futterer at Arkansas Tech University, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Percussion and Vocal Performance. While there, Sean performed in a wide variety of ensembles including percussion ensemble, band, choir, jazz band, theatre orchestra, music theatre workshop, and opera workshop. In May 2013, he earned the Master of Music in Percussion Performance from the University of Arkansas, where he studied percussion with Chalon Ragsdale and composition with Dr. Robert Mueller. Sean received the Doctorate of Musical Arts in Percussion Performance at the University of Missouri at Kansas City in May 2018. While there, he studied with principal percussionist of the Kansas City Symphony, Christopher McLaurin, as well as Dr. Nick Petrella. Sean is published with C-Alan Publications, won the Lee University Percussion Ensemble Composition Contest in 2014, and the VocalEssence Welcome Christmas Carol Contest in 2016. Dr. Sweeden plans to compose for a variety of ensembles, but is especially interested in creating works that combine percussion and chorus. Sean continues to perform, teach, and study percussion, sing, and also further his compositional style. Sean was appointed to membership in The William Baker Festival Singers in 2016 and has been a featured soloist in numerous concerts and recordings. He was appointed Composer in Residence in 2020 and serves as a fellow of the Institute for Choral Creativity.

## ***Emily Fish, Choral Intern***



**Emily Fish** has been a member of the William Baker Festival Singers since 2018. She graduated *summa cum laude* with a Bachelor of Music Education from Kansas State University. During her time at KSU she participated in Women's Choir, Collegiate Choral, Grand Chorus, and a jazz ensemble. Mrs. Fish was the treasurer and secretary for the KSU chapter of the American Choral Directors' Association, and she conducted University Chorus and the Manhattan Community Choir her senior year. She is currently enrolled at Baker University working on her Orff-Schulwerk certification.

Emily teaches general music at Leawood Elementary school in the Blue Valley School district. She also leads the school's 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade chorus and teaches guitar lessons. She is hoping this experience as the 2021-22 choral intern will strengthen her conducting and leadership skills for choruses of all ages, and inform her emphasis of study in her upcoming master's work.

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## *Allegro Con Spirito*

**Allegro Con Spirito** is an energetic ensemble for young men with changed and changing voices. These men pride themselves on being part of a brotherhood of first-rate showmen and positive role models, as well as capable musicians with a flair for artistry. Spirito rehearsals are fast-paced with a focus on vocal development and musicianship skills. The group performs a wide variety of music from numerous styles and periods. Spirito tours annually, alternating between regional, national, and international tours.



**Kelli Baker, director**, believes that any person who loves to sing is a singer. As she always says, “If you can talk, you can sing!” Kelli was awarded her bachelor’s degree in music education from the University of Kansas in 2011 and completed her master’s degree in Music Education with an emphasis in choral pedagogy at KU in 2018. Kelli received training in vocal pedagogy and voice anatomy/physiology and has a special interest in adolescent changing voices. She is an active member of KMEA, ACDA and NAFME, and served as the Kansas Music Educators Association Middle Level Choir Assistant and Chair from 2012-2016. She received the Outstanding Music Educator Award from the University of Kansas in 2017. Over the last 10 years, Kelli has taught in the Gardner Edgerton School District, and she is currently teaching choir at Gardner Edgerton High School. Kelli is committed to serving singers throughout the Kansas City and surrounding area and served as the Associate Director of the Lawrence Children’s Choir from 2011-2021. Kelli and her husband have two energetic children, and they love camping together whenever they can! Kelli enjoys singing karaoke and reading a good book with a good cup of coffee.



**Amy Cramer, accompanist**, has been accompanying choirs since she was in junior high. She studied music education and accompanying at the University of Kansas and currently accompanies for the choir program at Shawnee Mission South. She also loves working in musical theatre and directs and accompanies for many local community theatre programs around the city. Cramer and her husband, Jim, have three children working in the performing arts.

## *Lynn Swanson, Guest Conductor*



**Lynn Swanson**, Director of the Cobb Summer Singers, the Smoky Mountain 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.

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, and the Smoky Mountain Summer Singers in 2022. 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.

# The 2022 Kansas City Home Concert

## The William Baker Festival Singers

Sunday, 1 May 2022, 3:00 PM, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Kansas City, Missouri

### Introit

All glory to my Savior,  
My heart is full of love.

### O GLADSOME LIGHT

Alexander GRETCHANINOV, 1864-1956  
J. Fischer & Brothers 4135-4

*Recorded by the William Baker Festival Singers  
on the Amber Waves album "Bound for Glory"*

O thou gladsome Light of heaven,  
Of the Father's holy glory,  
Immortal, heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ.  
Now are we come to the sun's hour of rest,  
And seeing the lights of e'en,  
Thy praise we sing, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, God Divine.  
O worthy art Thou at all times to be sung, O Son of God!  
Giver of life alone, All the world doth praise Thee.  
*-Greek Orthodox Liturgy, 3<sup>rd</sup> century*

*Recorded by the William Baker Festival Singers  
on the Amber Waves album "Wondrous Love"*

### I

### GOOD MORNING, BROTHER PILGRIM

American Traditional arranged by Alice Parker  
Lawson Gould Music 51330

Good morning, Brother Pilgrim,  
What, bound for Canaan's coast?  
March you towards Jerusalem  
To join the heavenly hosts?  
Pray, wherefore are you smiling  
While tears run down your face?  
We soon shall cease from toiling  
And reach that heavenly place.

To Canaan's coast we'll hasten  
To join the heavenly throng;  
Hark, from the banks of Jordan,  
How sweet the pilgrim's song!  
Their Jesus they are viewing;  
By faith we see Him too;  
We smile and weep and praise Him,  
And on our way pursue.

With streams of consolation  
We're filled as with new wine;  
We die to transient pleasures  
And live to things divine;  
We sink in holy raptures  
While viewing things above;

### THE ROAD HOME

American Traditional arranged by Stephen Paulus  
Paulus Publications SP370

Tell me where is the road I can call my own,  
That I left, that I lost so long ago?  
All these years I have wandered,  
Oh when will I know  
There's a way, there's a road that will lead me home.

After wind, after rain, when the dark is done,  
As I wake from a dream in the gold of day,  
Through the air there's a calling from far away,  
There's a voice I can hear that will lead me home.

Rise up, follow me, come away is the call,  
With a love in your heart as the only song;  
There is no such beauty as where you belong,  
Rise up, follow me, I will lead you home.  
*-Michael Dennis Browne, Born 1940*

*Amanda Kimbrough, soloist  
Choral Intern Emily Fish, conducting*

*Recorded by the William Baker Festival Singers  
on the Amber Waves album "My Song Is Love Unknown"*

### II

### THE WOUND IS THE LIGHT IS THE PLACE IS

Joseph N. RUBINSTEIN, Born 1986  
Composer Manuscript

The wound is the place where the light enters you.  
*-Jalāl ad-Dīn Muḥammad Rūmī, 1207-1273*

*Lynn Swanson, guest conductor*

*This work is the Second-Prize Winner of the 2021  
Composition Competition of the Institute for Choral  
Creativity, a WBCF educational program*



## COME TO ME IN DREAMS

Caroline MALLONEE, Born 1975

Composer Manuscript

Come to me in the silence of the night;  
Come to me in the speaking silence of a dream;  
Come with soft rounded cheeks and eyes as bright  
As sunlight on a stream;  
Come back in tears,  
O memory, hope, love of finished years.

O dream, how sweet, too sweet, too bitter sweet,  
Whose wakening should have been in Paradise,  
Where souls brimful of love abide and meet;  
Where thirsting longing eyes  
Watch the slow door  
That opening, letting in, lets out no more.

Yet come to me in dreams, that I may live  
My very life again though cold in death:  
Come back to me in dreams, that I may give  
Pulse for pulse, breath for breath:  
Speak low, lean low  
As long ago, my love, how long ago.

*-Christina Rossetti, 1830-1894*

*Lynn Swanson, guest conductor*

*This work is the First-Prize Winner of the  
2021 Composition Competition of the Institute for Choral  
Creativity, a WBCF educational program*

### III

## TWO MOTETS

Edward ELGAR, 1857-1934

Choral Public Domain Library

*Sung in Latin*

### Ave Verum Corpus

Hail, true Body, born of the Virgin Mary,  
having truly suffered, sacrificed on the cross for Mankind,  
From whose pierced side water and blood flowed:  
Be for us a foretaste in the trial of death!

O sweet Jesus, O holy Jesus,  
O Jesus, son of Mary,  
Have mercy on me. Amen.

*-Sequence Hymn for the Feast of Corpus Christi,  
Attributed to Pope Innocent III, 1160-1216  
-Based on Genesis 18:16 & Exodus 3:5*

### Ave Maris Stella

Hail, star of the sea, loving Mother of God,  
And also always a virgin, happy gate of heaven.

Receiving that Ave from Gabriel's mouth confirm us in peace,  
Reversing Eva's name.

Break the chains of sinners, bring light to the blind,  
Drive away our evils, ask for all good.

Show yourself to be a mother,  
May He accept prayers through you, He Who, born for us,  
Chose to be yours.

O unique virgin, meek above all,  
Make us, absolved from sin, gentle and chaste.

Keep life pure, make the journey safe,  
So that, seeing Jesus, we may always rejoice together.

Let there be praise to God the Father,  
Glory to Christ in the highest, to the Holy Spirit,  
One honor to all three. Amen.

*-Anonymous, 8<sup>th</sup> century*

*Emily Freeman, soloist  
Daniel Baker, organ  
Choral Intern Emily Fish, conducting*

### IV

## I CARRY YOUR HEART WITH ME

Sean SWEEDEN, Born 1987

Composer Manuscript

i carry your heart with me (i carry it in  
my heart) i am never without it (anywhere  
i go you go, my dear; and whatever is done  
by only me is your doing, my darling)

i fear no fate (for you are my fate, my sweet) i want  
no world (for beautiful you are my world, my true)  
and it's you are whatever a moon has always meant  
and whatever a sun will always sing is you

here is the deepest secret nobody knows  
(here is the root of the root and the bud of the bud  
and the sky of the sky of a tree called life; which  
grows higher than soul can hope or mind can hide)  
and this is the wonder that's keeping the stars apart

*-e. e. cummings, 1894-1962*

*Sean Sweeden, glockenspiel*

*This work was composed by Sean Sweeden for his wedding in  
2020, and premiered there by WBFS members and friends.  
Dr. Sweeden was appointed Composer in Residence in 2020*

## AT OUR LAST AWAKENING

Ed Frazier DAVIS, Born 1989  
Composer Manuscript

Bring us, O Lord God, at our last awakening  
Into the house and gate of heaven,  
To enter into that gate and to dwell in that house,  
Where there shall be no darkness nor dazzling,  
But one eternal light: no noise nor silence,  
But one equal music;  
No fears nor hopes, but one equal possession;  
No ends nor beginnings, but one equal eternity,  
In the habitation of Thy glory and dominion,  
World without end. Amen.

*-John Donne, 1572-1631*

*Ezgi Karakus, violoncello  
Tabitha Reist Steiner, harp*

*This work was commissioned by The William Baker Festival Singers and premiered on 14 March 2021. Mr. Davis was appointed Senior Composer in Residence in 2016*

## INTERMISSION OF FIFTEEN MINUTES

**Allegro Con Spirito, Kelli Baker, director**  
**Amy Cramer, accompanist**  
**Allegro Choirs of Kansas City**

## V

### VIVA TUTTI

Traditional Glee arranged by Ralph Hunter  
Lawson-Gould Music LG00778

*Sung in Italian*

Here's to women. Here's to all the lovely women.  
They who have no cruelty, Hail to them.  
They are lovely, they are beauty,  
Here's to all the lovely women.

*-Anonymous, 18<sup>th</sup> century*

## HALLELUJAH FOR THE DAY

Andrea RAMSEY, Born 1969  
Hal Leonard Music 08754488

Hallelujah for the day, and blessing for the night.  
The nets are filled, we have drawn them in,  
We have sung Your praise.  
What a blessing is the sea with fish in plenty.  
Lord, that is the story of Your grace.  
The nets tear, we cannot hold them all.

Lord, with Your praise we drop off to sleep.  
Carry us through the night,  
Make us fresh for the morning, O Lord our God.  
Hallelujah for the day!

*-Traditional Fisherman's Prayer in Ghana*

## MOUTH MUSIC

Celtic Traditional  
Set by Delores Keane & John Faulkner  
earthsongs

Dance to your shadow when it's good to be livin' lad,  
Dance to your shadow when there's nothing better near ye  
There are tunes in the river otter pools in the river  
And the river calls him.

There's music in the sighing of a reed;  
There's music in the gushing of a rill:  
There's music in all things, if men had ears  
Their earth is but an echo of the spheres.

## VI

### SUNWARD

SWEEDEN  
Composer Manuscript

Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth  
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;  
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth  
Of sun-split clouds, —and done a hundred things  
You have not dreamed of— wheeled and soared and swung  
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,  
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung  
My eager craft through footless halls of air...

Up, up the long, delirious burning blue  
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace  
Where never lark, or eagle ever flew—  
And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod  
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,  
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.

*-John Gillespie Magee, Jr., 1922-1941*

*Megan Moore & Sean Sweeden, soloists*

*Commissioned by The William Baker Festival Singers  
and premiered on 3 April 2022*

## NORTHERN LIGHTS

Ēriks EŠENVALDS, Born 1977

Musica Baltica MB 1366

*Sung in Latvian & English*

(On how many nights did we see Northern lights fighting?  
The Northern lights are fighting in the sky,  
They will bring wars on our land.)

It was night, and I had gone on deck several times  
Iceberg was silent; I too was silent  
It was true dark and cold  
At nine o'clock I was below in my cabin  
When the captain hailed me with the words:  
"Come above, Hall, at once! The world is on fire!"  
I knew his meaning, and, quick as thought  
I rushed to the companion stairs  
In a moment I reached the deck  
And as the cabin door swung open  
A dazzling light, overpowering light  
Burst upon my startled senses!  
Oh, the whole sky was one glowing mass of colored flames,  
So mighty, so brave!

Like a pathway of light the northern lights  
Seemed to draw us into the sky  
Yes, it was harp-music, wild storming in the darkness;  
The strings trembled and sparkled in the glow of the flames  
Like a shower of fiery darts  
A fiery crown of auroral light cast a warm glow  
Across the arctic ice  
Again at times it was like softly playing,  
gently rocking silvery waves  
On which dreams travel into unknown worlds.  
*-Charles Francis Hall, 1821-1871, & Fridtjof Nansen, 1861-1930*

*Daniel Baker, soloist*  
*Members of the Festival Singers, Chimes & Tuned Water Glasses*

## VII

### I WILL LIFT UP MINE EYES

Adolphus HAILSTORK, Born 1941

Theodore Presser Music 312-41723

#### I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes (Psalm 121)

I will lift up mine eyes to the hills  
From whence cometh my help.  
My help cometh from the Lord,  
Maker of heaven and earth.  
He will not suffer thy foot to be moved:  
He that keepeth thee will not slumber nor sleep.  
The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.

#### How Long? (Psalm 13)

How long, O Lord?  
How long, O Lord, wilt Thou forget me?  
How long wilt Thou hide Thy face from me?  
How long must I suffer in anguish  
In my soul and grief in my heart?  
Look now and answer me, O Lord.  
Give light, O lord, give light to my eyes,  
Lest I sleep the sleep of death.

#### The Lord Is My Shepherd (Psalm 23)

Alleluia! The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:  
He leadeth me beside still waters.  
He restoreth my soul:  
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me,  
Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me.  
Thou preparest a table before me  
In the presence of mine enemies:  
Thou annointest my head with oil;  
My cup runneth over.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me,  
All the days of my life.  
And I will dwell in the House of the Lord forever.

*Chip Handrich, soloist*  
*Karen Kay Hall, piano*

## VIII

### HE'LL MAKE A WAY

Byron J. SMITH, Born 1960

Onyx Choral Music Publishing BS0001

I know the Lord will make a way, Oh yes!  
If you trust and never doubt, He will bring you out.  
Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,  
That saved a wretch like me.  
His mercy is everlasting, His truth endures,  
And He sent His Son to set me free.  
Trust in Him, He'll show you the way!  
Swing down chariot, God will make a way!  
I know the Lord will make a way for you!  
My Lord, what a morning, He'll make a way!

*Jessika Toro, soloist,*  
*Denice Trawicki, piano*  
*Sean Sweeden, drums*

*Recorded by the William Baker Festival Singers*  
*on the Amber Waves album "American Voices"*

*Please join us in the Parish Hall following today's concert for a wine and cookie reception provided*  
*by the Board of Trustees of the William Baker Choral Foundation*

## *The Institute for Choral Creativity*

*Ed Frazier Davis, Director*

The Institute for Choral Creativity was created in 2020 as a national resource for creators of new choral works and for ensembles committed to the performance and championing of expressive creativity. The first Choral Music Competition in 2020 awarded First Prize to Dan Sabgzhabei for “Goli az dast beraft.” Second Prize was awarded to Samuel Wu for “There Will Come Soft Rains.” Both selections were premiered in Kansas City by The William Baker Festival Singers on May 2, 2021. “Goli az dast beraft” will receive its Atlanta and Charleston premiers later this month.

The First Prize Winner is Caroline Mallonee for “Come to Me in Dreams.” The Second Prize Winner is Joseph Rubinstein for “The Wound Is the Light Where the Place Is.” We are pleased to present the Kansas City premiers of these wonderful selections today, under the direction of Lynn Swanson. Ms. Swanson and The New South Festival Singers will offer the Atlanta premier of “Come to Me in Dreams” on May 22, and the Charleston premier at the Piccolo Spoleto Festival on May 30.



**Caroline Mallonee**, born 1975, is an award-winning composer and performer based in Buffalo, NY. Inspired by scientific phenomena, visual art, and musical puzzles, Mallonee has been commissioned to write new pieces for prominent ensembles including the New York Philharmonic, the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, Spektral Quartet, Firebird Ensemble, Present Music, Wet Ink Ensemble, Antares, PRISM Quartet, Ciompi Quartet, Ethos Percussion, and the Buffalo Chamber Players, for whom she serves as composer-in-residence. Mallonee’s music has been programmed at venues in New York City including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Symphony Space, Merkin Hall, Bargemusic, Tenri Cultural Center, Town Hall, Roulette, and Tonic, as well as further afield at the Long Leaf Opera Festival (NC), Carlsbad Music Festival (CA), Bennington Chamber Music Conference (VT), Cambridge Music Festival (UK), Tokyo Opera City (Japan), the Corcoran Gallery (Washington, DC), Turner Ballroom (Milwaukee, WI) and Jordan Hall (Boston, MA).

Her music has been performed by soloists including pianists Eric Huebner, Steven Beck, Stephen Gosling, and John McDonald, as well as Haruka Fujii (percussion), Natasha Farny (cello), Miranda Cuckson (violin), Amy Glidden (violin), Salley Koo (violin), Feng Hew (cello), Janz Castelo (viola) and Kimberly Sparr (viola). The New York Philharmonic included her music on its CONTACT! new music series at National Sawdust in 2015 and has commissioned a new piece as part of its Project 19 commissioning project. Mallonee has been recognized through commissions and awards from the Fromm Foundation, Meet The Composer, the Jerome Fund for New Music, and ASCAP, from which she received a Morton Gould Young Composers Award. She studied composition with Louis Andriessen at the Royal Conservatory of the Hague (Fulbright Fellowship, 2005), Scott Lindroth and Stephen Jaffe at Duke University (Ph.D. 2006), Joseph Schwantner and Evan Ziporyn at the Yale School of Music (M.M. 2000), and Bernard Rands and Mario Davidovsky at Harvard University (B.A. 1997).



**Joseph N. Rubinstein** was born in 1986 in Cleveland, OH, and grew up there and in Newport News, VA. Now based in New York City, his music is largely focused on textured and dramatic genres like opera, art song, and choral music. With an emphasis on emotional directness and vivid storytelling, Joseph’s melodically driven and dramatic work is often inspired by American history, explorations of identity, and the natural world. His style is particularly informed by the folk-influenced concert music of the United States, United Kingdom, and Russia, and by minimalism, the sacred choral music tradition, electronica, and musical theater. He has collaborated on new theatrical works and songs with librettists and writers including Mark Campbell, Jason Kim, and Melisa Tien.

Joseph’s work has been presented by organizations and individuals including Fort Worth Opera Festival, Seagle Music Festival, The Manhattan School of Music Opera Theater, bass-baritone Davóne Tines, Novi Cantori, Triad: The Boston Choral Collective, American Opera Projects, The Holy Cross Chamber Singers, The Secret Opera, bass-baritone Matthew Burns at the Spoleto Festival USA, North / South Consonance, the Society for New Music, Boston Metro Opera, and C4. He has received commissions from The Young New Yorkers’ Chorus, The Urbana Public Arts Council and flutist Kathleen Winters, New Vintage Baroque, and the Cheah-Chan Duo. In 2017, Joseph and librettist Jason Kim received an Opera Genesis Fellowship from the Hermitage Artists Colony and American Opera Projects for developmental work on their opera “House of Legendary.” In 2020, the same project received a Repertoire Development Grant from Opera America. Joseph studied at Columbia University (BA) with Joseph Dubiel and Sebastian Currier, and at The Juilliard School with Robert Beaser (MM). He further studied with Tarik O’Regan, and at the Bowdoin International Music Festival and Yale Summer School of Music at Norfolk.

# 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, 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, 2022

Lynn Swanson, MME, Music Director & Conductor

**Institute for Healthy Singing**, Roeland Park, Kansas, 2015

Jamea J. Sale, MME, Director

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

Ed Frazier Davis, MM, Director

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

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



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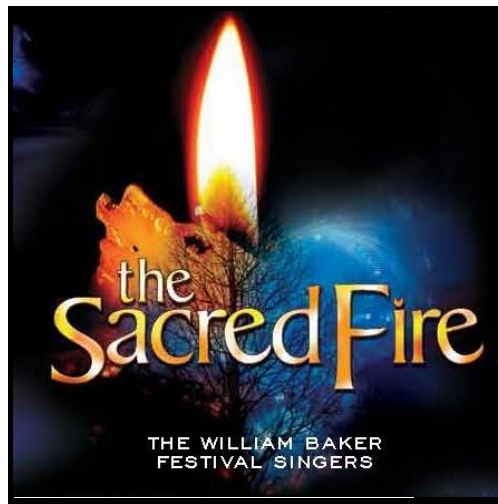
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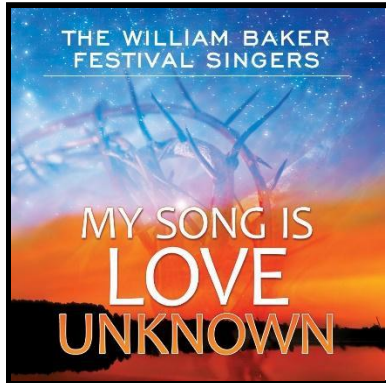
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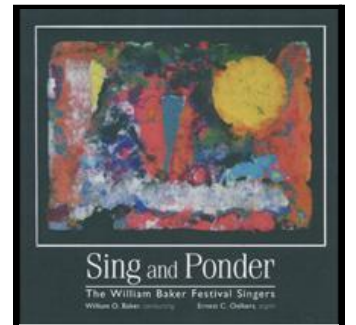
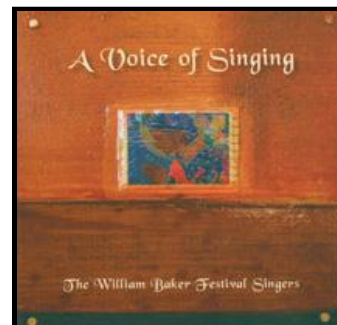
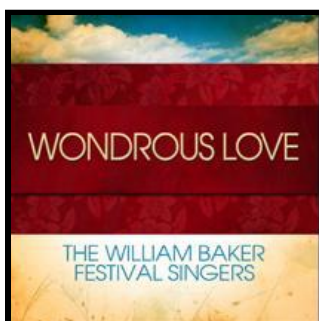
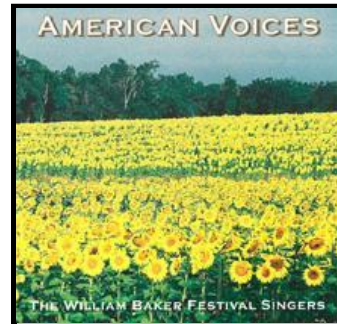
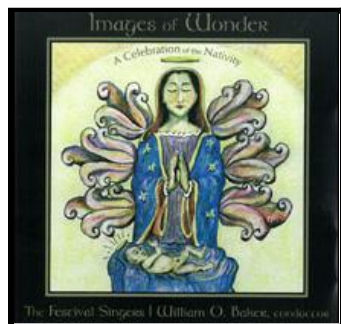
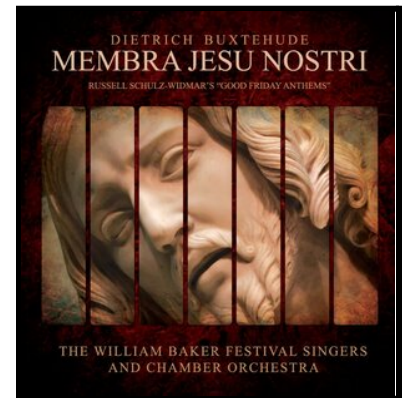
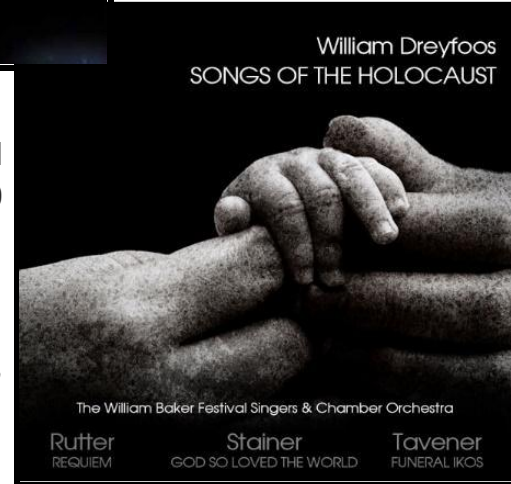


THE SACRED FIRE  
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Both lauded in  
*The American Record Guide*



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