

*The Choral Foundation in the Midwest, through the
Kenneth Babcock Memorial Music Performance Fund, presents*

The 2017 Kenneth C. Babcock Memorial Masterworks Concert

Dr. William O. Baker, Music Director Geoffrey Wilcken, Guest Organist
Christine Freeman, Associate Music Director Jamea Sale, Education Director
Eric Newlin, Student Intern Ed Frazier Davis, Composer in Residence

Flor Peeters: ENTRATA FESTIVA

Leonard Bernstein: CHICHESTER PSALMS

Ed Frazier Davis: SWEETEST FRUIT BEYOND

HUMAN SENSE (World Premier)

Norman Dello Joio: TO ST. CECILIA

**The William Baker Festival Singers
Organ, Harp, Brass & Percussion**

**Sunday Afternoon, 2 April 2017
Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral
Kansas City, Missouri**

*Lord, Lord, my heart is not haughty, nor mine eyes lofty,
Nor do I exercise myself in great matters or in things too wonderful for me.
Let Israel hope in the Lord from henceforth.
How good and pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity.*

SOLI DEO GLORIA

What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

The William Baker Festival Singers

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Ed Frazier Davis '16

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Bethany Franklin '16

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Dr. William O. Baker, Founder of the Festival Singers



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' *German 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 nearly forty years. In the last few years 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 three states, involving hundreds of singers in the course of any year. His choirs have performed for numerous 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 23 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 and the Kansas City Wind Symphony in 1998. Recent 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, and the Charleston Symphony Orchestra. He is Founder & Music Director of the Atlanta-based Orchestra of the American Heartland.



Dr. Baker served as Minister of Music for a number of significant Lutheran, 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. From 2012-2017 he served as director of The Cathedral Chorale, the choir for Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral in Kansas City's 8:00 AM Eucharist. He is the author of *Hearts & Hands & Voices: Weekly Reflections on Music and the Church*, published by Amber Waves Music.

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 native state through proclamations by two Georgia Governors, Joe Frank Harris and Sonny Purdue, by United States Congressman Phil Gingrey, and by a 2015 proclamation by the State of Georgia House of Representatives. In 2012 he was honored for his lifetime 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

Music of Timeless Beauty and Worth in Kansas City Since 1998



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 community music. Now in its nineteenth concert season, the metro Kansas City-based ensemble has enjoyed numerous triumphs through a tradition of ambitious concerts, recording, touring and broadcasting.

Tours have taken the ensemble throughout the Midwest, South, and Northeast, including performances in New York, Chicago, St. Louis, San Antonio, Austin, New Orleans, Atlanta, Omaha, Des Moines and many other cities. Their richness of tone, diversity of programming and expressiveness has won praise from audiences and critics alike. On 11 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 Heurtz, 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 memorable season ended with performances before large and enthusiastic audiences in Miller Chapel at Princeton Theological Seminary and in the nave of the historic Trinity Wall Street Church in New York City. The Festival Singers plan a tour of the Washington, DC area in 2018.

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.

Visit 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 three states involving hundreds of men, women and youth. The Foundation also sponsors **Amber Waves Music Publishing**, a creative company that offers more than 50 quality titles in worldwide distribution (www.AmberWavesPublishing.com). The Choral Foundation offers a year-round Student Intern program for conductors in masters-level study, and a Choral Scholar program for conductors studying at the doctoral level, and is the sponsoring organization for the

Institute for Healthy Singing. The unique continuing education program enables aspiring conductors to gain practical experience in musical leadership and management of a major arts organization. The staff of the Choral Foundation also offers consulting services nationwide for church, community, and professional musical organizations. For additional information, please call the Kansas City office of the Choral Foundation at 913.403.9223, or email Mail@FestivalSingers.org.

ED FRAZIER DAVIS, *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.



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.

*The Choral Foundation, through the Kenneth Babcock Memorial Music Performance Fund, presents
A Joyful Conclusion to Our 19th Concert Season*

THE WILLIAM BAKER FESTIVAL SINGERS

Saturday Evening, 29 April 2017 at 7:30 PM

First United Methodist Church

1650 Rainbow Boulevard, Excelsior Springs, MO 64024

Sunday Afternoon, 30 April 2017 at 3:00 PM

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

1307 Holmes Street, Kansas City, MO 64106

Friday Evening, 5 May 2017 at 7:30 PM

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

416 West 12th Street (at Broadway), Kansas City, MO 64105

PLEASE VISIT www.FestivalSingers.org FOR DETAILS & TICKETS

THE WILLIAM BAKER FESTIVAL SINGERS

Dr. William O. Baker, Music Director & Conductor

Christine Freeman, Associate Music Director & Vocal Coach

Jamea Sale, Education Director

Ed Frazier Davis, Composer in Residence

AUDITIONS



The William Baker Festival Singers has delighted audiences from Chicago to Atlanta and from New York to Texas since coming to Kansas City in 1998.

*The Festival Singers' 20th Anniversary Season signature programming includes short-form sacred a cappella classics and spirituals in addition to Mozart's **Grand Mass in C Minor** with soloists and orchestra, and our city's beloved holiday tradition, "Candlelight, Carols & Cathedral."*

MEMBERSHIP BY COMPETITIVE AUDITION
Openings for Our 2017-2018 20th Anniversary Season

REHEARSALS TUESDAY EVENINGS, 7:00-9:30

COUNTRYSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

6101 Nall Avenue, Mission, Kansas

For Information or to Schedule an Audition Appointment
Please Call TODAY 913-403-9223 or Email Mail@FestivalSingers.org

www.FestivalSingers.org

Kenneth Charles Babcock, 1941-2013

Hero to the William Baker Choral Foundation



The work of an organization like the Choral Foundation would not be possible without the loving and generous encouragement of our heroes. Choral music in the Kansas City area has never had a more faithful friend and supportive hero than Kenneth Charles Babcock. Ken died tragically on January 11, 2013 at the age of 71 in a private plane incident, but his love for his fellow man and the witness of his deep faith lives on.

Ken was a long-time member of the Summer Singers of Kansas City, enjoying the weekly trip downtown with daughters Kenna and Matea.

As a member of the Summer Singers, Ken was always sensitive and welcoming to new members around him, offering words of encouragement to both the most experienced and least experienced singers. In the years that his daughter Kenna performed as a member of the Youth Festival Singers of Kansas City, he assisted the staff with rehearsals and was always ready with warm words of blessing for the student members. He was a champion of the Festival Singers in both Kansas City and Atlanta, hardly ever missing a concert and always ready with expressions of appreciation for the Singers and a joyful response to the music. His generous financial support contributed mightily to the growth of our organization in the last decade, enabling many participants and audience members to be connected to music of timeless beauty and worth.

With the help of Ken's family and many friends, the Board of Trustees of the William Baker Choral Foundation and all members and staff of our organization dedicated the entirety of the 2012-2013 concert season in memory of Ken Babcock. The debut performance of the Festival Singers in Helzberg Hall of the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts on April 11, 2013, an event that Ken had anticipated with great excitement, was designated as the first Kenneth Babcock Memorial Concert. The 2014 performance of the series featured a rare English translation of the "German Requiem" of Brahms created by legendary American conductor Robert Shaw.

Today's performance is the fifth annual memorial concert. Performances have also included a 2015 celebration of Mozart works highlighted by the "Coronation Mass," and Johann Sebastian Bach's "Passion of Our Lord According to St. Matthew" performed on the series in 2016.

Ken Babcock was the founder and owner of Ken Babcock Sales, a Hiawatha, Kansas, based company specializing in agricultural construction. In the wake of his loss, the countless friends and colleagues that remember him may prove to be his greatest legacy. "Ken was legendary," said Varga Gladhart, representing Gladhart Farms. "He was a builder of many things...including people." An everyman's king-maker, he seems larger than life because he influenced people each day in ways that changed them forever.

Born December 23, 1941, Ken demonstrated an early inclination toward nurturing potential in things and people around him. An avid nature lover, he received a Master of Science degree in Biology from Emporia State University in 1970. Holding a Bachelor of Science degree in Education as well, Babcock decided to focus on growing people through teaching, a gift evident throughout his life.

"He was a guiding force in my life," said Ken McCauley, former president of the National Corn Growers Association. "People like Ken Babcock make their mark on the world and set the bar very high for the next generation." For those of us left behind trying, in Babcock's own, well-remembered words, "Keep the faith!"

The 2017 Kenneth Babcock Memorial Masterworks Concert

Saturday Afternoon, 2 April 2017 at 2:00 PM, Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral, Kansas City, Missouri

Today's Concert Begins from the Gallery

ENTRATA FESTIVA

Flor PEETERS, 1903-1986

Edition Peters

Organ, Brass & Timpani

Student Intern Eric Newlin, conducting

Welcome

SWEETEST FRUIT BEYOND HUMAN SENSE

Ed Frazier DAVIS, Born 1989

Composer Manuscript

I cannot dance, O Lord,
Unless You lead me.
If You wish me to leap joyfully,
Let me see You dance,
Let me see You sing,
Then I will leap into Love-
And from Love into Knowledge,
And from Knowledge into the Harvest,
The sweetest fruit beyond human sense.
There I will stay with You, whirling.

*-Mechtbild of Magdeburg, c1207-1282
Translated by Jane Hirshfield, Born 1953*

*Chorus, Organ, Brass, Harp & Percussion
Composer in Residence Ed Frazier Davis, conducting*

CHICHESTER PSALMS

Leonard BERNSTEIN, 1918-1990

Boosey & Hawkes

Sung in Hebrew

I

Awake, psaltery and harp! I will rouse the dawn.

-Psalm 108:2

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord all ye lands.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
Come before His presence with singing.
Know that the Lord, He is God.
It is He that has made us, and not we ourselves.
We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.
Come unto His gates with thanksgiving,

And into His court with praise.
Be thankful unto Him and bless His name.
The Lord is good, His mercy is everlasting
And His truth endureth to all generations.

-Psalm 100

II

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures,
He leadeth me beside the still waters, He restoreth my soul,
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness,
For His name's sake.
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.

-Psalm 23

Why do the nations rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?
The kings of the earth set themselves,
And the rulers take counsel together
Against the Lord and against His anointed, saying,
Let us break their bands asunder,
And cast away their cords from us.
He that sitteth in the heaven shall laugh, and the Lord
Shall have them in derision!

-Psalm 2

Thou preparest a table before me
In the presence of my enemies,
Thou anointest 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.

-Psalm 23

III

Lord, Lord, My heart is not haughty, Nor mine eyes lofty,
Neither do I exercise myself in great matters or in things too
wonderful for me to understand.
Surely I have calmed and quieted myself,
As a child that is weaned of his mother,
My soul is even as a weaned child.
Let Israel hope in the Lord from henceforth and forever.
Behold how good and pleasant it is
For brethren to dwell together in unity.

-Psalm 131 & 133:1

*Sophia Carey, soloist
Abby Judab, Jennifer Berroth, Will Brubaker
& Vince Gover, quartet
Chorus, Harp, Organ & Percussion*

**INTERMISSION OF FIFTEEN MINUTES
The Festival Singers Will Retire to the Presbyter**

VILLAGE WEDDING

Sir John TAVENER, 1944-2013

Chester Music

To my beloved, who breaks my heart.

O Isaiab, dance for joy, for the Virgin is with child.

Do you listen within your veil, silent, God-quicken heart?

O Isaiab, dance for joy, for the Virgin is with child

O depth and stillness of virginity! Follow your man.

O Isaiab, dance for joy, for the Virgin is with child

Let them throw white rice like a spring shower.

O Isaiab, dance for joy, for the Virgin is with child

Like a spring cloud, let her tenderly now spread her bridal veil.

O Isaiab, dance for joy, for the Virgin is with child

O the peace of the bridal dawn.

O Isaiab, dance for joy, for the Virgin is with child

And he listens, and he listens.

O Isaiab, dance for joy, for the Virgin is with child

And, as in front of a fount of crystal water,

Let the girls pass in front of the bride,

Observing her look from the corner of their eyes,

As though balancing pitchers on their heads.

O Isaiab, dance for joy, for the Virgin is with child

O, like Leto giving birth to Apollo,

Do you listen within your veil?

O Isaiab, dance for joy, for the Virgin is with child

When standing, her hands slight and pale,

(Let them throw white rice...)

O Isaiab, dance for joy, for the Virgin is with child

She clasped the ethereal palm tree on Delos,

Like a spring cloud.

O Isaiab, dance for joy, for the Virgin is with child

May you her mystical image...

O the peace of the bridal dawn.

O Isaiab, dance for joy, for the Virgin is with child

Held by your husband's strong heart,

And he listens.

O Isaiab, dance for joy, for the Virgin is with child

Bring into the world with a single cry your child,

As the poet brings forth his creation.

O Isaiab, dance for joy, for the Virgin is with child

-Angelos Sikelianos, 1884-1951

Sean Sweeden, Abby Judah, Elyse Biethman

& Christine Freeman, soloists

TO ST. CECILIA

Norman DELLO JOIO, 1913-2008

Carl Fischer Music

From harmony this universal frame began:

When Nature underneath a heap

Of jarring atoms lay,

And could not heave her head.

The Voice of Thunder was heard on high,

“Arise, arise ye more than dead.”

Then cold, and hot, and moist, and dry,

The elements, they heard from high:

And to their stations leap,

And Music's power obey.

From heavenly harmony this universal frame began:

From harmony to harmony.

Through all the compass of notes it ran,

The diapason closing full in Man.

What passions cannot Music raise or quell

When Jubal struck the corded shell,

His listening brethren stood around,

And, wondering, on their faces fell

To worship that celestial sound.

Less than a god they thought there could not dwell

Within the hollow of that shell,

That spoke so sweetly and so well.

What passion cannot Music raise or quell!

The Trumpet's loud clangor excites us to arms,

With shrill notes of anger and mortal alarms.

Trumpets proclaim from the depths of pain

In desperation, in indignation:

The Violins proclaim their jealous pangs

For the fair, disdainful dame.

But, oh! What art can teach,

What human voice can reach,

The sacred Organ's praise?

Its sacred praise inspiring holy love,

Notes that wing their heavenly ways

To mend the choirs above.

Orpheus could lead the savage race,

And trees uprooted left their place,

But bright Cecilia raised the wonder higher:

When to her Organ vocal breath was given,

An angel heard, and straight appeared,

Mistaking earth for heaven.

As from the power of sacred lays,

The spheres began to move,

And sung the great Creator's praise

To all the blest above;

So, when the last and dreadful hour

This crumbling pageant shall devour,

The Trumpet shall be heard on high,

The dead shall live, the living die,

And Music shall untune the sky!

-John Dryden, 1631-1700

Eric Newlin, soloist

SOLI DEO GLORIA

Program Notes

Thank you for joining us today for one of the most unusual masterworks concerts the Festival Singers have offered in a long time. For the past few years we have focused on older immortal works of Bach, Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven and Brahms. Last spring, after our performance of Bach's Matthew Passion, several of our members expressed a desire to sing more "music of our own time" during the 2016-2017 concert season, and especially for our 2017 Kenneth Babcock Memorial Masterworks Concert.

Flor Peeters: ENTRATA FESTIVA is a favorite work for brass, organ and (optional) chorus from the Belgian composer who lived from 1903-1986. Peeters was quite a well-regarded organist in his time and was a very prolific composer. Entrata Festival provides a festive fanfare for any form of musical celebration. In my years as a vocational church musician I often employed it to begin a festival liturgy or special event. The instrumental-only version of the work is conducted today by Student Intern Eric Newlin.

Ed Frazier Davis: SWEETEST FRUIT BEYOND HUMAN SENSE was composed for this concert and for the Festival Singers. Davis, a DMA student in music composition at the UMKC Conservatory of Music, was appointed Composer-in-Residence for the William Baker Choral Foundation in August of last year. This work is his second commission for the Festival Singers.

In a recent letter to chorus members, the composer shared thoughts about the piece:

"Sweetest Fruit beyond Human Sense is, above all, a journey. The piece begins (as does Mechtbild of Magdeburg's wonderfully vivid text), in a place of unabashed excitement; the music is rhythmically vivacious and full of color. This energy, however, is overflowing to the point of clumsiness; "I cannot dance, O Lord," Mechtbild laments, and I've depicted this musically by employing an uneven 7/8 meter and many instances of syncopated rhythm. As the piece progresses and Mechtbild continues her search for God, the rhythm gradually becomes more square, eventually settling on an even 4/4 meter on the words "Then I will leap into Love." The piece comes to its greatest climax as Mechtbild describes her progression from the lowliness of the secular earth to "the Harvest, / That sweetest Fruit beyond human sense." The next, final line, depicts the eternal life she will spend with God, beyond mortal comprehension. I chose to portray this using a harmonic and melodic language previously unseen in the piece, as well as some new orchestration (namely, the choir has an extended passage of a cappella singing, and a bowed vibraphone is introduced); far from where the piece began, the journey is finally at an end, and we have achieved peaceful resolution in this new realm." -Composer Ed Frazier Davis

Sir John Tavener: VILLAGE WEDDING was first performed by the William Baker Festival Singers during the 2009-2010 concert season. I will confess to a great affection for the music of Sir John Tavener and, thus, our chorus has performed a number of his works. Because of the haunting beauty and dream-like episodes of this piece, I believe I adore it the most. Like many of Tavener's works, Village Wedding reflects his deep religious faith and his own love of the traditions of the Greek Orthodox faith. Our recommended recording is by the Concordia Choir under the direction of Rene Clausen.

Leonard Bernstein: CHICHESTER PSALMS was commissioned for the Southern Cathedrals Festival at Chichester Cathedral in 1965. The premiere of the work was actually held in New York City on 15 July 1965 at Philharmonic Hall with the composer conducting. Chichester Psalms was the first piece composed after Bernstein's Kaddish (3rd) Symphony. The two pieces, both written in Hebrew, are the highest expression of the composer's Jewish heritage. The work employs Psalms 100; 108; 2; 23; 131 & 133. It is a favorite of choral societies across the Western world. Originally composed for large orchestra, the version performed today is by the composer and uses organ, harp and percussion. Our recommended recording is by Robert Shaw conducting the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and Chorus. Chichester Psalms was first performed by ensembles of the Choral Foundation when Janis Lane led the William Baker Festival Singers of Atlanta in 1987. It was first performed by the WBFS in Kansas City in 2004 at Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral. The most recent Choral Foundation performance was in Atlanta in April 2015 when Lynn Swanson led Zimria Festival Atlanta and the Lynn Swanson Festival Singers.

Norman Dello Joio TO ST. CECILIA was commissioned by the University of Kansas in 1959 and performed by the Concert Choir under the direction of Clayton Krehbiel. I have had a personal affection for this work, having conducted it in college in 1983, and I have been an enthusiast for the music of Norman Dello Joio for the whole of my adult life. Born Nicodemo DeGioio in New York City to Italian immigrants in 1913, Dello Joio was destined to follow in the footsteps of his father, a renowned organist, pianist and vocal coach to a number of stars from the Metropolitan Opera. Norman Dello Joio took his first church position at the age of 14, and was known throughout his life as a brilliant pianist in both the jazz and classical idioms. His love of jazz influenced all of his compositions, from his orchestral suites, works for concert band and numerous choral works. He was awarded a Pulitzer Prize for Meditations on Ecclesiastes in 1957, two years before completing To St. Cecilia. This is the first performance of the work by ensembles of the Choral Foundation.

-William O. Baker, Music Director

CHRISTINE FREEMAN, Associate Music Director & Senior Vocal Coach

Christine 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. She holds a Bachelor of Music Education, emphasis Voice, and a Master of Music 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. She 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 appears as conductor on two Festival Singers recordings: *A Festival for Christmas* and *Promised Land*.



Ms. Freeman has been a clinician for honor choirs in Kansas and Missouri. In addition to her work with the Choral Foundation, Mrs. Freeman is a Music Educator and is beginning her third 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. Mrs. Freeman was recently nominated by her colleagues, and named runner-up, for the Kansas Choral Directors Association "Outstanding Young Choral Director Award." She is currently the Repertoire and Standards Chair for Children's Choirs with KCDA and organized the Statewide Treble Honor Choir from 2012-2014. With her husband Daniel, and their one year-old daughter, she makes her home in Overland Park, Kansas.

JAMEA SALE, Education Director, 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 in the International Voice Care Network at St. John's University in 2010. Other memberships include ACDA, NafME, NATS, and Olathe Music Teachers Association.

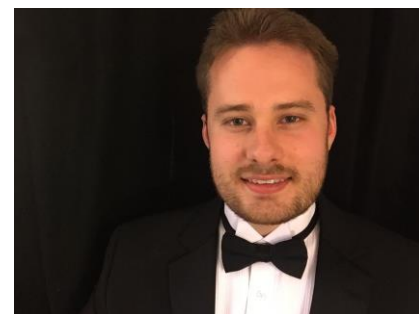


Jamea has been a member and soloist with the William Baker Festival Singers and the Summer Singers of Kansas City since 2002, and served as Student Intern for the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 concert seasons. She was appointed as Choral Assistant in Kansas City in August 2012, and Education Director for the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

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 young choirs. In her Olathe, Kansas studio, Ms. Sale's clients include students of voice & saxophone, and singers recovering from hoarseness, tension, limited range, or other health problems that affect the singing voice.

ERIC NEWLIN, Student Intern

Eric Newlin is a fourth year member of the William Baker Festival Singers in 2016-2017. He is a candidate for the Master of Music Education in Choral Pedagogy at the University of Kansas, and was appointed Student Intern for the 2016-2017 season. His work began this past June with the Summer Singers of Kansas City, and will continue through the end of the 19th season of the Festival Singers. Eric holds a Bachelor of Music Education from Mid-America Nazarene University, where he studied conducting with Dr. John Leavitt, voice with Dr. Mary Jane Wilder, and piano with Jessica Koebbe and Karen McClellan. Eric was a member, soloist and conductor for several university choral ensembles, including the Heritage Choir, which was privileged to perform in Carnegie Hall. Presently, he serves as Director of Choirs for the Pioneer Trail Middle School in Olathe, Kansas. He holds professional memberships in ACDA and NafME. Eric is married to Leslie Newlin, who runs a private music studio in Olathe and Overland Park.



Over thirty students in Master & Doctoral level study have participated in the Choral Foundation's Student Intern & Choral Scholars program. For additional information about upcoming opportunities call 913-403-9223.

Geoffrey Wilcken, Guest Organist



Geoffrey Wilcken is an active composer, conductor, organist and pianist. He began studying composition in 1982 under Dr. Jeffrey Prater at Iowa State University. After the publication of his anthem, “Lord Jesus Lay” by Augsburg Publishing House in 1984, when he was eleven, Geoff went on to win the Music Teachers National Association Composition contest in 1985 and again in 1986. Current publications include “Grant Us Thy Peace” and “Sing, All” by Alliance Music Publications, and “The Higher Path,” available from Colla Voce Press. In 2015 he received the first ever Kansas Choral Composition Award for his work, “Life’s Symphony.”

Geoff began serving regularly as organist at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Ames, Iowa in 1988, and he has remained vigorously involved in church music since then. Currently he can be heard on the organ of historic St. Mary’s Episcopal Church in downtown Kansas City. In addition, he has performed with various ensembles in Lawrence and in the Kansas City area, including the Kansas City Fine Arts Chorale, Songflower Chorale, Musica Vocale, and the Moon City Big Band.

He completed a Bachelor of Music degree at Iowa State University in composition in 1995 while studying under Dr. Prater, and he subsequently finished his Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting under Simon Carrington at the University of Kansas in 1998. He toured southern England with the KU Chamber Singers in 1997. Currently Geoff is pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts in composition at the University of Kansas.

Instrumentalists

Tabitha Steiner, harp

Maddy, Tarantelli, horn

Rabyia Ahmed, horn

Emily Schaefer, horn

Jennifer Oliverio, trumpet

Patrick Oliverio, trumpet

Jeff Curtin. Trumpet

JoDee Davis, trombone

Gavin Carney, trombone

Erik Augereau, trombone

Ryan Snell, tuba

Mark Lowry, percussion

Ray DeMarchi, percussion

Thanks to Alex Shum, orchestral contractor for the Choral Foundation.

Thanks to Bethany Franklin and Karen Kay Hall for assisting with rehearsal accompaniment.

Thanks to Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral, Dr. Paul Meier, Music Director & The Very Reverend Peter DeVeau, Dean, for hosting today’s concert.

Sophia Carey, Child Soloist

We are delighted to welcome 12-year-old Sophia Carey as our guest soloist for Bernstein’s *Chichester Psalms*. Sophia is a student in the studio of Jamea Sale.



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William O. Baker, DMA, Music Director & Conductor

The Lynn Swanson Chorale, Kansas City, Missouri, 2017

The Baroque Summer Institute, Smyrna, Georgia, 2006

The Lynn Swanson Festival Singers, Atlanta, Georgia, 1985

Becoming The New South Festival Singers for the 2017-2018 33rd Concert Season

Lynn Swanson, MME, Music Director & Conductor

Zimria Festivale Atlanta, Dunwoody, Georgia, 2014

Amy Thropp, Music Director & Conductor

The Summer Singers of Kansas City, Kansas City, Missouri, 1999

William O. Baker, DMA, Music Director & Conductor

The Summer Singers of Lee's Summit, Lee's Summit, Missouri, 2014

Lynn Swanson, MME & William O. Baker, DMA, Co-Music Directors

The Northwest Georgia Summer Singers, Cartersville, Georgia, 2010

The Northwest Georgia Festival Singers, Cartersville, Georgia, 2016

Charles Nelson, Music Director & Conductor

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

The Kansas City Honors Choral Institute, Bonner Springs, Kansas, 2016

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

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