

*The Choral Foundation & the Kenneth Babcock Memorial Music Performance Fund,  
with support from the Martha Lee Cain Tranby Trust, present*

# **The 2021 Kenneth Babcock Memorial Masterworks Concert**

**Dr. William O. Baker, Music Director**

**Christine Freeman, Associate Music Director**

**Jamea Sale, WBCF Executive Associate Music Director**

**Megan Moore, Choral Intern — Ed Frazier Davis, Senior Composer in Residence**

**Sean Sweeden, Composer in Residence**

**John Rutter**

## **REQUIEM**

**Works of Gabriel Faure, Ralph Vaughan Williams,  
& Ed Frazier Davis**

**The William Baker Festival Singers  
& Chamber Orchestra**

**Sunday Evening, 14 March 2021  
Holy Angels Catholic Church  
Basehor, Kansas**

*O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home.*

**SOLI DEO GLORIA**

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

# The William Baker Festival Singers

**William O. Baker, DMA**

Music Director & Conductor

**Jamea J. Sale, MME**

WBCF Executive Associate Music Director  
Director, Institute for Healthy Singing

**Lynn Swanson, MME**

Music Director, Cobb Summer Singers

**Andrew Phillip Schmidt, MM**

Music Director, Summer Singers of Atlanta

**Amy Thropp, MM**

Music Director, Zimria Festivale Atlanta

**Christine M. Freeman, MME**

Associate Music Director/Senior Vocal Coach

**Scott C. Smith**

Choral Associate & Administrator, Atlanta

**Ed Frazier Davis, MM**

Director, Institute for Choral Creativity  
Senior Composer in Residence

**Jennifer Lahasky, MM**

Music Director Elect, Lee's Summit

**Sean Sweeden, DMA**

Composer in Residence

**Megan Moore****Sydney Sewell**

Choral Interns

**Ellen Hicks**

Librarian & Concert Manager, Atlanta

**Chris Barnard**

Concert Manager, Kansas City

**Leanne Elmer Herrmann, Staff Accompanist****Ivy Belk Pirl, Staff Accompanist****Michelle Reed, Staff Accompanist****The William Baker Choral Foundation, Inc.**

5450 Buena Vista Street, Suite 100

Roeland Park, Kansas 66205 913.488.7524

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*Laura Rene Baker '99*

*Chbris Barnard '09*

*David Beckers '02*

*Jocelyn Botkin '04*

*Dale Bolyard '19*

*William Brubaker '15*

*Jerry Carpenter '04*

*Ed Frazier Davis '16*

*Eric Edman '12*

*Elizabeth Fairfield '19*

*Emily Fish '18*

*Christine M. Freeman '06*

*Karen Kay Hall '12*

*Marcia Higginson '02*

*Jill Holtkamp '07*

*Daniel Huxman '19*

*Jim Jandt '01*

*\*Gary Jarrett '02*

*Jill Jarrett '12*

*Amanda Kimbrough '08*

*Ross Kimbrough '11*

*Jennifer Labasky '14*

*\*Section Leader*

*Rebekah Maples '20*

*Roger McDougale '18*

*Kimberly Megow '19*

*Ken Moncrieff '19*

*Megan Moore '20*

*Martina Pezzino '16*

*Jamea Sale '02*

*\*Erica Seago '17*

*Ethan Sberman '17*

*Cindy Sheets '09*

*Pratima Singh '06*

*Stephanie Sullivan '11*

*\*Sean Sweeden '16*

*Joshua Tackett '20*

*Nicholas Trivelas '20*

*Jessika Toro '19*

*Denice Trawicki '03*

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*Ted Williams '18*

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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 over forty 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 three states, involving hundreds of singers each 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 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 and the Kansas City Wind Symphony in 1998. 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, 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 legendary classical music commentator Patrick Neas.

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*

## *Music of Timeless Beauty and Worth from 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 volunteer choirs. Now in its 23<sup>rd</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 Helzberg Hall 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.

**Visit Us On: Facebook (William Baker Festival Singers)**  
**Twitter (@WBFS\_KC) YouTube (WBakerCF) Instagram (@choralfoundation)**



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**, 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).

# THE WILLIAM BAKER FESTIVAL SINGERS

Dr. William O. Baker, Music Director & Conductor

Christine M. Freeman, Associate Music Director & Vocal Coach

Jamea J. Sale, WBCF Executive Associate Music Director

Ed Frazier Davis, Director, Institute for Choral Creativity & Senior Composer in Residence

Megan Moore, Choral Intern      Dr. Sean Sweeden, Composer in Residence

# AUDITIONS



*The William Baker Festival Singers has delighted audiences in twelve states and from New York City's Trinity Wall Street Church to the Washington National Cathedral since coming to KC in 1998.*

*The Festival Singers' 2021-2022 Concert Season signature programming includes short-form sacred a cappella classics and spirituals in addition to tour performances and Bach's St. John Passion.*

*Chorus in Residence at the historic St. Mary's Episcopal Church*

**MEMBERSHIP BY COMPETITIVE AUDITION**  
*Auditioning NOW for Limited Openings for 2021-2022*

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For Information or to Schedule an Audition Appointment  
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**[www.FestivalSingers.org](http://www.FestivalSingers.org)**

# The 2021 Kenneth Babcock Memorial Concert

## The William Baker Festival Singers & Chamber Orchestra

Sunday, 14 March 2021, 6:00 PM, Holy Angels Catholic Church, Basehor, Kansas

*It is our policy that all members of the audience wear a mask covering nose and mouth at all times while in the building. Your support is greatly appreciated.*

### I

**CANTIQUE DE JEAN RACINE**, Opus 11  
Gabriel FAURÉ, 1845-1924  
Broude Brothers BB 801

*Sung in French*

O Redeemer Divine, our sole hope of salvation,  
Eternal Light of the earth and the sky,  
We kneel in adoration,  
O Savior, turn on us Thy loving eye.

Send down on us the fire of Thy grace all-consuming  
Whose wondrous might disperse the powers of Hell,  
And rouse our slumbering souls with Thy radiance,  
That they may waken Thy mercy to tell.

O Christ bestow Thy blessing on us we implore Thee,  
Who here are gathered on penitent knee,  
Accept the hymns we chant to Thine everlasting glory,  
And these Thy gifts we return unto Thee.

*-Jean Racine, 1639-1699*

*Richard Bell, violoncello  
Katherine Siochi, harp  
Choral Intern Megan Moore, conducting*

*Given by Dr. William & Mrs. Laura Baker  
In thanksgiving to God for the life of Kenneth Babcock*

*Recorded by the Festival Singers on the  
da Cbiesa album "People of God"*

### II

**LORD, THOU HAST  
BEEN OUR REFUGE**  
Ralph VAUGHAN WILLIAMS, 1872-1958  
J. Curwen & Sons, Ltd

Lord, Thou hast been our refuge from  
One generation to another...  
*O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come  
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home...*  
Before the mountains were brought forth,  
Or ever the earth and the world were made.

Thou art God from everlasting and world without end.  
Thou turnest Man to destruction; again Thou sayest,  
"Come again ye children of Men."  
For a thousand years in Thy sight are but as yesterday,  
Seeing that is past as a watch in the night.

As soon as Thou scatterest them they are even as a sleep  
And fade away suddenly like the grass.  
In the morning it is green and groweth up,  
But in the evening it is cut down, dried up and withered.  
For we consume away in Thy displeasure,  
And are afraid at Thy wrathful indignation.

For when Thou art angry all our days are gone;  
We bring our years to an end as a tale that is told.  
So passeth it away and we are gone.

The years of our age are three-score years and ten,  
And though men may be so strong  
That they come to four score years,  
Yet is their strength but labor and sorrow.

Turn Thee again, O Lord, at the last.  
Be gracious unto Thy servants.  
O satisfy us with Thy mercy and that soon we shall rejoice  
And be glad all the days of our lives.  
And the glorious majesty of the Lord be upon us.  
O prosper Thou our handiwork.

*-Psalm 90; Isaac Watts, 1674-1748*

*Keith Benjamin, trumpet  
John Scabefer, organ*

### III

## REQUIEM

John RUTTER, Born 1945  
Hinshaw Music HMB-164

*Sung in Latin & English*

### Requiem aeternam

Grant them eternal rest, Lord our God, we pray to Thee:  
And light perpetual shine on them forever.  
Thou, Lord, art worshiped in Zion;  
Thy praise shall be sung in all Jerusalem.  
O hear us, O Lord, hear Thy faithful servant's prayer;  
To Thee all mortal flesh shall return.  
Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.  
*-Missa pro defunctis*

### Out of the Deep

Out of the deep have I called unto Thee, O Lord:  
Lord, hear my voice.  
O let Thine ears consider well the voice of my complaint.  
If Thou, Lord, wilt be extreme to mark what is done amiss:  
O Lord, who may abide it?  
For there is mercy with Thee: therefore shalt Thou be feared.  
I look for the Lord: my soul doth wait for Him:  
And in His Word is my trust.  
My soul fleeth unto the Lord: before the morning watch,  
I say, before the morning watch.  
O Israel trust in the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy:  
And with Him is plenteous redemption.  
And He shall redeem Israel from all his sins.  
*-Psalm 130*

### Pic Jesu

Blessed Jesus, Lord I pray in Thy mercy grant them rest.  
Lord our God, we pray Thee, grant them everlasting rest.  
*-Missa pro defunctis*

### Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might.  
Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord:  
Hosanna in the highest.  
*-Ordinary of the Mass*

### Agnus Dei

Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the world:  
In Thy mercy grant them rest.  
Man that is born of a woman hath but a short time to live,  
And is full of misery.  
He cometh up, and is cut down like a flower;  
He fleeth as it were a shadow.  
In the midst of life we are in death:  
Of whom may we seek for succor?

I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord:  
He that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live  
And whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die.  
*-Burial Service, 1662 Book of Common Prayer*

*Given by Jill & Dallien Holtkamp  
In Memory of Bonita Holtkamp*

### The Lord Is My Shepherd

The Lord is my Shepherd: therefore can I lack nothing.  
He shall feed me in a green pasture:  
And lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.  
He shall convert my soul:  
And bring me forth 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 comfort me.  
Thou shalt prepare a table before me  
Against them that trouble me;  
Thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.  
But Thy loving kindness and mercy shall follow me  
All the days of my life:  
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.  
*-Psalm 23*

### Lux aeterna

I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me,  
Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord,  
*Given by Jill & Dallien Holtkamp  
In Memory of Bonita Holtkamp*

For they rest from their labors: even so saith the Spirit.  
Light eternal shine upon them, Lord, we pray:  
With saints and angels ever dwelling,  
For Thy mercy's sake, may they rest in peace.

*Given by Jill & Dallien Holtkamp  
In Memory of Bonita Holtkamp*

Grant them eternal rest, Lord our God,  
And may light perpetual shine upon them.  
*-Book of Common Prayer*

*Given by Marcia Higgson & Hannes Zacharias  
In Memory of All the Dear Ones We Have Lost This Year*

*Christine Freeman, soloist*

*Richard Bell, violoncello  
Christina Webster, flute  
Detrich Koch, oboe  
Katherine Siochi, harp  
Mark Lowry, timpani & glockenspiel  
John Schaefer, organ*

*Recorded by the Festival Singers on the Amber Waves album  
"Rutter: Requiem & Dreyfoos: Songs of the Holocaust,"  
reviewed graciously in 2020 in The American Record Guide*

## IV

### AT OUR LAST AWAKENING

Ed Frazier DAVIS, Born 1987  
Composer Manuscript

World Premier Performance

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

*Given by Dr. Pratima Singh  
Dedicated to the memory of Dr. Daljeet Raja Singh*

*Richard Bell, violoncello  
Katherine Siochi, harp*

*In love and appreciation we acknowledge the support of Holy Angels Catholic Church  
and their warm hospitality that has made this in-person performance possible.*

### ***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 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 to the city 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 most novice 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 in 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. The annual memorial concert each spring is presented in tribute and thanksgiving for Ken's love to us.

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!"



## **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.

## **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.

# The William Baker Choral Foundation

5450 Buena Vista Street, Suite 100, Roeland Park, KS 66205 913-488-7524

**The William Baker Festival Singers**, Prairie Village, Kansas, 1998

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

Andrew Phillip Schmidt, MM, Music Director & Conductor

**The New South Festival Singers**, Atlanta, Georgia, 1985

*Gwinnett Festival Singers, 1985-1998 William Baker Festival Singers Atlanta, 1998-2015 Lynn Swanson Festival Singers, 2015-2017*

William O. Baker, DMA, Founder & Interim Conductor

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

Amy Thropp, MM, Music Director & Conductor

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

William O. Baker, DMA, Music Director & Conductor

**The Cobb Summer Singers**, Marietta, Georgia, 2006

Lynn Swanson, MME, Founder & Music Director

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

William O. Baker, DMA, Music Director Jennifer Lahasky, MME, Music Director Elect

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

Jamea J. Sale, MME, Director

**The Institute for Choral Creativity**, Roeland Park, Kansas, 2020

Ed Frazier Davis, MM, Director

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

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