

The Choral Foundation & the Andrew Cain Memorial Music Performance Fund Presents

The 2021 Andrew Cain Memorial Masterworks Concert

Dr. William O. Baker, Founder & Interim Conductor

Sydney Sewell, Choral Intern

Jamea Sale, WBCF Executive Associate Music Director

Scott Smith, Choral Administrator — Ed Frazier Davis, Senior Composer in Residence

Sean Sweeden, Composer in Residence

BACH * BUXTEHUDE * MARTINI

With Soprano Victoria Botero & Bass Andrew Schmidt

The New South Festival Singers & Chamber Orchestra

**Sunday Afternoon, 25 April 2021
St. John United Methodist Church
Atlanta, Georgia**

*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 New South 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

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

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Steve Brailsford '14

Heather Sabatino '09

**Matthew Edwards '19*

Charles St. Clair '11

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Felicia Hernandez '04

Scott Smith '94

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Amy Thropp '13

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Dr. William O. Baker, Founder & Interim 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 Choral Foundation Executive Associate 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 New South Festival Singers

Music of Timeless Beauty and Worth in Atlanta Since 1985



The New South Festival Singers traces its history to the 1985 creation of Gwinnett Festival Singers by founder William Baker and his long-time associate, Janis Lane. The ensemble was known as The William Baker Festival Singers from 1998-2015. With the appointment of Lynn Swanson as the second Music Director & Conductor of the ensemble in June 2015 the choir took the name The Lynn Swanson Festival Singers. With the appointment of Andrew Phillip Schmidt in 2017 as the third Music Director & Conductor the ensemble is now “The New South Festival Singers” in homage to Henry W. Grady’s description of Atlanta’s historic legacy of tolerance, justice, opportunity and enterprise. The Founder & Music Director, William Baker, has returned to the podium for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 concert seasons as the Choral Foundation conducts a search for the next Music Director of the Festival Singers.

The Festival Singers specializes in short-form sacred a cappella classics and spirituals, in addition to annual performances of masterworks for chorus and chamber orchestra. Major concerts have included a performance of Brahms *Ein deutsches Requiem* with the Gwinnett Symphony Orchestra, and a performance in Spivey Hall of Johann Sebastian Bach’s *St. John Passion* and *Mass in B Minor*. Other masterworks over the years have included Stravinsky *Symphony of Psalms*, Bernstein *Chichester Psalms*, Mozart’s *Requiem*, *Solemn Vespers*, *Missa Brevis in D*, and *Mass in C minor*; Buxtehude’s *Membra Jesu Nostri*, and Britten’s *Rejoice in the Lamb* and *Ceremony of Carols*, along with dozens of works from Palestrina to Kodaly. The Festival Singers performed the Ernest Bloch *Avodath Hakodesh* for the rededication of the magnificent pipe organ at The Temple on Peachtree, and at the historic Community Christian Church in Kansas City, a performance broadcast in its entirety by Kansas Public Radio on the eve of Passover 2012. The Festival Singers’ recording of the *Requiem* of John Rutter, and *Songs of the Holocaust* by William Dreyfoos was reviewed graciously in the December 2020 edition of *American Record Guide*.

The ensemble is known for its expressive memorized performances of signature a cappella concerts demonstrating a striking diversity and depth of repertoire. The sound of the Festival Singers has been hailed by music critics and the general public, including The Atlanta Journal-Constitution “*Sensuous tonal beauty ...a level of balance, blend, intonation and expressiveness that puts the average community chorus to shame...*” The Charleston Post & Courier, “*...the South’s premier a cappella choir...exceptional tone and ferocious emotion...*” and the New Orleans Times-Picayune, “*...inspiring and exhilarating.*”

The Festival Singers has produced 25 nationally released recordings hailed in reviews by *The Atlanta Constitution* and *The American Record Guide*. The choir has been featured in local television programs across the South, and on national radio programs that include *The Sounds of Majesty*, *The First Art* and National Public Radio’s *Performance Today*. They have toured throughout the South and Midwest in the United States and Great Britain, having appeared in Birmingham’s Divinity Chapel, Atlanta’s Spivey Hall, the DeKalb International Choral Festival, Canterbury Cathedral, and the Bristol (England) Festival, in addition to annual performances before capacity audiences at the Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston, SC, since 1989.



The Festival Singers has become a model for professional-level volunteer choruses that have inspired the creation of similar organizations in the Atlanta area and across the nation. Indeed, the ambitious chorus that met for a first rehearsal in the basement of a Norcross church in 1985 is now the flagship ensemble of the William Baker Choral Foundation, a national arts organization that through the years has created over a dozen choirs involving hundreds of men, women and young people in Georgia, Kansas and Missouri.

www.NewSouthFestivalSingers.org

THE NEW SOUTH FESTIVAL SINGERS

Dr. William O. Baker, Founder & Interim Conductor

Sydney Sewell, Choral Intern Scott Smith, Choral Associate & Administrator

"A (Rutter) Requiem that excels conceptually, chorally and orchestrally. The soloists also sang beautifully ...This is a handsome account of the Requiem that does honor to Rutter, to the liturgy, and to the performers themselves."

-Phillip Greenfield, American Record Guide, November/December 2020

"The Festival Singers is one of the very finest choral groups of any size or genre in the Southeastern United States and beyond. Their annual performances at the Piccolo Spoleto Festival, usually before standing room only audiences, are excellent, breathtaking and inspiring."

-Ellen Dressler Moryl, Former Director, Cultural Affairs for the City of Charleston, Founder of Piccolo Spoleto

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The 2021 Andrew Cain Memorial Concert

The New South Festival Singers & Chamber Orchestra

Victoria Sofia Botero, soprano Andrew Phillip Schmidt, bass Justin Maxey, organ
William O. Baker, founder & interim conductor Sydney Sewell, choral intern
Sunday Afternoon, 25 April 2021, 3:00 PM, St. John United Methodist Church, Atlanta, Georgia

It is Choral Foundation 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.

Welcome

I

DOMINE, AD ADJUVANDUM ME

Giovanni Battista MARTINI, 1706-1784
Concordia Publishing Company 98-6304

Sung in Latin

Haste Thee, O God, to deliver me:
Make haste to help me, O Lord.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Alleluia.

-Psalm 70

*Victoria Botero, soprano
Steve Brailsford, tenor
Andrew Schmidt, bass*

Conducted by Choral Intern Sydney Sewell

II

JESU, MEINE FREUDE, BuxWV 60

Dietrich BUXTEHUDE, 1637/39-1707
Chantry Music Publications

Sung in German

Jesus, joy and pleasure, My heart's dearest treasure.
Jesus, fount of grace!
Ah, how great my anguish, while my heart doth languish
To behold Thy face!
Lamb of God, my Bridegroom dear,
On this earth I adore Thee.
Naught shall stand before Thee.

By Thy sure defending I may cease contending,
Safe from all my foes.
Let the wicked flout me, rage the foe about me:
I can face their blows.
Even though fire divides the sky, e'en through sin and hell,
Jesus is my covering.

Down with hell's fierce master! Down with sin's disasters!
Down with deadly fear!
Rage thou world and break thee, I to rest betake me,
Safe and quiet here.
God's own might guides me to right.
Powers of darkness must go under, mighty tho' their thunder.

Go away all earthly treasures! Thou art all my pleasure,
Jesus, my delight!
Go thou fame deceiving, thee I would be leaving,
Far away from my sight!
Anguish, pain I gladly bear:
Never shall I, though tossed and torn, be parted from Jesus.

Farewell life infected that this world elected.
Thee I put to flight.
Sin that once did bind me I now leave behind me,
I come to the Light.
Now farewell thou pride and pomp,
Vicious life of sin's endeavor, fare thee well forever.

Hence all fear and sadness,
For the Lord of Gladness, Jesus enters in!
Ye upon the morrow find your woe and sorrow
Turn to endless joy!
Though I suffer scorn and pain,
Thou art still my fullest measure, Jesus, Joy and Pleasure!
-Johann Franck, 1618-1677

*Victoria Botero, soprano
Andrew Schmidt, bass*

III

ICH WILL DEN KREUZSTAB GERNE TRAGEN, BWV 56

Johann Sebastian BACH, 1685-1750
Choral Public Domain Library

Sung in German

I will gladly bear the cross, it comes from God's dear hand.
It leads me from my troubles to God, in the Promised Land.
There I shall lay down my anxiety and
My Savior will wipe away my tears.

My wandering in this world is like a journey by ship:
Grief, suffering and distress are waves
That cover me with death and terrify me.
But my anchor which holds me
Is the compassion with which God gladdens me

In this way He calls to me: "I am with you.
I will never abandon nor neglect you!"
When the sea's rage and foaming comes to an end,
I will step from my ship into my city
Which is the kingdom of heaven,
Where the righteous, after many tribulations, will come at last.

Finally my yoke will fall away and the
Lord will give me strength.
Then I shall have an eagle's nature,
And ascend from this earth to run and not be weary.
If only this could happen today!

I stand ready and prepared for the inheritance of
My bliss with longing and yearning.
I receive it from Jesus' own hands.
How happy I will be when I shall see the harbor of peace.
There I shall finally lay my anxiety down.
There my Savior Himself will wipe away my tears.

Come, O death, you brother of sleep,
Come and lead me away from here:
Release the little rudder of my ship
And bring me safe to harbor.
Those who will may shun, but You gladden me all the more.
I come to my most precious, dearest Jesus.

-Christoph Birkmann, 1703-1771

Andrew Schmidt, bass

IV

CHRIST LAG IN TODESBANDEN BWV 4

Johann Sebastian BACH, 1685-1750
Choral Public Domain Library

Sung in German

Sinfonia

Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bonds, given over for our sins,
He has risen again and brought us life;
Therefore we should be joyful,
Praise God and be thankful to Him, and sing Hallelujah!

No one among all humanity could defeat death,
All because of our sins,
No innocence found.
Therefore death came soon and took power over us,
Holding us captive in his kingdom. Hallelujah!

Jesus Christ, God's Son, has come in our place,
And has done away with sin.
Thereby taking from death all his might and power,
Nothing remain's but death's shell;
Death has lost his sting. Hallelujah!

It was a strange battle that life and death waged.
Life was victorious and devoured death.
The scriptures prophesied this,
How one death destroyed the other.
A mockery has been made of death. Hallelujah!

Here is the true Easter Lamb, offered up by God,
Which was high on the cross' stalk
Roasted in hot love, the blood marks our door,
Faith holds it against death,
The strangler can no longer harm us. Hallelujah!

So we celebrate this high festival with joy of heart and delight,
Which the Lord radiates upon us,
He Himself is the sun, that through the splendor of
His grace illuminates our hearts.
The night of sin has disappeared. Hallelujah!

We eat and live well on the true Easter bread,
The old leaven shall not exist next to the word of grace.
Christ Himself will be our food and shall nourish
The soul alone, faith will have no other. Hallelujah!

-Martin Luther, 1483-1546

Andrew Schmidt, bass

The appearance of Soprano Victoria Botero is made possible by a grant from Alice Blanco

The appearance of Bass Andrew Schmidt is made possible by a grant from Jill & Joseph Ferst in memory of M. Rita Ferst

The appearance of Violist Lana Teko-Abatefu is made possible by a grant from Dr. Marla Franks

*The New South Festival Singers and The Choral Foundation express deep appreciation to the members and staff
of St. John United Methodist Church of Atlanta for their gracious hospitality.*

Victoria Botero, soprano



Soprano Victoria Botero enjoys singing a wide-range of works from medieval to New Music, from opera to concert, and traditional songs from around the world. *The Kansas City Star* recently wrote, “Soprano Victoria Botero is one of Kansas City’s most passionate and caring performers. A concert by Botero is more than just a recital of beautiful songs, it’s a reflection on the human condition.”

Favorite concert work engagements include a LIAEP residency in Milan exploring the music of Barbara Strozzi, Leonard Bernstein’s *Songfest* in Saratoga Springs, performances with The William Baker Festival Singers, Kansas City Symphony, St. Joseph Symphony, Kansas City Baroque Consortium, and Sunflower Baroque Consort. In opera she has performed roles with Lyric Opera of Kansas City, Union Avenue Opera, Des Moines Metro Opera, Wichita Grand Opera and Tulsa Opera.

Victoria’s passion for musicology informed performance led her to create **The Cecilia Series** - critically acclaimed concerts that explore the intersectionality of art music and present issues facing women and BIPOC. Her innovative research and programming has been supported by organizations such as Arts KC, Charlotte Street Foundation, Lighton International Artist Exchange Program, Avaloch Farm, and Sosland Foundation. She holds degrees in voice and musicology from The Catholic University of America and the University of Missouri-Kansas City. A proud Colombian-American who embraces her multi-ethnic heritage, Victoria looks forward to being part of a post-pandemic musical world that embraces all voices. **VictoriaBotero.com**

Andrew Schmidt, bass



Bass Andrew Schmidt is a sought-after music educator, singer, pedagogue, and conductor. He is the Artistic Director of EarlyBird, a professional chamber ensemble based in Atlanta, and the Music Director of the Summer Singers of Atlanta. Andrew has performed with nationally-renowned groups including Grammy Award-winning The Crossing, Kinnara, and The Thirteen. He can be heard on multiple choral album recordings such as *Provenance* with Kinnara and *Truth and Fable* with The Thirteen. Andrew’s music education studio, Make Music, is a private piano and vocal studio of students across the United States from ages 4-74. In the fall, he will begin his PhD work at Georgia State University in Teaching and Learning with a concentration in Music Education and a Brain & Behaviors Fellowship through the GSU Neuroscience Institute. Andrew holds a M.M. in Choral Conducting from the University of Washington

and a B.M.E. From Northwestern University, and recently completed his Estill Voice Level I and Level II trainings. Andrew resides in Atlanta with his husband Cory, and their dogs Atticus and Pickles.

Justin Maxey, organ



Organist Justin Maxey, a native of Winder, Georgia, is the Artist-in-Residence & Associate Director of Music at The Community Church of Vero Beach, Florida. He is the Associate Artistic Director & Accompanist for the Atlantic Children & Youth choirs and Nautilus (both resident ensembles at the Community Church) as well as the Executive Director of the Community Churches’ concert series. Justin serves as the teacher of advanced piano and organ at the Primo Music Academy based out of the First Presbyterian Church of Vero Beach. He is also a dramatic bass/baritone, a seasoned solo pianist, and a highly sought after collaborative accompanist on both the piano and organ. He holds a Bachelor of Music in Organ Performance from Shorter College, a Masters in Organ Performance & Literature from the Eastman School of Music, and recently began a fully-funded Artist’s Diploma at Mercer University. During his undergraduate studies, Justin was the accompanist for the world-renowned Shorter College Chorale, under the direction of Dr. Martha Shaw. This prestigious appointment led to opportunities such as two European tours and being featured on a nationally released CD, *Beautiful River*. His skill as an organist has allowed him to play in some of the most famous cathedrals in the world, including St. Peter’s Basilica in the Vatican, St. Alban’s, Ely Cathedral, Christ Church (Dublin, Ireland), and St. Paul’s (London). Justin was awarded first place in both the Atlanta Chapter (2009) and Rochester NY Chapter (2011) Quimby Competitions of the American Guild of Organists. He received first place in the Atlanta Chapter of Mu Phi Epsilon performance competition (2010) and the David Spicer Hymn Playing award at the Schweitzer Organ Competition in September 2011.

Chamber Orchestra

Rebecca Testerman, Oboe
Carolyn Hancock, Violin I
Michele Marriage-Volz, Violin II
Lana Teko-Ahatefu, Viola I
Ian Smith, Viola II

George Bulter, Violoncello
Lauren McCombe, Bass
Justin Maxey, Organ

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Sydney Sewell, Choral Intern/Atlanta



Sydney Sewell comes to the William Baker Choral Foundation from a rich musical background. She began her musical studies in the Atlanta area as a student in the Atlanta Area Suzuki Piano Association, where she studied piano under Robin Blankenship for thirteen years. Sydney later attended Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, where she graduated with the Bachelor of Music Education. She taught choral music at the high school level for two years after graduating. Sydney has also directed and assisted with several church choirs in the Statesboro and Atlanta areas. She was appointed Student Intern in May. She conducted selections with the 2019 Cobb Summer Singers under Dr. Norma Raybon, in the 2019, and assisted with the 2019 Summer Singers of Atlanta under Dr. William Baker.

Sydney's long-term goals include completing her master's and doctorate in choral conducting and conducting a collegiate or professional ensemble. She is thrilled to be a part of the Choral Foundation and is enjoying her work as Student Intern for the 2019-2021 New South Festival Singers under the direction of former Music Director Andrew Phillip Schmidt and Interim Conductor William Baker.

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

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

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

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www.ChoralFoundation.org

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