

The Choral Foundation & the Kenneth Babcock Memorial Music Fund Presents

The William Baker Festival Singers

Dr. William O. Baker, Music Director & Conductor
Christine Freeman, Associate Music Director & Senior Vocal Coach
Jamea J. Sale, WBCF Executive Associate Music Director
Ed Frazier Davis, Composer in Residence

FESTIVAL OF KANSAS CITY COMPOSERS

With Our Special Guests

Allegro Con Moto, Allegro Choirs of Kansas City, Christy Elsner, Director

Heritage Choir, MidAmerica Nazarene University, Dr. Christopher Smith, Director

Sunday Afternoon, 28 January 2018

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Kansas City, Missouri



*The Lord is the Everlasting God,
The Creator of the ends of the earth,
Who does not faint or grow weary;
Whose understanding is unsearchable.*

SOLI DEO GLORIA

What wondrous love is this, O my soul?

The William Baker Festival Singers

William O. Baker, DMA

Founder & WBCF Music Director

Jamea J. Sale, MME

WBCF Executive Associate Music Director
Acting Director, Institute for Healthy Singing

Lynn Swanson, MME

Director, Institute for Healthy Singing
Music Director, Baroque Summer Institute

Andrew Phillip Schmidt, MM

Music Director, New South Festival Singers

Amy Thropp, MM

Music Director, Zimria Festivale Atlanta

Christine Freeman, MME

Associate Music Director/Senior Vocal Coach

Scott C. Smith

Choral Associate & Administrator, Atlanta

Ed Frazier Davis, MM

Composer in Residence

Jennifer Berroth

Associate Music Director, Lee's Summit

Nicole Winney

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The William Baker Choral Foundation, Inc.

5450 Buena Vista Street, Suite 100

Roeland Park, Kansas 66205 913.403.9223

www.HealthySinging.org

www.SullivanChoralLibrary.org

www.FestivalSingers.org www.ChoralFoundation.org

Laura Rene Baker '99

Chris Barnard '09

Martina Bergstrom '17

**Jennifer Berroth '14*

Jocelyn Botkin '04

Joyce Braddock '07

William Brubaker '15

Sandra Buntin '15

William Cannon '17

Michael Carter '06

Debbie Casolari '02

Kim Claxton '12

Malcolm Cook '04

Ed Frazier Davis '16

Laura Dickinson '04

Kent Dickinson '03

Eric Edman '12

Bethany Franklin '16

Christine Freeman '06

Vincent Gover '16

**Karen Kay Hall '12*

Marcia Higginson '02

Jill Holtkamp '07

Amy Imperato '17

Jim Jandt '01

**Gary Jarrett '02*

Jill Jarrett '12

Abby Judab '16

Kathleen Kennedy '11

Amanda Kimbrough '08

Ross Kimbrough '11

Stacey Knoell '08

Fred Leif '15

Katie Lorand '16

**Brad Piroutek '01*

Julie Piroutek '07

Jamie Roberts '12

Jamea Sale '02

Erica Seago '17

Susannah Seipel '15

Ethan Sherman '17

Cindy Sheets '09

Jennifer Schoenfeldt '06

Stephanie Sullivan '11

Sean Sweeden '16

Denice Trawicki '03

Ted Williams '18

Doug Woolery '17

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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' *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 over 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 25 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 20th anniversary 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 choir 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 are scheduled for performances in the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis this coming April, and in the National Cathedral in Washington, DC in October.

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*)



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 **Jane**

Sullivan Choral Resource Library and 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 Home Office of the Choral Foundation at 913.403.9223, or email Mail@FestivalSingers.org.

JAMEA SALE, WBCF Executive Associate Music Director Acting Director for 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, and Executive Associate Music Director of the William Baker Choral Foundation 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. In her Olathe, 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 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. 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 appears as conductor on two Festival Singers recordings: *A Festival for Christmas* and *Promised Land*.

Mrs. 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 fifth 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 for the (NEKMEA) North East Kansas Music Educators Association "Middle School Teacher of the Year" Award, and was previously nominated for the Kansas Choral Directors Association "Prelude" Award. She was the KCDA Repertoire and Standards Chair for Children's Choirs where she organized the Statewide Treble Honor Choir from 2012-2015. With her husband Daniel, and their two-year-old daughter, she makes her home in Olathe, Kansas.



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.

Allegro Con Moto

Christy Elsner, Founder & Artistic Director

Amy Cramer, Accompanist

Allegro Choirs of Kansas City inspire thousands of audience members each year locally, nationally, and abroad with its varied repertoire and heartfelt singing. Known for connecting with their audience, the upbeat premier choir program



enriches and transforms the lives of children by learning and performing beautiful music of the highest quality with technical excellence. Allegro directly impacts our community by providing numerous free concerts each season as well as 3 major performances to sold-out crowds. The choirs perform regularly at retirement homes, hospitals, and other charity functions as outreach. The choirs also tour nationally and internationally. This year, the choirs will sing by invitation at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

Allegro Con Moto is of five Allegro ensembles. Moto is filled with young women in 7th grade and above with singers from 36 different schools. The choir is a regular guest of the KC Symphony for the Christmas Festival and will join the symphony in 2019 for Carmina Burana. Allegro Con Moto received critical acclaim for their 2017 performance in Britten's War Requiem with the Kansas City Symphony. The choir has performed by invitation for the state and regional conventions and has served as the choir in residence at Vandercook College in Chicago. For more information about Allegro, Moto or auditions, please visit: www.allegrokc.org

A native Kansan, **Christy Elsner** is the Founder and Artistic Director of the Allegro Choirs of Kansas City. Under her direction since 2000, Allegro has grown from one choir of 38 to five choirs with over 250 singers. Heralded as "the voice of angels" by the Kansas City Star, Allegro inspires thousands of audience members each year with its varied repertoire, technical excellence, and heartfelt singing. The Allegro choirs have travelled extensively nationally and internationally with performances at the White House for President Obama and the First Lady, St. Peter's Basilica, Notre Dame, Carnegie Hall, and Myerson Hall. Allegro choirs have performed at state, regional and national conventions by invitation. The choirs are yearly guests of the Kansas City Symphony.



Christy is engaging and demanding but wraps her unwavering pursuit of excellence in humor and inspiring messages. As an active clinician for children's, youth, and treble choirs, Christy enjoys giving workshops on innovative rehearsing and is honored to conduct many regional, state, and national honor choirs. Her first book, Gadgets for Great Singing, was published in 2013 by Hal Leonard. She is currently finishing her second book, The Athletic Singer. She is the 2010 recipient of the Kindest-Kansas Citian and the 2008 recipient of the MENC Outstanding Middle Level Educator. She received her music education degree from the University of Kansas and received the Marcus E. Hahn Award for Outstanding Senior in Music Education. Professional memberships include MENC, Chorister's Guild, Chorus America, and ACDA.

When her mind isn't on Allegro, she loves to cook, hang out at the beach, read, travel, play with her dogs, attend her kids' events, catch for her daughter, workout and watch Northern Colorado softball, Jayhawk Basketball & the Kansas City Royals. Christy and her husband, Sean, stay busy with their three children: Chandler, Chase, and Carlee.

Carys Abu Satta
Becca Adair
Amber Adcox
Emma Aguayo
Skye Anson
Lydia Authier
Katie Barber
Camryn Benanti
Lillian Bogard
Miranda Bouphanoung

Yolanda Bouphanoung
Morgan Chandler
Serena Clark
Annie Covington
Addison Dalton
Sienna DelBorrell
Lexi Dixon
Chloe Easley
Madison Easley
Carlee Elsner

Hannah Hacking
Erin Hamilton
Alana Hansen
Elise Heidrick
Chloe Hockenberger
Kaitlyn Johnson
Sofia Lanni
Lillie Large
Taylor Long
Ava Martinez

Sophia Meyer
Annabelle Moore
Mathys Moore
Ashleigh Murphree
Alexis Peek
Emma Price
Corena Racine
Emily Rose Rauch
Maddie Sack
Abby Sheerin
Lola Stice
Kayleigh Stoddard
Annabelle Sweet
Meaghan Vandehey
Isabel Warden
Avery Warren
Kathryn Wiseman
Makenna Wolgast
Sydney Wooton
Sofia Zelinski

THE WILLIAM BAKER FESTIVAL SINGERS

Dr. William O. Baker, Music Director & Conductor
Christine Freeman, Associate Music Director & Vocal Coach
Jamea J. Sale, WBCF Executive Associate Music 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 2018 performances in the Cathedral Basilica in St. Louis and the National Cathedral in Washington, DC.*

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

A Festival of Kansas City Composers

Sunday Afternoon, 28 January 2018, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Kansas City, Missouri

The William Baker Festival Singers, Dr. William O. Baker, Music Director
Jamea Sale, WBCF Executive Associate Music Director
Christine Freeman, Associate Director Ed Frazier Davis, Composer in Residence

With Allegro Con Moto, Allegro Choirs of Kansas City, Christy Elsner, Music Director
& The Heritage Choir, MidAmerica Nazarene University, Dr. Christopher Smith, Music Director

Introit

***MY SONG IS LOVE UNKNOWN**

John IRELAND, 1879-1962

Choral Setting by R. Douglas Helvering, Born 1977

Choral Foundation Composer in Residence, 2002-2007

The William Baker Festival Singers, Dr. Baker, conducting, Bethany Franklin, piano

Commissioned in 2016 in honor of former Executive Associate Music Director Lynn Swanson's 30 years of service to music in Atlanta

Welcome

I

+*AVE MARIA

R. Douglas HELVERING

+HAIL MARY

American Spiritual, Choral Setting by William Dawson, 1899-1990

TENEBRAE FACTAE SUNT

Geoffrey WILCKEN, Born 1972

The William Baker Festival Singers

WBCF Executive Associate Music Director Jamea Sale & Dr. Baker, conducting

Amy Imperato, Erica Seago, Will Brubaker & Ed Frazier Davis, soloists

II

LET THE SEA MAKE NOISE (Chandon Anthems)

George Frideric HANDEL, 1685-1759

Arranged by Jake Naverud, Born 1986

SHINE

Ed ROLAND, Born 1963

Arranged by Christy Elsner

BUT A FLINT HOLDS FIRE

Andrea RAMSEY

Allegro Con Moto, Christy Elsner, conducting, Amy Cramer, piano

III

***O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM**

Ed Frazier DAVIS, Born 1989

Choral Foundation Composer in Residence, Appointed 2016

The William Baker Festival Singers

Commissioned and Premiered in 2016 by The William Baker Festival Singers

IV

AVE VERUM CORPUS World Premier Performance

Vincent GOVER, Born 1992

ADAM LAY Y'BOUNDEN

Sean SWEEDEN, Born 1987

+GLORIA

Sean SWEEDEN

The William Baker Festival Singers
Karen Kay Hall, piano Sean Sweeden, vibraphone and percussion Matt Anderson, percussion

V

MY SHEPHERD WILL SUPPLY MY NEED

American Folk Hymn

Choral Setting by Virgil Thomson, 1896-1989

OSE SHALOM

John LEAVITT, Born 1956

The Heritage Choir, MidAmerica Nazarene University
Dr. Christopher Smith, conducting Sora Park, piano

VI

***SET ME AS A SEAL**

Ed Frazier DAVIS

Sean Sweeden, soloist

MY BELOVED SPOKE World Premier Performance

Ed Frazier DAVIS

Amy Imparato, Erica Seago, Sean Sweeden & Vincent Gover, solo-quartet
The William Baker Festival Singers

VII

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING?

Robert LOWRY, 1826-1899

Choral Setting by Ed Frazier Davis

The William Baker Festival Singers, Allegro Con Moto & The Heritage Choir
Ed Frazier Davis, conducting Bethany Franklin, piano

**Recorded by The William Baker Festival Singers on the
Amber Waves Sound Recordings 2017 album "My Song is Love Unknown."*

*+Recorded by The William Baker Festival Singers on the Amber Waves Sound Recordings 2003 album "Sing & Ponder"
and the upcoming album "The Heart Worships at Christmas."*

+To be released on the June 2018 Amber Waves Sound Recordings album "The Heart Worships at Christmas."

THE WILLIAM BAKER FESTIVAL SINGERS

THE CALVARY UNIVERSITY CHORALE

A Concert of A Cappella Classics & Spirituals Benefitting the Jane Sullivan Choral Resource Library
Saturday Evening, 3 February 2018, 7:00 PM, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Lee's Summit MO
ADMISSION FREE - 100% of Donations to Benefit the Jane Sullivan Choral Library

THE 2018 KENNETH BABCOCK MEMORIAL MASTERWORKS CONCERT

The William Baker Festival Singers & Chamber Orchestra

Dr. William O. Baker, conducting Canon John Schaefer, organ

Sarah Tannehill Anderson, Kristee Haney, David Adams & Robert McNichols, soloists

Sunday Afternoon, 8 April 2018, 2:00 PM, Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral, Kansas City, MO

Mozart: GREAT MASS IN C MINOR World Premier Work by Ed Frazier Davis

\$20 adults; \$15 students w/ID; \$5 youth 17 & under At the Door or www.FestivalSingers.org/Concerts

THE WILLIAM BAKER
FESTIVAL SINGERS

MY SONG IS
LOVE
UNKNOWN

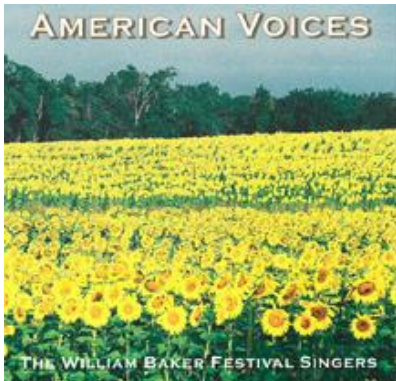
Recordings of the
**The CHORAL
FOUNDATION**
Music for the Human Grace

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TABLE AT TODAY'S CONCERT

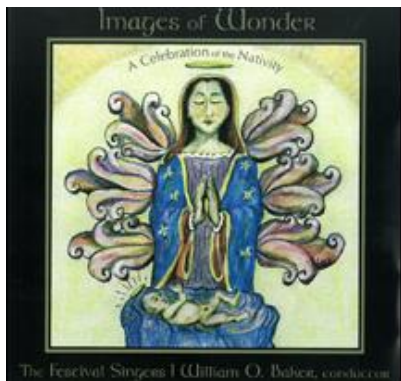
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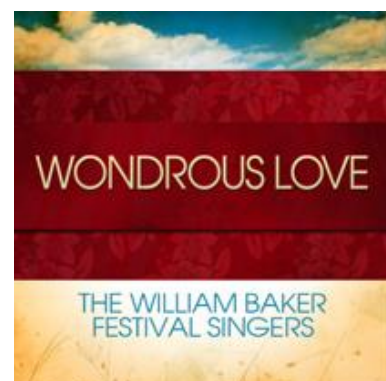
WORKS FROM BARBER,
THOMPSON & OTHER
AMERICAN COMPOSERS



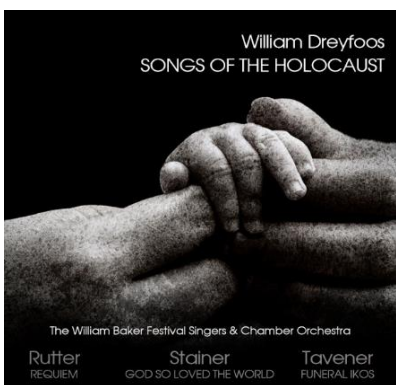
*A CELEBRATION
OF THE
NATIVITY*



A CELEBRATION OF THE
HOLIDAYS WITH CHOIRS,
BRASS & ORGAN



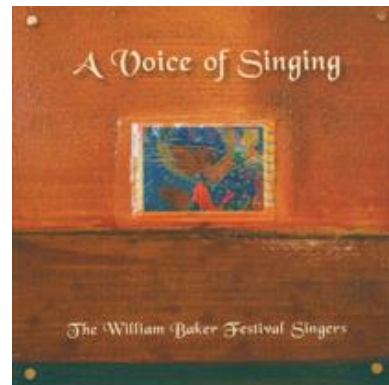
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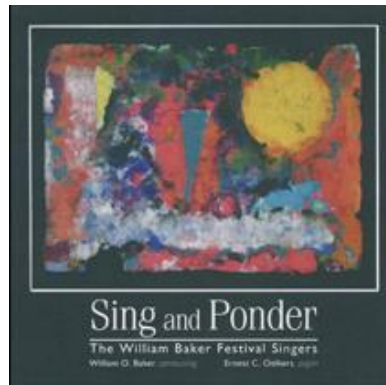
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CLASSIC
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TRADITIONAL CLASSICS
WITH ORGANIST
ERNEST C. OELKERS

MidAmerica Nazarene University Heritage Choir

Dr. Christopher Smith, Music Director

Sora Park, Accompanist



The MidAmerica Nazarene University Heritage Choir, from Olathe, Kansas, is a select auditioned mixed ensemble performing advanced works from a variety of style periods, genres, and cultures. Established in 1966 with the founding of the University, Heritage Choir represents MNU as its touring ensemble and performs in other special university functions. Heritage Choir has performed at New York's Carnegie Hall in 2011 and in the National Capitol Choral Festival in Washington, DC in 2013. They will perform at the 2018 Kansas Music Educators Association In-Service Workshop in Wichita, Kansas.

Dr. Christopher M. Smith, Director Dr. Smith is Director of Choral Activities at MidAmerica Nazarene University. Dr. Smith performed with Kantorei Kansas City as chorister and Assistant Artistic Director from 2014-16. He currently serves as College and University Choirs Repertoire and Resources Chair for the Kansas Choral Directors Association and the Men's Choirs Repertoire and Resources Chair for the Southwestern Division of the American Choral Directors Association. He received a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Choral Conducting from the University of Kansas in 2016, receiving the Sandra Keller Daugherty Award for Outstanding Graduate Conducting. While at KU, he conducted the KU Men's Glee Club, performing throughout the region. He holds a Master of Music in choral conducting and a Bachelor of Music, summa cum laude, piano performance from East Carolina University.



THE CHORAL FOUNDATION BY THE NUMBERS

673 ...men, women and youth have participated in Choral Foundation ensembles since June 1, 2016

17% ...the percentage of operational funds received from concert ticket sales in a typical year.

\$235,000 ...the operational budget of the Choral Foundation for the year 2018

**PLEASE CONSIDER A GIFT TO THE CHORAL FOUNDATION
TO ENSURE THAT CONCERTS LIKE THE ONE YOU ENJOY TODAY WILL CONTINUE**



Making a contribution is easy.

You may use the strange symbol here, called a QR code, to link directly to the "Make a Gift" page on the Choral Foundation's website.

Just activate the QR Reader on your smart phone.

You may visit www.ChoralFoundation.org/Make-a-Gift

Or, you may send your tax-deductible gift (check to WBCF) in support of the Festival Singers directly to our office.

William Baker Choral Foundation

5450 Buena Vista Street, Suite 100, Roeland Park, KS 66205

www.ChoralFoundation.org

Featured Composers



R. Douglas Helvering is an active composer, arranger, conductor, and educator. His music has been featured at major national, regional, and state conventions as well as at prestigious venues worldwide including the historic Carnegie Hall in New York. He is currently serving as Adjunct Associate Professor at the famed Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ and as Music Minister at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Princeton Junction, NJ. Dr. Helvering served as Composer in Residence for the William Baker Festival Singers from 2002-2007. His music has been widely acclaimed by performers, scholars, and audiences around the world for its artistry and emotional appeal. Find him online at www.RDouglasHelvering.com.



Geoffrey Wilcken has studied composition since 1982 under Drs. Jeffrey Pater and Gary White, both of Iowa State University. After the release of his anthem "Lord Jesus Lay" by Augsburg Publishing House in 1984, he went on to win the Music Teacher's National Association composition contest in 1985 and again in 1986. Active in church music since his appointment as Organist of the St. Paul Lutheran Church in Ames, Iowa in 1988, he presently serves as Organist for the historic St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Kansas City. He served as rehearsal assistant, accompanist and resident composer of the Fine Arts Chorale under Dr. Terri Teal for over a decade before becoming director of the ensemble, now known as the Songflower Chorale. He is currently completing requirements for the Doctor of Musical Arts at the University of Kansas.



John Leavitt is a composer, conductor, pianist, and educator whose music continues to captivate listeners and musicians of all ages. He holds degrees from Emporia (KS) State University, Wichita (KS) State University, and the University of Missouri at Kansas City Conservatory of Music. He served on the faculty of Friends University and MidAmerica Nazarene University, in addition to appointments at Newman University in Wichita, Concordia College in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, and Concordia University in River Forest, Illinois. His music has been performed and recorded by parish choirs, college and high school ensembles, and choral societies across the globe.



Sean Sweeden, a native Arkansan, began singing in church choirs, ACDA honor choirs, and musical theatre at a young age. 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. His first compositions were in marching band writing drum cadences and show music for the drumline and front ensemble. 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 is completing the Doctor of Musical Arts in percussion performance at the University of Missouri at Kansas City. Sean plans to teach percussion at the university level where he can also continue to sing and compose. Sean has been a member of the William Baker Festival Singers since 2016.



Andrea Ramsey enjoys an international presence as a composer, conductor, scholar and music educator. Before leaping into full time composing and guest conducting, Andrea held positions at The Ohio State University and the University of Colorado Boulder, respectively. An award-winning composer with approximately 100 works to date, she believes strongly in the creation of new music. A native of Arkansas, Dr. Ramsey has experienced in her own life the power of music to provide a sense of community, better understanding of our humanity and rich opportunities for self-discovery. An ASCAPlus award-winning composer, Andrea believes strongly in the creation of new works. Her compositions, available with traditional publishers and, also, through www.musicspoke.com residency collaborations with the Allegro Choirs of Kansas City, Ithaca College, and the Crescent City Choral Festival in New Orleans.



Vincent Gover hails from Columbia, MD. His works have been performed across the United States. In 2016 his chamber work *Brook's Release* the Tier I Winner of the American Modern Ensemble's 10th Annual Composition Competition, and in 2011 he was awarded the first annual William H. Lively Student Composer Residency with the Irving Symphony Orchestra in Irving, TX. Focused on opera, his in-progress opera *This Little Piggy* was workshopped in 2017 with Jennifer Higdon at UMKC, and his musical comedy *Troilus & Cressida* was also previewed at Gonzaga University in Spokane, WA. He holds two degrees in composition from Southern Methodist University and is currently pursuing a third at UMKC. He is in his second year with the William Baker Festival Singers, and he performs frequently in productions of the UMKC Conservatory Opera Theatre.



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The William Baker Choral Foundation

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

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The Baroque Summer Institute, Marietta, Georgia, 2017
Lynn Swanson, MME, Music Director & Conductor Andrew Phillip Schmidt, MM, 2018 Guest 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
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Zimria Festivale Atlanta, Dunwoody, Georgia, 2014
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The Summer Singers of Kansas City, Kansas City, Missouri, 1999
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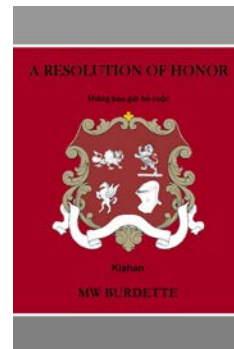
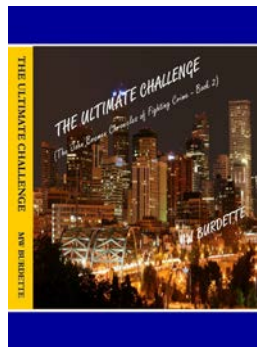
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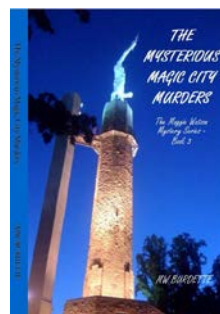
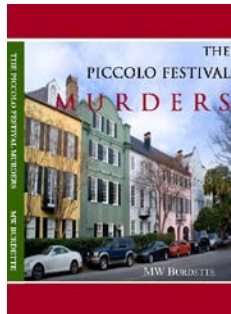
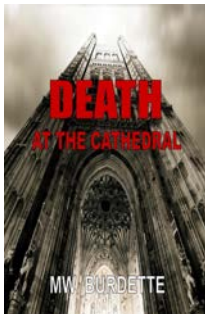
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Author of *The John Bremen Chronicles* and the *LT Maggie Watson Murder Mysteries Series*

Burdette's fiction falls into two genres—crime and mystery novels. His first three works—*In Search of an Identity*, *The Ultimate Challenge*, and *A Resolution of Honor* are three novels in his trilogy about John Bremen, the super sleuth, and his sidekick and Vietnamese friend Klahan. Together they track down a dangerous U.S. Army traitor, Danny Briggs, who is smuggling arms into the United States. His last book in the John Bremen Chronicles is *Murdering the Peacekeepers*, and it will be available for purchase online in the spring of 2018.



His mysteries revolve around LT Maggie Watson, a hard hitting detective who solves murders for a small city in Illinois. *Death at the Cathedral* and *The Piccolo Festival Murders*, *The Mysterious Magic City Murders*, and *The Four-Leaf Clover Murders* are the first of his stories about this detective.



To order novels go to <http://www.mwburdettesbooks.com> or Amazon.com/books and type in the words MW Burdette's Books. Most paperbacks are \$9.95 each and available for immediate shipment.

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