

The William Baker Choral Foundation,
with Support from Lee's Summit Cultural Arts and the
Louis and Frances Swinken Supporting Foundation
of the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Kansas City, Presents

Our 9th Annual Summer Concerts

Donald McCullough

HOLOCAUST CANTATA

Amy Thropp: KADDISH IN MEMORY OF THE SIX MILLION
Kim Andre Arnesen: EVEN WHEN HE IS SILENT

Summer Singers of Lee's Summit

Jennifer Lahasky, MME, Music Director & Conductor

Geoffrey Wilcken, DMA, Organist & Accompanist

Megan Moore, Soprano Joshua Markley, DMA, Baritone

Sunday Afternoon, 30 July 2023

Monday Evening, 31 July 2023

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Lee's Summit, Missouri

www.ChoralFoundation.org

The Summer Singers of Lee's Summit

Jennifer Lahasky, MME

Director, Summer Singers of Lee's Summit

William O. Baker, DMA

WBCF Founder & Director

Jamea J. Sale, PhD

WBCF Executive Associate Director
Director, Institute for Healthy Singing

Lynn Swanson, MME

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

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Music Director, Summer Singers of Atlanta

Amy Thropp, MM

Music Director, Zimria Festivale Atlanta

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Geoffrey Wilcken, Staff Accompanist

The William Baker Choral Foundation, Inc.

5450 Buena Vista Street, Suite 100

Roeland Park, Kansas 66205 913.488.7524

www.FestivalSingers.org www.ChoralFoundation.org

www.HealthySinging.org www.ChoralCreativity.org

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JENNIFER LAHASKY, Music Director

Jennifer Lahasky has been involved with the Choral Foundation since 2013. She became a member of the William Baker Festival Singers at the beginning of the 2013-14 season. Jennifer holds a Bachelor of Music Education (Voice) from Washburn University in Topeka and the Master of Music Education in Choral Pedagogy from the University of Kansas. She was Student Intern for the William Baker Choral Foundation in Kansas City for the 2015-2016 concert season, and joined the Institute for Healthy Singing as a Fellow in 2016. Mrs. Lahasky has been a professional Music Educator for eleven years, and currently teaches 6th-8th grade choir at Leawood Middle School in Leawood, KS.



Jennifer Lahasky was appointed Music Director for the Summer Singers of Lee's Summit in the 2021 concert season. In the summer of 2022, Jennifer created and directed the first Johnson County Choir Camp for youth singers. In December of 2022 she was honored to direct the East Central Kansas District Treble Honor Choir. Jennifer continues to lead vocal workshops for young singers as well as music educators in the KC metro area. She makes her home in Olathe, KS with her husband, Alex, and two daughters, Margaret and Abigail.

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The William Baker Choral Foundation Endowment Fund, Inc

Have you considered remembering the work of the William Baker Choral Foundation in your will, in your estate plan or through a donor advised fund? At the Choral Foundation we are working to build an organization that will connect people with music of timeless beauty and worth for many generations to come. Your gift to our work through your estate will help us bring the life-changing joys of participation in the performance of great music to thousands of men, women, youth and children yet unborn. Your gift may be designated to support the work of the Choral Foundation in a specific community, or through a particular ensemble, or in support of a special project.

Please advise your will preparer, estate planner, or attorney of your desire to support the work of the William Baker Choral Foundation through a legacy gift. Our office staff will gladly provide the necessary information to ensure that your gift is received and properly applied. Please call 913.488.7524, or email us at Mail@FestivalSingers.org.

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The Summer Singers of Lee's Summit



The Summer Singers of Lee's Summit was created in June 2014 as an ensemble of the Kansas City-based William Baker Choral Foundation. Their 2014 performance of Mozart's *Missa Brevis in D* was heard by a capacity audience and hailed as "...a significant contribution to Kansas City's growing family of choirs." Today's concert marks their ninth annual performance. Highlights of previous performances have included Haydn's *The Creation*, Mozart's *Coronation Mass*, & *Requiem*, Vivaldi's *Gloria*, and Handel's *Coronation Anthems* and selections from *Messiah*.

The Summer Singers of Lee's Summit continues the tradition that was called "the very best of amateur music-making..." by Pierre Ruhe of *The Atlanta Constitution*. Beginning with the original Summer Singers of Atlanta in 1990, the Choral Foundation has created numerous summer choruses that now involve hundreds of participants from multiple states. Jennifer Lahasky, who served the Summer Singers of Lee's Summit as Associate Music Director from 2017-2021, was appointed Music Director & Conductor beginning with the 2022 season.

No audition is required for membership in the Summer Singers. All adults and mature youth from the age of 16 are invited to participate. Weekly rehearsals begin each June and culminate in performances with distinguished soloists and professional orchestras at the end of the summer. Registration opens March 1, 2024. For information, please call the Choral Foundation at 913-488-7524, or email Mail@FestivalSingers.org. Please follow us on Facebook and on our YouTube channel: William Baker Choral Foundation.

The William Baker Choral Foundation

The William Baker Choral Foundation, headquartered in Roeland Park, Kansas, supports choral ensembles based in Georgia, Illinois, Kansas and Missouri. These include the William Baker Festival Singers and the New South Festival Singers, semi-professional ensembles that have distinguished themselves in concerts, recordings, broadcasts and tours across the South, Midwest and Northeast.

The Choral Foundation's continuing education program includes opportunities for Choral Interns in Masters and Doctoral level study. 40 alumni of the program now serve in significant church, school and professional choral leadership positions across the nation. The Choral Foundation is the sponsor for Amber Waves Music Publishing, (www.AmberWavesPublishing.com) a creative house with over 50 titles by up and coming writers.

Recent initiatives of the organization are the **Institute for Healthy Singing**, the **Institute for Choral Creativity**, the **Choral Conversations Podcast** and **The Jane Sullivan Choral Resource Library**. The Institute for Healthy Singing (www.HealthySinging.org) is under the leadership of director Jamea Sale, PhD. The Institute for Choral Creativity (www.ChoralCreativity.org) is under the direction of Ed Frazier Davis, MM. Faculty members have presented clinics and seminars in high school, church and community arenas. Choral Conversations is a monthly podcast hosted by Dr. William Baker and Dr. Jamea Sale. The program features musical excerpts and lively conversation. www.FestivalSingers.org/choralconversations

The Jane Sullivan Choral Music Library in Roeland Park, Kansas, opened in October 2017. Having acquired the entire choral libraries of a former large choral society and a major research university, the WBCF's Sullivan Library represents one of the largest and most diverse collections of choral scores in the Midwest. In addition to supplying music for our growing family of choral ensembles, the Sullivan Library is now a national music lending and rental resource for choral ensembles, churches and schools across America.

Please learn more at www.SullivanChoralLibrary.org.

MEGAN MOORE, Soprano



Megan Moore is an up-and coming singer and conductor in the Kansas City community. Originally from the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex, she graduated summa cum laude from William Jewell College in May 2017, with B.A. degrees in Music, Psychology, and Applied Critical Thought and Inquiry. During her time at Jewell, she studied voice under Dr. Ronald Witzke; served as student conductor for the award-winning Concert Choir and William Jewell Handbells; and was involved in the Chapel Choir, Choral Scholars, and Schola Cantorum. Additionally, she offered her voice and conducting skills as a Choral Scholar for Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral under the direction of Canon John Schaefer, then Dr. Paul Meier. Recently, Megan has sung in Carnegie Hall with Mid-America Productions and Winthrop University under the direction of Dr. Jeremy Mims, as well as in Texas-based Voci d'Amici, conducted by Dr.

Loyd Hawthorne. Locally, Ms. Moore sings soprano in the many renowned vocal ensembles, including Musica Vocale (led by Dr. Arnold Epley), Cardinalis (led by Dr. Anthony Maglione), The William Baker Festival Singers (led by Dr. William Baker), and Songflower Chorale (led by Dr. Geoffrey Wilcken). Additionally, Ms. Moore serves as the Choral Assistant at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in downtown Kansas City. During the work week, she serves as an Account Administrator for a travel insurance company and spends lots of time preparing for her many musical endeavors. She served as Choral Intern for the Kansas City ensembles of the Choral Foundation from 2020-2021.

JOSH MARKLEY, Baritone



Josh Markley, baritone, has been an active oratorio performer since 2008. Some of his concert repertoire includes Mahler's Symphony No. 8: *Symphony of a Thousand*, Vaughn Williams' *A Sea Symphony*, Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Haydn's *Creation*, Bach's *B-minor Mass* and *St. Matthew Passion*, Handel's *Messiah*, Elijah in Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, and Lucifero in Handel's *La Resurrezione*. On the opera stage, Markley has sung roles such as Il Conte in Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro*, Marcello in Puccini's *La Bobeme*, Tarquinius in Britten's *Lucretia*, Don Alfonso in Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, Angelotti in Puccini's *Tosca* among others. On top of his experiences as a solo performer, Markley has also sung as a professional chorister with the Kansas City Lyric Opera as well as several professional choirs in the Kansas City area such as Te Deum, KC Vitas and others. Perhaps most importantly, Markley is an ardent educator. He has taught students from grade school through the

collegiate level in public and private institutions, and he is currently the Director of Music at the Barstow School. He completed his Doctorate of Musical Arts in voice with honors at the University of Kansas in 2016. His dissertation on the baritone voice and its development during the Baroque era, focusing on its use in Handel oratorios, has been referenced as an "excellent source of information regarding the baritone voice in early music" by the New York Metropolitan Opera Guild. Dr. Markley appeared in Mendelssohn's *Elijah* in 2022 with the Summer Singers of Kansas City.

GEOFFREY WILCKEN, Piano



Geoffrey Wilcken is a prolific composer, conductor, organist, and pianist. Recent commissions include *One Out Of Many* (2015) for the 40th anniversary of the Lawrence Civic Choir, *Everyone's Brother* (2019) for the Musica Vocale in Kansas City, *Rosette* (2014) for the dedication of the new organ at Village Presbyterian Church, Prairie Village, KS, and *Music of the Spheres* (2014) for the combined bands and choirs of Johnson County Community College, Overland Park KS. He has also created numerous works for sacred and liturgical use, including *Anthems for the Cross* (2017) for St. Mary's Episcopal Church, and arrangements such as *Angel Noels* (2009) for the Kansas City Fine Arts Chorale. He has twice won the Music Teachers National Association composition contest, and has been awarded the Anthony J. Cius outstanding composer

prize. In 2015 he received the first ever Kansas Choral Composition award for his work, *Life's Symphony*, and was named runner-up in the 2017 ACDA Brock composition competition. He has titles currently available from Alliance Music Publications, Colla Voce Press, and Alfred Publishing House.

Dr. Wilcken is Organist for the historic St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Kansas City and is an adjunct faculty member of Kansas City Kansas Community College and Mid-America Nazarene University. He is Music Director of the Songflower Chorale. He holds a Doctor of Musical Arts and the Master of Music in choral conducting, both from the University of Kansas, and a Bachelor of Music in composition from Iowa State University. www.gwcomposer.me

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Dr. William O. Baker, Music Director & Conductor
Christine M. Freeman, MME, Associate Music Director & Vocal Coach
Jamea J. Sale, PhD, WBCF Executive Associate Director
Dr. Sean Sweeden, Composer in Residence Kelsey Emmanuel, Choral Intern

AUDITIONS



The William Baker Festival Singers has delighted audiences in fourteen 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' 2023-2024 Concert Season signature programming includes short-form sacred a cappella classics and spirituals in addition to Chicago tour performances and Vaughan Williams' Dona Nobis Pacem.

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www.FestivalSingers.org

The 9th Summer Singers of Lee's Summit

Sunday Afternoon, 30 July 2023 at 4:00 PM & Monday Evening, 31 July 2023 at 7:30 PM
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Lee's Summit, Missouri

*The 2023 concerts of the Summer Singers of Lee's Summit are dedicated in thanksgiving for the life
of Robert Tobia, 1938-2023, a charter member and generous supporter of our mission*

Introductory Remarks by Dr. Shelly M. Cline, Ph.D., Midwest Center for Holocaust Education

I

KADDISH IN MEMORY OF THE SIX MILLION

Sung in Hebrew

Amy THROPP, Born 1953
Composer Manuscript

First Performance, Zimria Festival Atlanta, Monday, 16 April 2018, the Composer Conducting

Exalted and hallowed be God's great name
in the world which God created, according to plan.
May God's majesty be revealed in the days of our lifetime
And the life of all Israel—
Speedily, imminently, to which we say Amen.
Blessed be God's great name to all eternity.
Blessed, praised, honored, exalted, extolled, glorified, adored,
And lauded be the name of the Holy Blessed One,
Beyond all earthly words and songs of blessing,
Praise, and comfort, to which we say Amen.
May there be abundant peace from heaven, and life,
For us and all Israel, to which we say Amen.
May the One who creates harmony on high,
Bring peace to us and to all Israel.
To which we say Amen.

Megan Moore, soloist
The Composer Conducting

II

HOLOCAUST CANTATA

Donald McCULLOUGH, Born 1957
Hinshaw Music Publishing HMB-219

*First Performance, Master Chorale of Washington, Tuesday, 17 March 1998, the Composer Conducting
This the first performance under the auspices of the Choral Foundation*

All of the songs in the **Holocaust Cantata**, originally in Polish, were found in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum archives (Aleksander Kulisiewicz Collection) and were written by prisoners while incarcerated in Nazi concentration camps. The readings are based on interview transcripts, historical data, and the story of Irena Augustyńska Kafka. The Holocaust Cantata contains no plot, rather each song and reading represents a different person and a different time in the Holocaust experience. -*Donald McCullough*

The Prisoner Rises - Majdanek, 1943-1944

The prisoner rises, straw rustles 'round him, poor slave he rises, shell of a man.
Has coffee only, has nothing more, because today's bread ate he yesterday.
Our thoughts so somber, our hearts so mournful,
The time so hopeless, so full of dread,
Of fires burning, the iron furnace,
That while alive our spirit's flame burns out.

Reading: Singing Saved My Life

Rabbi Larry Karol

Song of the Polish Prisoners - Buchenwald 1944

Oh, what are these chains and these handcuffs to us?
Oh, what is this prison to us?
The strength of our spirits will conquer the tortures, the suffering cannot overpower us!
Still Poland is not lost, as long as we are alive!
When we are enwrapped in the banner of Poland our strength is a dangerous foe.
We'll not spare our live, no we'll not spare our blood to raise Poland up from her grave.
So many have withered in dark cells for us, so many have perished for us.
To win or to die, oh what else have we left? We'll not let them rule over us!

The Men of the Summer Singers of Lee's Summit

Reading: The Execution of the Twelve

Rabbi Mark Levin

In Buchenwald - Buchenwald 1944

In Buchenwald the birch trees rustle sadly, as my heart sways, languishing in woe.
Then my soul sings a quiet song of pining, on the wind my song is sent back home.
Then my song beckons to my country, land made fertile by her patriots' blood!
I see the graves that scar the death-marked roadside,
Yes, I see them in dark dreams each night.

My song once told the stories of her forests, of her streams that once caressed me whole.
But now it sings of strange rocks that surround me, of cold skies that mock, deride my soul.
Then my song beckons to my country, sings of suffering 'round the fire's hearth!
Remembering all those prisoners of torment, dreaming in a world of wires and bars.

Reading: A State of Separation

Rabbi Larry Karol, Father Timothy Copping, Rabbi Mark Levin, Mrs. Rhonda Karol

The Train - Brzezinka 1944

Already rolling, puffing and blowing, already hearing the clatter taking her away.
Eyes last meet, gazing, hands gesture, waving, unspoken, silent sorrow.
Running still beside the train in fool's futility. Farewell my love! Remember me!
Goodbye to eyes that once caressed me, farewell to love the owned my heart,
The dark hour's on us, our fate is sealed, I must forget you! Farewell my love! Remember me!

Reading: Singing From Birth Until Death

Rabbi Larry Karol

The Striped Ones - Majdanel 1943

Their clothes veil the pride that now slumbers inside, the boats [wooden shoes] on their feet murmur sighs,
They're brothers and sisters, they're husbands and wives,

The striped ones, the prisoners marked with stripes.
The watch towers and sentinels, the barbed wires and gates, that cut off the world from their sight,
Cannot quell the hope that so patiently waits, for freedom to find its way inside.
This time is the time when the day lives in night, when fate's hand knows no tender plight,
Let nothing divide us, let all here unite, for we are the women marked with stripes.

The Women of the Summer Singers of Lee's Summit

Reading: There's No Life Like Life at Auschwitz
Rabbi Mark Levin

Tempo di Tango - Instrumental

Reading: Letter to Mom
Mrs. Rhonda Karol

Song of Days Now Gone - Buchenwald 1 July 1943
Cello, play the sad song, song of agony and woe,
Song of bonds that still hold on, song of days now gone.
Let these memories gently fly to their native countryside.
Through our sorrow, pain and tears, let the song play on.
Dreams of yore will not return, nor the reveries that burned,
Nor the nectar of sweet lips, nor these longing eyes.
Cello play the sad song, song of pining, pain and tears,
Song remembering dreams of love and of days now gone.

Jessika Toro, mezzo-soprano

Music Director Jennifer Lahasky, conducting
Megan Moore, soprano **Joshua Markley, baritone** **Larry Figg, cello** **Geoffrey Wilcken, piano**

III

EVEN WHEN HE IS SILENT

Kim André ARNESEN, Born 1980
Norsk Musikforlag

First performance 26 November 2011, Nidaros Cathedral Choir, Trondheim, Norway, the Composer Conducting
First Choral Foundation Performance, Sunday, 5 November 2017, William Baker Festival Singers, Kansas City, Missouri

I believe in the sun, even when it's not shining.
I believe in love, even when I feel it not. I believe in God, even when He is silent.

-Anonymous, 20th century

*The Summer Singers of Lee's Summit expresses appreciation to Father Timothy Coppinger, Rector,
and the people of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, for providing our rehearsal & concert home since 2014.*

*Please join us for a Wine & Cookie Reception following the concert given by the Friends of St. Paul's Music.
The reception will be upstairs in the Parlor Art Gallery. Exhibits and artwork in the gallery are expressions
created by the children of the Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy. A standout of the exhibit celebrates Heroes of
the Holocaust, a research project of 4th graders from HBHA, featuring non-Jews who put their lives in peril
to save their fellow human beings. We hope you will respond to the exhibit with a renewed sense of hope.*

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William Baker Choral Foundation Center

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William Baker Festival Singers, Prairie Village, Kansas, 1998

New South Festival Singers, Atlanta, Georgia, 1985
Lynn Swanson, MME, Music Director & Conductor

Summer Singers of Atlanta, Midtown Atlanta, 1990
Andrew Phillip Schmidt, MM, Music Director & Conductor

Summer Singers of Kansas City, Kansas City, Missouri, 1999
William O. Baker, DMA, Music Director & Conductor

Cobb Summer Singers, Marietta, Georgia, 2006
Lynn Swanson, MME, Founder & Music Director

Summer Singers of Lee's Summit, Lee's Summit, Missouri, 2014
Jennifer Lahasky, MME, Music Director & Conductor

Voces Festivas, Roeland Park, Kansas, 2021
Leilani Velasco Vaughn, Music Director

Kansas City Bronze, Roeland Park, Kansas, 2018

Vox Venti, Chicago, Illinois, 2022
Ed Frazier Davis, MM, Music Director & Conductor

Institute for Healthy Singing & Voice Research, Roeland Park, Kansas, 2015
Jamea J. Sale, PhD, Director Lynn Swanson, MME, Founder

Institute for Choral Creativity, Chicago, Illinois, 2020
Ed Frazier Davis, MM, Director

Choral Conversations Podcast with William Baker & Jamea Sale, Roeland Park, Kansas, 2018
Jane Sullivan Choral Resource Library, Roeland Park, Kansas, 2016

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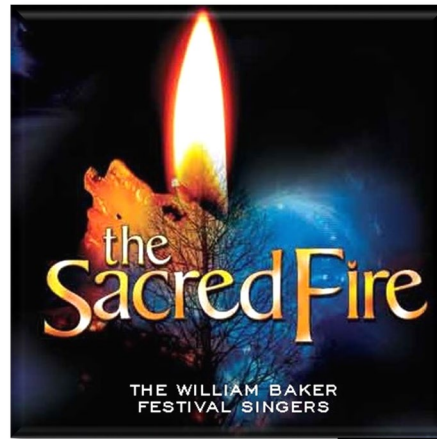
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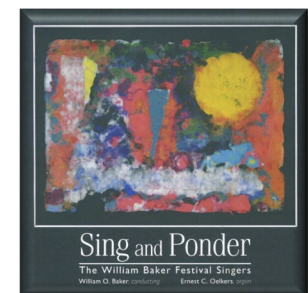
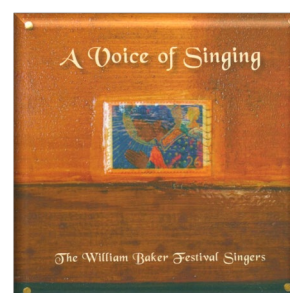
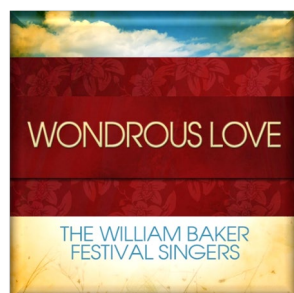
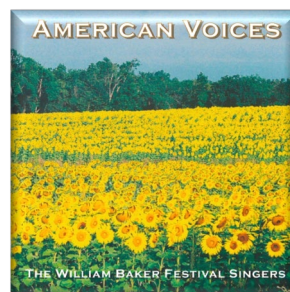
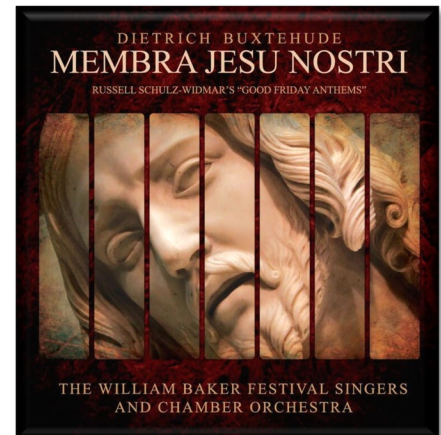
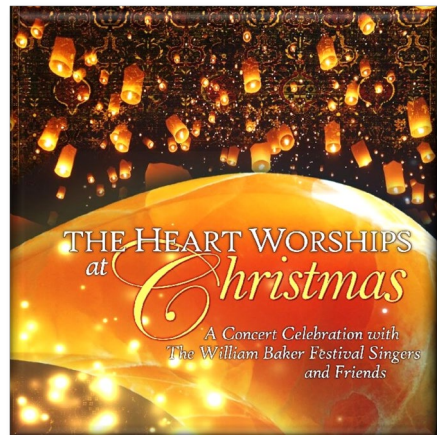
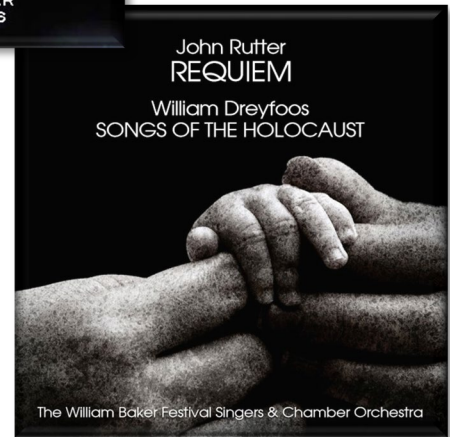
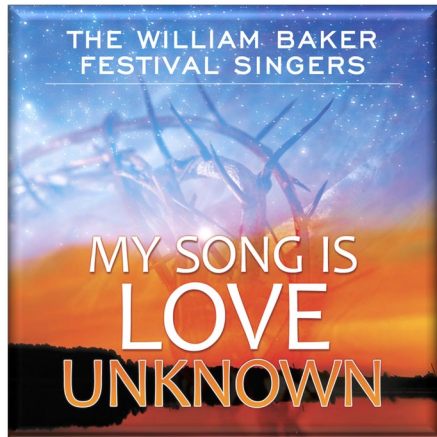


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