

The Choral Foundation, through the Kenneth Babcock Memorial Music Fund
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Candlelight, Carols, & Cathedral

Celebrating the Beauty and Wonder of Christmas Since 1998

The William Baker Festival Singers

Dr. William O. Baker, Music Director & Conductor

Christine Freeman, Associate Music Director

Dr. Jamea J. Sale, WBCF Executive Associate John Schaefer, Organ

Emily Fish, Choral Intern Dr. Sean Sweeden, Composer in Residence

Allegro Con Brio, Christy Elsner, Director

Raymore-Peculiar Treble Chamber Singers, *Stephen Rew, Director*

Friday Evening, 16 December 2022

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Kansas City, Missouri

Sunday Afternoon, 18 December 2022

Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral, Kansas City, Missouri

*Welcome all wonders in one sight,
Eternity shut in a span.*

*Summer in winter, day in night,
Heaven in Earth and God in Man.*

Come in, ye kings, and kiss the feet of God!

SOLI DEO GLORIA

What wondrous love is this, O my soul?

The William Baker Festival Singers

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Jamea J. Sale, PhD

WBCF Executive Associate Director
Director, Institute for Healthy Singing

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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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Jamea Sale '02

Erica Seago '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' *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 45 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 in 1985, originally called Gwinnett Festival Singers, 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 five states, involving hundreds of musicians each year. His ensembles have performed for 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, the Kansas City Wind Symphony in 1998 and Kansas City Bronze in 2018. 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, Episcopal, 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 Dr. 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 William Baker Festival Singers

Second Place National Winner of the 2021 American Prize in Choral Performance
Second Place National Winner of the 2021 Ernst Bacon Award for American Music



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. Celebrating its 25th 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 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 the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts 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.

Please Follow, Subscribe and Like Us: Facebook (William Baker Festival Singers)
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The Festival Singers is an ensemble of **The William Baker Choral Foundation**, a national organization based in Roeland Park, Kansas, that presently sponsors choral ensembles based in five 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 & Voice Research**, 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 Center at 913.488.7524, or email Mail@FestivalSingers.org.

Allegro Con Brio *Allegro Choirs of Kansas City*



Heralded as “the voice of angels” by the Kansas City Star, Allegro con Brio inspires thousands of audience members each year with its varied repertoire and heartfelt singing. Brio is the oldest and most advanced choir in the Allegro Choirs of Kansas City program and is composed of young ladies ages 13-18 from the Kansas City Metro area. Brio is a frequent guest of the Kansas City Symphony and has performed by invitation for state and regional conventions as well as national events. Brio has also toured extensively, performing in venues such as Carnegie Hall, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, Meyerson Symphony Hall, Canterbury Cathedral and St. Peter’s Basilica. Brio had the honor of performing at

the White House for one of President Obama’s holiday parties in 2012. Brio will be touring Italy this summer!



A native Kansan, **Christy Elsner is the Founder and Artistic Director of the Allegro Choirs of Kansas City.** Under her direction since 2000, the premier auditioned youth choir program has grown from one choir of 38 to five choirs with over 200 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. 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 the female changing voice and is honored to conduct 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*. Her choral arrangements are published with MusicSpoke and Hal Leonard. She is the 2010 recipient of the Kindest-Kansas Citian and the 2008 recipient of the MENC Outstanding Middle Level Educator. She obtained 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, Choristers Guild, Chorus America, and ACDA. When she’s not dreaming about Allegro, she loves to cook, work out, play with her two Boxers, and watch Jayhawk basketball. She is married to her high school sweetheart, Sean, and their three kiddos are all Allegro alumni.



Amy Cramer, Accompanist - Allegro con Brio and Vivo Allegro. Amy has been accompanying choirs since she was in junior high! She studied music education and accompanying at the University of Kansas and currently accompanies for the wonderful choir program at Olathe Northwest High School under the direction of Pam Williamson. Cramer and her husband, Jim, have three children working in the creative arts in LA and NYC. Her daughter, Abby, loved being in Allegro for 7 years and is currently singing in NYC with the SoHarmoniums under the direction of Elizabeth Nunez!

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Raymore-Peculiar High School Treble Chamber Chorus *Raymore-Peculiar High School, Peculiar, Missouri*



The Raymore-Peculiar High School Treble Chamber Choir is one of seven choirs at Raymore-Peculiar High School. Beginning only their second year as an ensemble, this group was designed for outstanding Soprano and Alto singers grades 10-12. Beyond their work as singers, these singers have helped to develop and maintain a culture of collaboration and excellence that extends far beyond the rehearsal space.



Stephen Rew, Director, holds his Bachelors and Masters of Music Education from the UMKC Conservatory where he studied with Charles Robinson, Eph Ehly, Joseph Parisi and Ryan Board. In over a decade as a public educator he has received his district's Teacher of the Year Award two times (Drexel, 2005 and Raymore-Peculiar, 2013). He is a sought after clinician, poet and composer as well as a motivational speaker and is currently serving as Past-President for the Missouri Choral Directors Association.

After teaching at the middle and intermediate levels, Rew returned to his alma mater where he began his love of choral music under the direction of Stephen Orr. In his 5 years at the helm, RPSINGS has blossomed into a vital part of the school culture and has over doubled choral enrollment. He was recently recognized as a member of the 2021 class of Raymore-Peculiar Distinguished Alumni.

Stephen is thankful to be married to his high school sweetheart, Cindy. They began dating while singing in choir at RPHS. He is a proud father to Mason (16) and Chloe (13). The Rew family lives in their dream home just down the street from where Stephen Rew grew up. www.stephenrew.com

Morgan Blair
Serena Bursley
Katie Butscher
Mandy Butscher
Grace Chambers
Sarah Freidline
Alaina Garcia
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Jayda Taylor
Kaylee Weil

THE WILLIAM BAKER FESTIVAL SINGERS

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

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' 2022-2023 Concert Season signature programming includes short-form sacred a cappella classics and spirituals in addition to tour performances and Brahms Ein deutsches Requiem.

*Lauded in 2020 & 2021 in The American Record Guide
Second Place Winner - 2021 American Prize in Choral Performance*

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The 25th Annual Candlelight, Carols & Cathedral

Friday Evening, 16 December 2022 Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Kansas City, Missouri
Sunday Afternoon, 18 December 2022 Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral, Kansas City, Missouri

The William Baker Festival Singers, Dr. William O. Baker, Music Director

Canon John Schaefer, Organ Dr. Jamea Sale, WBCF Executive Associate Director

Christine Freeman, Associate Music Director & Senior Vocal Coach

Emily Fish, Choral Intern Dr. Sean Sweeden, Composer in Residence

Friday Concert: Allegro Con Brio, Christy Elsner, Music Director

Sunday Concert: Raymore-Peculiar High School Treble Chamber Choir, Stephen Rew, Director

*As a courtesy to others, please do not text or take photographs during the performance.
Please silence devices and please refrain from applause until following the Retiring Procession.*

Opening Voluntary

CHORALE PRELUDE on *Wachet auf*

Johann Sebastian BACH, 1685-1750

John Schaefer, organ

INTROIT: VENI, VENI EMMANUEL

Ed Frazier DAVIS, Born 1989

Mr. Davis was Composer in Residence for the William Baker Choral Foundation from 2016-2022

PROCESSION "O Come All Ye Faithful"

Please Rise to Sing

ADESTE FIDELES

*O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem,
Come and behold Him, Born the King of Angels,
O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!*

*The highest, most holy, Light of light eternal,
Born of a Virgin a mortal He comes,
Son of the Father, Now in flesh appearing,
O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!*

*Sing choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above,
Glory to God, Glory in the highest,
O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!*

LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS

Sean SWEEDEN, Born 1987

World Premier Performance

READING I *In the night I cry to You, O Lord...*

STARS

Erik ESENVALDS, Born 1977

Associate Music Director Christine Freeman, conducting

Megan Moore, soloist

READING II *And it shall come to pass in the latter days...*

DANCING DAY

SWEEDEN

PAT-A-PAN

SWEEDEN

Dr. Sweeden & Matthew Anderson, marimba Erica Seago, flute

READING III *Seek the Lord while He may be found...*

THE OXEN

Jonathan RATHBONE, Born 1957

Choral Intern Emily Fish, conducting

O MAGNUM MYSTERUM

Morten LAURIDSEN, Born 1943

Ms. Freeman, conducting

READING IV *My soul magnifies the Lord...*

THERE IS NO ROSE

SWEEDEN

Karen Kay Hall, piano

CAROL “Lo, How a Rose E’re Blooming”

ES IST EIN ROS

The Audience Will Please Rise and Join in Singing

*Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung.
It came a floweret bright amid the cold of winter,
When half-spent was the night.*

*Isaiab 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to Men a Savior,
When half-spent was the night.*

Friday Concert

SEE AMID THE WINTER'S SNOW

Arranged by Susan Brumfield

PERSONENT HODIE

German Carol Arranged by John Rutter

SILENT NIGHT

Franz GRUBER, 1787-1863

TECUM PRINCIPIUM from “Dixit Dominus”

Antonio VIVALDI, 1678-1741

Arranged by Christy Elsner

Allegro Con Brio

Christy Elsner, conductor Amy Cramer, accompanist

Sunday Concert

GAUDATE

Piae Cantiones, 1582

Arranged by Michael Engelhardt

DING DONG MERRILY ON HIGH

16th century French dance of Brangle De L'Officiel

Arranged by Rose Dunphey

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER

Gustav HOLST, 1874-1934

Arranged by Stephen Rew

Raymore-Peculiar High School Treble Chamber Choir

Stephen Rew, conductor

CAROL “What Child Is This?” *Please Rise and Join in Singing*

GREENSLEEVES

*What Child is this, Who laid to rest on Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
Refrain: This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!*

*Why lies He in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians fear, for sinners bear the silent Word is pleading. (Refrain)
So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own Him;
The King of Kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone Him. (Refrain)*

READING V *And there were shepherds abiding in the fields...*

GLORIA

SWEEDEN

Ms. Hall, piano Dr. Sweeden & Mr. Anderson, percussion

READING VI *In the beginning was the Word...*

SWEET LITTLE JESUS BOY

Gospel Song arranged by Sean Sweeden

Women of the Festival Singers, Dr. Jamea J. Sale, conducting Mr. Anderson, vibraphone

EVERYWHERE I GO

American Spiritual arranged by Sean Sweeden

Men of the Festival Singers

READING VII *How beautiful upon the mountains...*

GLORY, GLORY TO THE NEWBORN KING

American Spiritual arranged Moses Hogan

Emily Freeman, soloist

PROCESSION “Hark, the Herald Angels Sing”

MENDELSSOHN

The Audience Will Please Rise and Join in Singing

*Hark, the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies.
With angelic hosts proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark, the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”*

*Christ by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of the Virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail th’Incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with men to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.
Hark, the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”*

*Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace, hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glories by; born that Man no more may die.
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark, the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”*

*The Musical Family of The William Baker Festival Singers & the Choral Foundation
Wish You and Yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

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CHRISTINE M. FREEMAN, MME, 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 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 in her tenth 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 was awarded the honor of Master Teacher in her building for the 2021-22 school year. She 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. She is a Fellow of the Institute for Healthy Singing & Voice Research. With her husband Daniel and their two children, she makes her home in Olathe, Kansas.

DR. JAMEA J. SALE, WBCF Executive Associate Director Director of the Institute for Healthy Singing & Voice Research



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 earned her Doctor of Philosophy in Music Education/Choral Pedagogy in 2022. 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, the Voice Foundation, and Pan American Vocology 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 & Voice Research in 2016, Executive Associate Director of the William Baker Choral Foundation in 2017, and Director of the Institute for Healthy Singing & Voice Research 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. She serves as the Vocal Coach for the Allegro Choirs of KC. In her voice studio (JameaSale.com), Dr. Sale works with singers of all ages, including persons needing vocal recovery treatment.

In cooperation with the Institute for Healthy Singing & Voice Research and Allegro Choirs of KC, and in collaboration with the Zhuhai Classical Children's Chorus and the University of Kansas' Dr. Melissa Grady, Dr. Sale is conducting a Longitudinal Examination of the Progression of Voice Change in Adolescent Females. The study in progress is documenting 100 young female singers' vocal development over the course of 9 months. In March of 2023, Dr. Sale and Institute for Healthy Singing & Voice Research fellows will travel to Kapkemiah, Kenya, to help establish music education in the schools and observe vocal development among adolescent female singers. Jamea is available for group workshops and private consultation through the Institute for Healthy Singing & Voice Research.

Leaving a Legacy of Immortal Music Through the Choral Foundation The William Baker Choral Foundation Endowment Fund, Inc.

Have you considered remembering the work of the William Baker Choral Foundation in your will, 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 through your estate will help WBCF bring the life-changing joys of participation in the performance of great music to thousands of men, women, and youth.

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.

Dr. Sean Sweeden, Composer in Residence



A native Arkansan, **Sean Sweeden** began studying music with his parents at a young age, singing in church choirs, various ACDA honor choirs, and musical theatre. 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. 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 received the Doctorate of Musical Arts in Percussion Performance at the University of Missouri at Kansas City in May 2018. While there, he studied with principal percussionist of the Kansas City Symphony, Christopher McLaurin, as well as Dr. Nick Petrella. Sean is published with C-Alan Publications, won the Lee University Percussion Ensemble Composition Contest in 2014, and the VocalEssence Welcome Christmas Carol Contest in 2016. Dr. Sweeden plans to compose for a variety of ensembles, but is especially interested in creating works that combine percussion and chorus. Sean continues to perform, teach, and study percussion, sing, and also further his compositional style. Sean was appointed to membership in The William Baker Festival Singers in 2016 and has been a featured soloist in numerous concerts and recordings. He was appointed Composer in Residence in 2020 and serves as a fellow of the Institute for Choral Creativity.

Emily Fish, Choral Intern



Emily Fish has been a member of the William Baker Festival Singers since 2018. She graduated *summa cum laude* with a Bachelor of Music Education from Kansas State University. During her time at KSU she participated in Women's Choir, Collegiate Choral, Grand Chorus, and a jazz ensemble. Mrs. Fish was the treasurer and secretary for the KSU chapter of the American Choral Directors' Association, and she conducted University Chorus and the Manhattan Community Choir her senior year. She is currently enrolled at Baker University working on her Orff-Schulwerk certification.

Emily teaches general music at Leawood Elementary school in the Blue Valley School district. She also leads the school's 4th and 5th grade chorus and teaches guitar lessons. She is hoping this experience as the 2021-2023 choral intern will strengthen her conducting and leadership skills for choruses of all ages, and further develop her study in her upcoming master's work.

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Lynn Swanson, MME, Music Director & Conductor

Summer Singers of Atlanta, Midtown Atlanta, 1990

Andrew Phillip Schmidt, MM, Music Director & Conductor

Zimria Festivale Atlanta, Dunwoody, Georgia, 2014

Amy Thropp, 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

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Voces Festivas, Roeland Park, Kansas, 2021

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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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