

The Choral Foundation, through the Kenneth Babcock Memorial Music Fund  
And with the support of ArtsKC, Proudly Presents

# 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 M. Freeman, Associate Music Director

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

Kelsey Emmanuel, Choral Intern    Dr. Sean Sweeden, Composer in Residence

Kansas City, Kansas, All-City Children's Chorus, *Donna Johnson, Director*

Friday Evening, 15 December 2023

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Kansas City, Missouri

Sunday Afternoon, 17 December 2023

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

**William O. Baker, DMA**

Founder & Music 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

**Andrew Phillip Schmidt, MM**

Music Director, Summer Singers of Atlanta

**Amy Thropp, MM**

Music Director, Zimria Festivale Atlanta

**Jennifer Lahasky, MM**

Director, Summer Singers of Lee's Summit

**Leilani Velasco Vaughn**

Music Director, Voces Festivas

**Ed Frazier Davis, MM**

Director, Institute for Choral Creativity  
Artistic Director, Vox Venti Chicago

**Christine M. Freeman, MME**

Associate Music Director/Kansas City

**Scott C. Smith**

Choral Associate & Administrator, Atlanta

**Sean Sweeden, DMA**

Composer in Residence

**Kelsey Emmanuel, MM**

Choral Intern

**Chris Barnard, MM**, Concert Manager, Kansas City

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**Ivy Belk Pirl, MM**, Staff Accompanist

**Geoffrey Wilcken, DMA**, Staff Accompanist

**The William Baker Choral Foundation, Inc.**

5450 Buena Vista Street, Suite 100

Roeland Park, Kansas 66205 913.488.7524

[www.FestivalSingers.org](http://www.FestivalSingers.org) [www.ChoralFoundation.org](http://www.ChoralFoundation.org)

[www.HealthySinging.org](http://www.HealthySinging.org) [www.ChoralCreativity.org](http://www.ChoralCreativity.org)

*\*Daniel Baker '22*

*Laura Rene Baker '99*

*Chris Barnard '09*

*David Beckers '02*

*Dale Bolyard '19*

*Gregg Brandon '23*

*Jocelyn Botkin '04*

*Courtney Cauley '23*

*Timothy DeWerff '22*

*Eric Edman '12*

*Kelsey Emmanuel '23*

*Christine M. Freeman '06*

*Jonathan Gobdes '22*

*Clare Amanda Gorman '22*

*Erin Grochowsky '22*

*Karen Kay Hall '12*

*Chip Handrich '21*

*Marcia Higginson '02*

*Jill Holtkamp '07*

*Daniel Huxman '19*

*Jim Jandt '01*

*\*Gary Jarrett '02*

*Donna Johnson '22*

*\*Section Leader*

*Amanda Kimbrough '08*

*Ross Kimbrough '11*

*\*Jennifer Labasky '14*

*Jennifer Logbeck '08*

*Robert Logbeck '08*

*Kimberly Megow '19*

*Megan Moore '20*

*Kenneth Moncrieff '19*

*Jamie Roberts '12*

*Jamea Sale '02*

*Erica Seago '17*

*Ethan Sherman '17*

*Erick Snedegar '23*

*Cindy Sheets '09*

*Pratima Singh '06*

*Monty Smith '22*

*Sean Sweeden '16*

*Jessika Toro '19*

*Daniel Trainor '22*

*Leilani Velasco Vaughn '20*

*Ted Williams '18*

*\*Niccole Williams '14*

*Doug Woolery '17*

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## *Dr. William O. Baker, Music Director & Conductor*

*Second Place National Winner of the 2023 Dale Warland Award for Choral Conducting*



**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 few years 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.

Dr. 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 four 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 appearing 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 has appeared on television and radio across the nation; including, *The First Art*, *The Sounds of Majesty* and NPR'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 Baton Rouge Symphony, the Gwinnett Symphony Orchestra, the Charleston Symphony Orchestra and the Orchestra of the American Heartland.



Dr. Baker served as Minister of Music for significant Lutheran, Presbyterian and United Methodist congregations across the South and the Midwest. Major appointments have included the historic Grace United Methodist Church in Midtown Atlanta and The Village Church in suburban Kansas City; the nation's second largest Presbyterian congregation. He presently serves as Music Director for the historic St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Lee's Summit, Missouri. He is the author of two devotional books: *Hearts & Hands & Voices* and *Wonder, Love & Praise*. Dr. Baker is co-host of *Choral Conversations*, a monthly podcast with 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. In 2023 he was named a National Arts Associate by Sigma Alpha Iota.

# *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 most are vocational musicians. It is the mission of the Festival Singers to bring the highest standards of musicianship and professionalism to the realm of volunteer choirs. Now in its 26<sup>th</sup> concert season, the metro Kansas City-based ensemble has enjoyed numerous triumphs through a decades-long 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, the Basilica of St. Josaphat in Milwaukee, 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. Following their debut in Helzberg Hall, including a performance of the Durufle *Requiem* 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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***Twitter @WBFestSingers***



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 four 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](mailto:Mail@FestivalSingers.org).

## **DR. JAMEA J. SALE, WBCF Executive Associate Director Director of the Institute for Healthy Singing & 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, and Olathe Music Teachers Association.



Dr. Sale 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 Choral Assistant in Kansas City in August 2012, Education Director for the Institute for Healthy Singing & Research in 2016, Executive Associate Director of the William Baker Choral Foundation in 2017, and Director of the Institute for Healthy Singing & Research in 2018.

With a certification in Preschool Musikgarten Education, Dr. Sale led experiential music programs for parents and toddlers for five years. She served as Assistant Choral Director and Vocal Coach at St. James Academy High School in Lenexa, Kansas, for 3 years and has taught Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade music in the Olathe School District. Presently she serves as the Vocal Coach and Choral Assistant for Allegro con Brio & Allegro con Moto. In her Roeland Park, KS studio. Dr. Sale works with singers of all ages, including persons in need of vocal recovery treatment. [www.JameaSale.com](http://www.JameaSale.com)

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, Dr. 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. Dr. Sale is available for group workshops and private consultation through the Institute for Healthy Singing & Research. Jamea is a contributor to the "Developing Voices Blog." Her main research interest is the development of the female adolescent singing voice. Her dissertation, "Validation of the Female Adolescent Voice Change Status Index," was published on ProQuest in 2022 along with her article, "Is There Something Wrong with My Daughter's Voice?" which appears in The International Journal of Research in Choral Singing.

## **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.

## **CHRISTINE M. FREEMAN, MME, Associate Music Director & Senior Vocal Coach**

**Christine M. Freeman, MME**, 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, with an emphasis on 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. Mrs. 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 beginning her eleventh year in the Blue Valley School District instructing middle school choral music. She previously taught elementary and middle school music for eight years in the Archdiocese of Kansas City, Kansas. She has been a clinician for honor choirs in Kansas and Missouri. Mrs. Freeman is active in professional organizations and was recently awarded by her colleagues the (ECKMEA) East Central Kansas Music Educators Association "Outstanding Middle Level Choir Teacher of the Year" Award. She was previously nominated for the (KCDA) Kansas Choral Directors Association "Prelude" Award. She was the KCDA Repertoire and Standards Chair for Children's Choirs from 2012-2015 where she organized the Statewide Treble Honor Choir. Christine Freeman was a finalist for the 2023-2024 Blue Valley District Teacher of the Year Award. With her husband Daniel, and their two children, she makes her home in Olathe, Kansas.

## **KELSEY EMMANUEL, MM, Choral Intern**



**Kelsey Dingman Emmanuel, MM**, began her tenure as Choral Intern in June 2023. She holds the Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Central Missouri, from which she was chosen for All-Collegiate Choir. She holds the Master of Music in Choral conducting from Missouri State University, and presently serves as a Music Educator in the North Kansas City School District. Kelsey has been an entrepreneurial conductor from her college days, creating and directing an advanced a cappella ensemble in 2014, and helping prepare the Missouri State University Men's Choir for a performance at the Missouri Music Educators Association conference in 2018. She performed with the MSU Concert Choir in 2017 for the inauguration of President Trump in Washington, DC. She has performed in professional choir recording sessions for Walton Music in 2017 and 2018. Kelsey served as a staff singer for St. John's Episcopal Church in Springfield, Missouri, from 2017-2018, and for the Linden Baptist Church in Kansas City. She was appointed to membership in The William Baker Festival Singers in 2023.

## **WILLIAM BAKER CHORAL FOUNDATION SILVER ANNIVERSARY CIRCLE**

*Celebrating a Quarter Century in Kansas City*

Anonymous, Chicago, Illinois

Dr. William & Mrs. Laura Baker, Roeland Park, Kansas, *in honor of John, Marguerite and Zachary Baker*

Nancy Babcock, Hiawatha, Kansas

Bruce Casolari, Kansas City, Missouri, *in loving memory of Deborah Casolari*

Dr. Eric Nummela, Reno, Nevada

Mary Puetz, Cincinnati, Ohio

Tom & Sheri Schrader, CottageCare, Scottsdale, Arizona

# THE WILLIAM BAKER FESTIVAL SINGERS

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, MM, 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.*

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

**MEMBERSHIP BY COMPETITIVE AUDITION**  
*Auditioning NOW for Winter/Spring 2024 Concerts, Tours & Recordings*

REHEARSALS TUESDAY EVENINGS, 7:00-9:30  
**COUNTRYSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
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For Information or to Schedule an Audition Appointment  
Please Call TODAY 913-488-7524 or Email [Mail@FestivalSingers.org](mailto:Mail@FestivalSingers.org)

**[www.FestivalSingers.org](http://www.FestivalSingers.org)**

# The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Candlelight, Carols & Cathedral

Friday Evening, 15 December 2023 Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Kansas City, Missouri  
Sunday Afternoon, 17 December 2023 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  
Kelsey Emmanuel, MM, Choral Intern Dr. Sean Sweeden, Composer in Residence  
Sunday Concert: Kansas City Kansas All-City Children's Chorus, Donna Johnson, 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

### PREUDE ON "WACHET AUF"

John Schaefer, organ

J. G. WALTHER, 1684-1748

## INTROIT: WAKE, AWAKE FOR NIGHT IS FLYING

Phillip NICOLAI, 1556-1608  
*Arranged by F. Melius Christiansen*

## 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

*Dr. Sweeden is Composer in Residence - Love Came Down at Christmas was premiered by the Festival Singers in 2022*

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

### STARS

Megan Moore, soloist

Ēriks EŠENVALDS, Born 1977



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

**THE OXEN**

Jonathan RATHBONE, Born 1957

**O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM**

Ed Frazier DAVIS, Born 1987

*Mr. Davis was Composer in Residence from 2016-2022 - O Magnum Mysterium was premiered in 2016*

*Recorded by The William Baker Festival Singers on the Amber Waves album, My Song is Love Unknown*

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

**SEEK THE LORD**

René CLAUSEN, Born 1953

Associate Music Director Christine Freeman, conducting

Megan Moore and Jill Holtkamp, soloists

*Recorded by The William Baker Festival Singers on the Amber Waves album, American Voices*

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

**TOTA PULCHRA EST**

Maurice DURUFLÉ, 1902-1986

Women of the Festival Singers

**AVE MARIA**

Franz BEIBL, 1906-2001

Men of the Festival Singers Sean Sweeden, Daniel Baker & Robert Logbeck, trio

Choral Intern Kelsey Emmanuel, conducting

**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.*

*Isaiah ‘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**

**PRELUDE ON “IN DULCI JUBILO”**

Johann Sebastian BACH, 1685-1750

Canon John Schaefer, organ

**Sunday Concert**

**ADESTE FIDELES**

*Latin Traditional arranged by Greg Gilpin*

**IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER**

*Arranged with “Lo, How a Rose” by Kirby Shaw*

Kansas City, Kansas, All-City Children’s Chorus

Donna Johnson, conducting Heather Reynolds, piano

**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 is 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 DIOS** *from Misa Criolla*

Ariel RAMIREZ, 1921-2010

Daniel Baker, soloist    Karen Kay Hall, piano  
Sean Sweeden, Manu Singh, Erin Grochowsky & Doug Woolery, percussion  
Jennifer Lahasky, Music Director of the Summer Singers of Lee's Summit, conducting

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

**IN THE BEGINNING**

Sean SWEEDEN, Born 1989

*World Premier Performance*

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

**THE EXALTATION OF CHRIST**

Charles FORSBERG, 1934-2021

*Recorded by The William Baker Festival Singers on the Amber Waves album, Star in the East*

**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!

## *The Kansas City, Kansas, All-City Children's Chorus*



*The All-City Children's Chorus of the Kansas City Kansas Public Schools* provides exceptional musicians with enrichment and challenges beyond the experiences they receive in the regular classroom. The ensemble fosters collaboration among performers across the district and promotes singing throughout the community. The mission of the choir is to shape, empower, and transform the lives of young people through a shared passion for music. The

All-City Children's Chorus was founded in 1980 by Dr. Jeff Anderson as a city-wide, auditioned ensemble for 4th - 6th grade singers. Through the decades, the choir has been an important part of the rich social fabric that makes the arts in the Kansas City Kansas Public Schools extraordinary.



**Donna Johnson, Director**, is in her 28th year as a music educator—twenty-five of which have been on the faculty with the Kansas City Kansas Public Schools. Donna draws on her extensive work in the classroom at both the middle and elementary levels to lead the All-City Children's Chorus. She has served the ensemble for twenty-four years in the capacity of assistant director and now as the director. Donna's philosophy in working with the young singers is to ensure the music making is a collaborative experience, brings joy, and provides an opportunity for students to reach their full potential. In addition to Donna's role as general music teacher at West Park Elementary School and her work with the All-City Children's Chorus, Donna is an active performer and director in the

Kansas City area. For the past twenty-two years she has directed the choir at Linden Baptist Church in Gladstone, MO, she has performed with various area choirs, and she is currently singing with the award-winning William Baker Festival Singers.

Donna is a graduate of William Jewell College holding a Bachelor of Science in music education, and she earned a Master of Education from MidAmerica Nazarene University. When Donna is not working, she enjoys reading, swimming, watching movies, and spending time with her two children, Anneka and Nathan, and with her husband, Chris.



**Jacob Sweatt, Assistant Director**, grew up in De Soto, Kansas and attended De Soto High School, where he was an active member of the band, choir, and theatre programs. He then attended Kansas State University, where he graduated with a degree in Music Education with a Vocal Emphasis. Upon graduation, Jacob accepted a job to teach choir at Central Middle School in KCK. This is his fourth year teaching, and he truly loves his job, has great relationships with his students, and has built a solid foundation for the choir program at his school. This year is his first year helping direct the All-City Children's Choir, and he loves being a part of this group.

Outside of teaching, Jacob also performs in a professional chamber choir, Sonus. The group just completed the regional premier of "The Sacred Veil," composed by Eric Whitacre with poetry from Charles Anthony Silvestri. Jacob also enjoys working out and competes as a powerlifter. Last summer, he placed second in his weight class at the Sunflower State Games in Manhattan, KS.

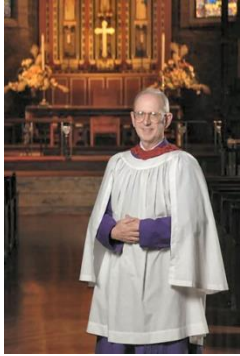


**Heather Reynolds, Pianist**, is the accompanist for the All-City Children's Chorus and has served in this post since 2019. Her dedication to the ensemble and to the students of the Kansas City Kansas Public Schools reaches far beyond her expertise at the keyboard. Heather proudly accepts the title of "accompanist" from her co-workers, as she is a skilled collaborator, sympathetic listener, wellness coach and cheerleader. Heather thrives in this setting, as she enjoys being both a witness and contributor to the musical magic in the classroom.

Heather is a veteran music educator and avid performer. She earned a Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Kansas in 2006 and began her teaching career in Tonganoxie, Kansas, teaching band and vocal music. Heather then joined the team with the Kansas City Kansas Public Schools in 2012 as the band and orchestra teacher at Northwest

Middle School, transitioning to the position of piano accompanist in 2016. Heather is currently the pianist for the Schlagle High School choirs and for various KCKPS middle schools. Heather's contributions to the music industry include a decade of teaching private clarinet and saxophone studies as well as performing both locally and nationally. Heather toured with the national production of 42nd Street as a woodwind doubler and continues to perform locally both as a doubler in area musicals and on baritone saxophone in the Lawrence City Band.

## *John Schaefer, Organist*



*John Schaefer* served as Canon Musician at Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral in downtown Kansas City for forty years and as University Organist at Park University for twenty-seven years, retiring in December 2016.

Canon Schaefer holds an undergraduate degree in Organ from Ohio State University, where he was an organ scholar of Wilbur Held. He holds the Master of Sacred Music degree from New York City's Union Theological Seminary. He spent three years in post-graduate study with David Lumsden at New College, Oxford University, in England. He served as Organist and Choirmaster at the First Congregational Church of Columbus, Ohio, and at St. James Episcopal Church in Greenfield, Massachusetts, before coming to Kansas City in 1976.

Canon Schaefer has been a faithful supporter of the Choral Foundation and the Festival Singers for over two decades, performing on occasion with numerous ensembles and serving for a number of years as a member of the Advisory Council and the Board of Trustees.

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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

**Zimria Festivale Atlanta**, Atlanta, Georgia, 2014  
Amy Thropp, 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

**Amber Waves Music Publishing & Sound Recordings**, Roeland Park, Kansas, 2002

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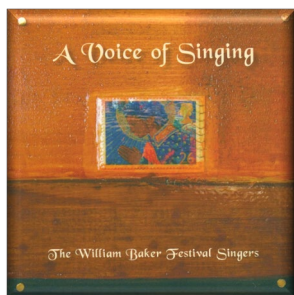
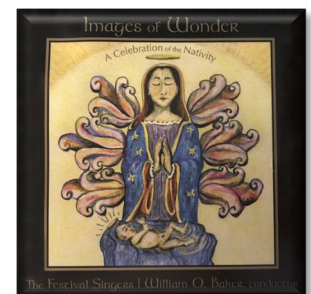
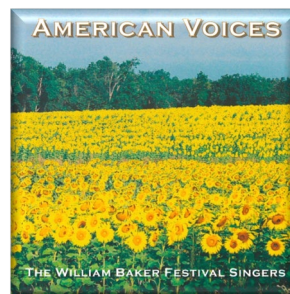
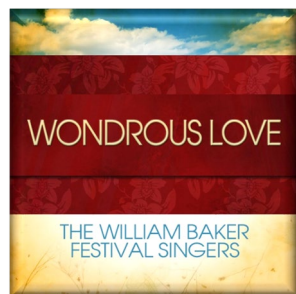
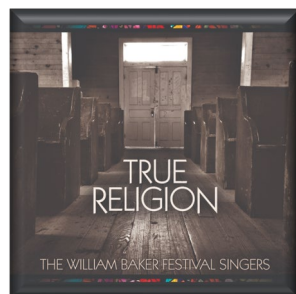
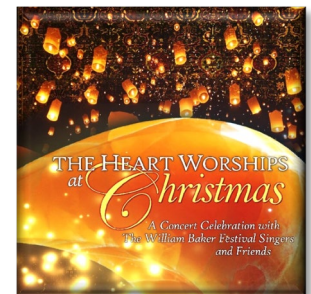
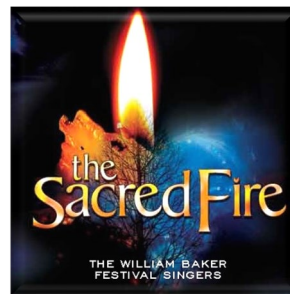
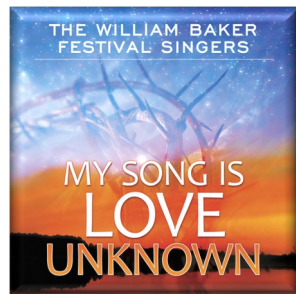
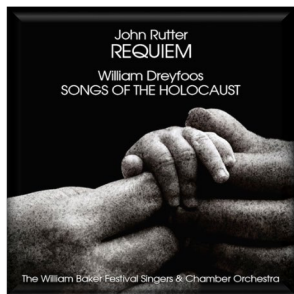
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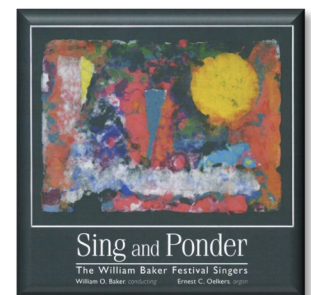


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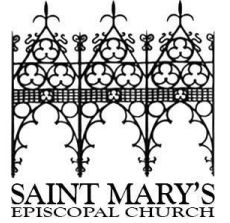
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