

The Choral Foundation, through the Kenneth Babcock Memorial Music Fund, 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 Freeman, Associate Music Director

Jamea Sale, WBCF Executive Associate     John Schaefer, Organ

Ed Frazier Davis, Senior Composer in Residence

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

Santa Fe Trail Middle School Choir, *Denice Trawicki, Director*

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

Voces Festivas, *Leilani Velasco, Director*

Friday Evening, 17 December 2021

Sunday Afternoon, 19 December 2021

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 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**

Music Director & Conductor

## **Jamea J. Sale, MME**

WBCF Executive Associate Music 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**

Music Director, Voces Festivas

## **Christine M. Freeman, MME**

Associate Music Director/Kansas City

## **Scott C. Smith**

Choral Associate & Administrator, Atlanta

## **Ed Frazier Davis, MM**

Senior Composer in Residence  
Director, Institute for Choral Creativity

## **Sean Sweeden, DMA**

Composer in Residence

## **Emily Fish & Sydney Sewell**

Choral Interns

## **Chris Barnard**

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## **Ellen Hicks**

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**Ivy Belk Pirl, Staff Accompanist**

**Michelle Reed, Staff Accompanist**

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

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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)

*Laura Rene Baker '99*

*Chris Barnard '09*

*David Beckers '02*

*Dale Bolyard '19*

*William Brubaker '15*

*Jamie Cailteux '21*

*Ed Frazier Davis '16*

*Eric Edman '12*

*Emily Fish '18*

*Christine M. Freeman '06*

*Emily Freeman '21*

*Karen Kay Hall '12*

*Chip Handrich '21*

*Marcia Higginson '02*

*Jill Holtkamp '07*

*Daniel Huxman '19*

*Jim Jandt '01*

*\*Gary Jarrett '02*

*Kathleen Kennedy '11*

*Amanda Kimbrough '08*

*Ross Kimbrough '11*

*\*Jennifer Labasky '14*

*\*Section Leader*

*Roger McDougale '18*

*Kimberly Megow '19*

*Ken Moncrieff '19*

*Megan Moore '20*

*Martina Pezzino '16*

*\*Brad Piroutek '01*

*Julie Piroutek '07*

*Jamie Roberts '12*

*Jamea Sale '02*

*Erica Seago '17*

*Ethan Sherman '17*

*Cindy Sheets '09*

*Pratima Singh '06*

*Sydney Simpson '21*

*Will Simpson '21*

*Sean Sweeden '16*

*Jessika Toro '19*

*Denice Trawicki '03*

*Leilani Velasco '20*

*Ted Williams '18*

*\*Nicole Williams '14*

*Ann Woodyard '01*

*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' *Ein deutsches Requiem*, Vivaldi's *Gloria*, Schubert's *Mass in G*, and Handel's *Messiah* with professional orchestras, launching a career of ambitious artistic leadership that now has extended over forty years. In the last decade alone he has conducted the *St. Matthew Passion* and the *Mass in B minor* of Bach, and the *Sacred Service* of Ernest Bloch, at the time of the performances the only Kansas City-based conductor to lead the works in over a quarter-century.

Baker created the Atlanta-based William Baker Festival Singers, originally called Gwinnett Festival Singers, in 1985, and established the William Baker Choral Foundation in 1990. In 1998 the conductor moved his home to the Kansas City area and created the Kansas City ensemble of the Festival Singers. The Choral Foundation has created over a dozen ensembles based in three states, involving hundreds of singers each year. His choirs have performed for numerous conventions of the American Choral Directors Association, the National Association for Music Education, and the American Guild of Organists, in addition to the 1982 World's Fair and music festivals in the United States and Great Britain, most notably appearances before capacity audiences at Charleston's Piccolo Spoleto Festival since 1989. He has led the Festival Singers in the production of over two dozen nationally released recordings and in television and radio appearances across the nation, including *The First Art*, *The Sounds of Majesty* and National Public Radio's *Performance Today*.

No stranger to the orchestral podium, William Baker created the Mountain Park Wind Symphony in 1994 and the Kansas City Wind Symphony in 1998. Primary orchestral performances have included Vivaldi: *The Seasons*, Sibelius: *Finlandia*, Bach: *Brandenburg Concerto No. 2*, Bizet: *Suite L'Arlesienne*, Haydn: *Symphony No. 59 "Fire,"* Mozart: *Symphony No. 41*, Beethoven: *Symphony No. 7* and *Symphony No. 9*. Choral collaborations have included projects with members of the Kansas City Symphony, the Kazanetti Chamber Orchestra, the Atlanta Youth Symphony Orchestra, the Kansas City Civic Orchestra, the Baton Rouge Symphony, the Gwinnett Symphony Orchestra, the Charleston Symphony Orchestra and the Orchestra of the American Heartland.



Dr. Baker served as Minister of Music for significant Lutheran, Presbyterian and United Methodist congregations across the South and the Midwest. Major appointments have included the historic Grace United Methodist Church in Midtown Atlanta and The Village Church in suburban Kansas City, the nation's second largest Presbyterian congregation. He presently serves as Music Director for the historic St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Lee's Summit, Missouri. He is the author of two devotional books: *Hearts & Hands & Voices* and *Wonder, Love & Praise*. Dr. Baker is co-host of *Choral Conversations*, a monthly podcast with 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 Winner of the 2021 American Prize in Choral Performance*



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. Now in its 24<sup>th</sup> 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 and Like Us On: Facebook (William Baker Festival Singers)***  
***Twitter (@WBFS\_KC) YouTube (WBakerCF) Instagram (@william\_baker\_festival\_singers)***



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**, the **Jane Sullivan Choral Resource Library**, the **Institute for Healthy Singing**, 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 at 913.488.7524, or email [Mail@FestivalSingers.org](mailto:Mail@FestivalSingers.org).

## **JAMEA SALE, WBCF Executive Associate Music Director Director of 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, Executive Associate Music Director of the William Baker Choral Foundation in 2017, and Director of the Institute for Healthy Singing 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. Presently she serves as the Vocal Coach and Choral Assistant for Allegro con Brio & Allegro con Moto. In her Roeland Park, 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. Contact her directly at JSale@FestivalSingers.org.

## **CHRISTINE M. FREEMAN, 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 the newest release *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 seventh 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. With her husband Daniel and their two children, she makes her home in Olathe, Kansas.

## **ED FRAZIER DAVIS, Director of the Institute for Choral Creativity & Senior 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 and Director of the Institute for Choral Creativity in 2020.



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.

## *Santa Fe Trail Combined 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir*

*Denice Trawicki, Director*

*Michelle Reed, Accompanist*



Nasteho Abdullahi

Rose Bossolono

Sherlyn Cardenas-Lopez

Kaitlin Christenson

Light Crum

Noah Evans

Ember Garcia

Danna Garcia-Velazquez

Mariela Garcia-Rico

Addison Given

Camila Gonzalez

Lucas Gramling

Suzanne Grant

Bristol Holland

Keely Jeske

Lula Kapple

Audrey Katzenberger

Sara Matchett

Sierra McKenzie

Monica Monzalvo-Rangel

Gwen Morales

Anna Roller

Zjedai Royal-Bey

Autumn Royer

Adelyn Smither

Olivia Spornitz

Martha Thiele

Hannah Thornburg

Jackson Woolard



## ***Raymore-Peculiar High School Chamber Singers***

***Stephen Rew, Director***

***Justin Cowart, Choral Assistant***

**The Raymore-Peculiar High School Chamber Singers** is one of seven choirs at RPHS. Beginning their third year as a curricular choir, this group is composed of the finest singers and musicians in the program and is reserved for mostly Juniors and Seniors. 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.

In January this group will make their first appearance at the Missouri Music Educators Association conference.

**Stephen Rew** holds the 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 (14) and Chloe (11). The Rew family lives in their dream home just down the street from where Stephen Rew grew up. [www.StephenRew.com](http://www.StephenRew.com)



### **Sopranos**

Aubree Arnett  
Brooklyn Burk  
Isabella Green  
Addison Hansen  
Bailey Martin  
Yesenia Quintero  
Bailey Roe  
Destinee Shaffer

### **Altos**

Madison Busby  
Danielle Fisher  
Kennedy Kinnick  
Peyton Koper  
Meghan Larsen  
Hannah Moroney  
Abigail Newton  
Tallie Scott

### **Tenors**

Dalton Ballinger  
Adam Bartow  
Xander Blackmon  
Brandon Cea  
Zacarias Woodard

### **Basses**

Andrew Burton  
Jacob Carpio  
Nathaniel Eckert  
Ronald Graves  
Jackson Hart  
Keyler Heath  
Nathanial Kiger  
David Marin  
Dylan Matteson  
Miles Sellami  
David Starkey

# The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Candlelight, Carols & Cathedral

Friday/Sunday, 17/19 December 2021 Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Kansas City, Missouri

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

John Schaefer, Organ Jamea Sale, WBCF Executive Associate Music Director

Christine Freeman, Associate Director Ed Frazier Davis, Senior Composer in Residence

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

Friday Concert: Santa Fe Trail Middle School Choir, Denice Trawicki, Music Director

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

Members of Voces Festivas, Leilani Velasco, 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 after the Retiring Procession.*

## Opening Voluntary

PASTORALE & FUGUE ON *Von Himmel hoch*

Johann PACHELBEL, 1653-1706

John Schaefer, organ

## INTROIT: VENI, VENI EMMANUEL

Ed Frazier DAVIS, Born 1989

*Ed Frazier Davis is Senior Composer in Residence for the Choral Foundation*

## 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!*

## WAKE, AWAKE FOR NIGHT IS FLYING

*German Hymn arranged by F. Melius Christiansen*

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

## O GLADSOME LIGHT

Alexander GRETCHANINOV, 1864-1956



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

**WATER UNDER SNOW IS WEARY**

Harri WESSMAN, Born 1949

Women of the Festival Singers Cindy Sheets, flute Karen Kay Hall, piano Sharry Willoughby, cello

**ADAM LAY Y'BOUNDEN**

Sean SWEEDEN, Born 1987

Sean Sweeden, vibraphone

*Dr. Sweeden is Composer in Residence for the Choral Foundation*

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

**UBI CARITAS**

Paul MEALOR, Born 1975

**A HYMN TO THE NATIVITY**

Kenneth LEIGHTON, 1929-1988

Megan Moore, soloist

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

**MARY'S LULLABY-SILENT NIGHT**

*Traditional arranged by Frederic Sixten*

Kathleen Kennedy, soloist

**THERE IS NO ROSE**

SWEEDEN

Ms. Hall, piano

**TWO VERSETS ON** *Entre le boeuf et l'ane gris*

Seth BINGHAM, 1882-1972

**CAROL "O Little Town of Bethlehem"**

ST. LOUIS

*The Audience Will Please Rise and Join in Singing*

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

*For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars together proclaim the Holy Birth!  
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.*

*O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!*

**A LA NANITA**

*Sung in Spanish & English*

*Spanish Traditional arranged by Roger Folstrom*

With Members of Voces Festivas & Santa Fe Trail Middle School Choir (Friday)

Leilani Velasco, conducting Pratima Singh, guitar

**Friday Concert**

**STOPPING BY WOODS ON A SNOWY EVENING**

Audrey SNYDER, Born 1953

**A LA MEDIA NOCHE**

*Puerto Rican Traditional arranged by Greg Gilpin*

Santa Fe Trail Choir, Denice Trawicki, conducting Michelle Reed, piano Henry Walston, violin

**Sunday Concert**

**CAROL OF THE BELLS**

*Ukrainian Traditional arranged by Peter Wilbousky*

**ERO CRAS (I Will Come)**

*9<sup>th</sup> Century & 18<sup>th</sup> Century Traditional arranged by Michael John Trotta*

**HAVE YOURSELF A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS**

*Hugh MARTIN, 1914-2011 & Ralph BLANE, 1914-1995, arranged by Kirby Shaw*

*Raymore-Peculiar High School Chamber Singers, Stephen Rew, conducting Justin Cowart, Choral Assistant*

**CAROL “What Child Is This?”**

*Please Rise to Sing*

**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 hear 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...*

**ALLELUIA**

*World Premier Performance*

**SWEEDEN**

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

**EVERYWHERE I GO**

*Men of the Festival Singers*

**SWEEDEN**

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

**NOEL AYISYEN**

*Haitian Traditional arranged by Emile Desamours*

**PROCESSION “Hark, the Herald Angels Sing”**

*Please Rise to Sing*

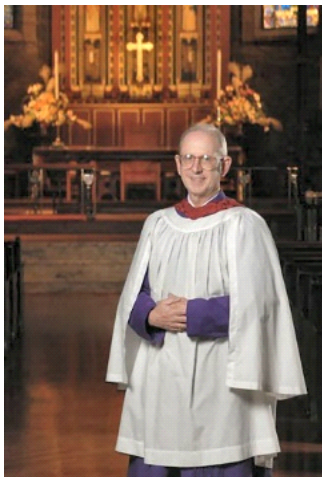
**MENDELSSOHN**

*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!”*

## *John Schaefer, Organist*



**John Schaefer** served as Canon Musician at Grace & 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 student 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 two decades, performing on occasion with numerous ensembles and serving for a number of years as a member of the Advisory Board and the Board of Trustees.

## *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.

*The Musical Family of the William Baker Choral Foundation  
Wishes You and Yours a Merry Christmas & A Joyous New Year*

## *Introducing Leilani Velasco & Voces Festivas*



For over a decade the Choral Foundation leadership has dreamed of creating a Spanish-language choral ensemble to serve our growing Hispanic community. Our newest ensemble, **Voces Festivas**, began rehearsals in November and will join the Festival Singers and our guests today in performing *A la nanita*. Voces Festivas looks forward to building a full season of rehearsals and concerts, celebrating the rich heritage of music from the Hispanic tradition. For membership information, please email Leilani Velasco at [LVaughn@FestivalSingers.org](mailto:LVaughn@FestivalSingers.org).

**Leilani Velasco** joined the William Baker Festival Singers family as a choir member in 2020 and is excited to bring a new voice to the Choral Foundation. She will be directing the up and coming ensemble Voces Festivas that highlights Spanish choral music as well as the Spanish language and community.

Born in Los Angeles, California and relocated to the Kansas City area in 2008, Ms. Velasco has taken her talent and passion for music with her half way across the country. She grew up surrounded by music as her family's choir Coro Santa Cecilia traveled from L.A. as well and has performed all over the Kansas City area. Ms. Velasco joined her family's choir at the age of 12, which allowed her to grow closer to her language and begin her passion for choral singing. She is now the assistant music director for the family choir.

Ms. Velasco graduated Cum Laude from Kansas State University in May 2018 where she obtained her Bachelor of Music Education with a Vocal Emphasis. During her time there she studied voice under Dr. Amy Rosine and Dr. Patricia Thompson. She was involved in Collegiate Chorale, Grand Chorus, Concert Choir, and directed the University Choir in 2017.

During the workweek, Ms. Velasco serves as a music educator in the Shawnee Mission School District. She teaches K-6 General Music and 5th/6th grade choir. On the off chance that Ms. Velasco is not doing something music related she is probably found enjoying the outdoors with her fiancé Garrett or watching a movie while cuddling her cat Dionysus.

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

**The Summer Singers of Atlanta**, Midtown Atlanta, 1990

Andrew Phillip Schmidt, MM, Music Director & Conductor

**The New South Festival Singers**, Atlanta, Georgia, 1985

Lynn Swanson, MME, Music Director & Conductor

**Zimria Festivale Atlanta**, Dunwoody, Georgia, 2014

Amy Thropp, MM, Music Director & Conductor

**The Summer Singers of Kansas City**, Kansas City, Missouri, 1999

William O. Baker, DMA, Music Director & Conductor

**The Cobb Summer Singers**, Marietta, Georgia, 2006

Lynn Swanson, MME, Founder & Music Director

**The Summer Singers of Lee's Summit**, Lee's Summit, Missouri, 2014

Jennifer Lahasky, MME, Music Director & Conductor

**Voces Festivas**, Roeland Park, Kansas, 2021

Leilani Velasco, Music Director

**The Institute for Healthy Singing**, Roeland Park, Kansas, 2015

Jamea J. Sale, MME, Director

**The Institute for Choral Creativity**, Roeland Park, Kansas, 2020

Ed Frazier Davis, MM, Director

**Kansas City Bronze**, Roeland Park, Kansas, 2018

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

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



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