

*The Choral Foundation & the Kenneth Babcock Memorial Music Performance Fund,
With support from the Martha Lee Cain Tranby Trust, present*

The 2022 Kenneth Babcock Memorial Masterworks Concert

Dr. William O. Baker, Music Director

Christine Freeman, Associate Music Director

Jamea Sale, WBCF Executive Associate Director

Emily Fish, Choral Intern — Ed Frazier Davis, Senior Composer in Residence

Sean Sweeden, Composer in Residence

Johann Sebastian Bach

EIN FESTE BURG IST UNSER GOTT

Works of Sean Sweeden & Ed Frazier Davis

The William Baker Festival Singers & Chamber Orchestra

**Sunday Afternoon, 3 April 2022
Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral
Kansas City, Missouri**

*Let goods and kindred go,
This mortal life also,
The body they may kill,
God's truth abideth still.
His kingdom is forever!*

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, MME

WBCF Executive Associate Director
Director, Institute for Healthy Singing

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Emily Fish

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Michelle Reed, Staff Accompanist

The William Baker Choral Foundation, Inc.

5450 Buena Vista Street, Suite 100

Roeland Park, Kansas 66205 913.488.7524

www.FestivalSingers.org www.ChoralFoundation.org

www.HealthySinging.org www.ChoralCreativity.org

Daniel Baker '22

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

**Section Leader*

**Jennifer Labasky '14*

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 Sberman '17

Cindy Sheets '09

Pratima Singh '06

Sean Sweeden '16

Jessika Toro '19

Denice Trawicki '03

Leilani Velasco '20

Ted Williams '18

**Niccole Williams '14*

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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 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, 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 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, 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 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. Now in its 24th 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)
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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**, 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.

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.

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 2021-22 choral intern will strengthen her conducting and leadership skills for choruses of all ages, and inform her emphasis of study in her upcoming master's work.

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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
Ed Frazier Davis, MM, Director, Institute for Choral Creativity & Senior Composer in Residence
Emily Fish, Choral Intern Dr. Sean Sweden, Composer in Residence

AUDITIONS



The William Baker Festival Singers has delighted audiences in twelve 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*

MEMBERSHIP BY COMPETITIVE AUDITION
Auditioning NOW for the 2022-2023 25th Anniversary Season

REHEARSALS TUESDAY EVENINGS, 7:00-9:30
COUNTRYSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
6101 Nall Avenue, Mission, Kansas

For Information or to Schedule an Audition Appointment
Please Call TODAY 913-488-7524 or Email Mail@FestivalSingers.org

www.FestivalSingers.org

The 2022 Kenneth Babcock Memorial Concert

The William Baker Festival Singers & Chamber Orchestra

Sunday, 3 April 2022, 2:00 PM, Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral, Kansas City, Missouri

I

THE MUSIC OF ED FRAZIER DAVIS

Senior Composer in Residence, Appointed 2016

MUSIC, THOU QUEEN OF HEAVEN

Completed June 2013; Revised 2018

MUSIC, thou queen of heaven, care-charming spell,
That strik'st a stillness into hell:

Thou that tam'st tigers, and fierce storms that rise,
With thy soul-melting lullabies,
Fall down, down, down from those thy chiming spheres,
To charm our souls, as thou enchant'st our ears.

-Robert Herrick, 1591-1674

SET ME AS A SEAL

Completed 2016 for Mr. Davis' Wedding

Set me as a seal upon thine heart,
As a seal upon thine arm,
For love is as strong as death.

Many waters cannot quench love,
Neither can the floods drown it.

-Song of Solomon 8:6-7

Sean Sweeden, soloist

AT OUR LAST AWAKENING

Premiered by the William Baker Festival Singers

Sunday, 14 March 2021

Bring us, O Lord God, at our last awakening
Into the house and gate of heaven,
To enter into that gate and to dwell in that house,
Where there shall be no darkness nor dazzling,
But one eternal light: no noise nor silence,
But one equal music;
No fears nor hopes, but one equal possession;
No ends nor beginnings, but one equal eternity,
In the habitation of Thy glory and dominion,
World without end. Amen.

-John Donne, 1572.1631

Emma Hoeft, violoncello
Tabitha Reist Steiner, harp

II

THE MUSIC OF SEAN SWEEDEN

Composer in Residence, Appointed 2020

I CARRY YOUR HEART WITH ME

Composed 2020 for Dr. Sweeden's Wedding

i carry your heart with me (i carry it in
my heart) i am never without it (anywhere
i go you go, my dear; and whatever is done
by only me is your doing, my darling)

i fear

no fate (for you are my fate, my sweet) i want
no world (for beautiful you are my world, my true)
and it's you are whatever a moon has always meant
and whatever a sun will always sing is you

here is the deepest secret nobody knows
(here is the root of the root and the bud of the bud
and the sky of the sky of a tree called life; which

grows

higher than soul can hope or mind can hide)
and this is the wonder that's keeping the stars apart

i carry your heart (i carry it in my heart)

-e. e. cummings, 1894-1962

Sean Sweeden, glockenspiel

SUNWARD

World Premier Performance

Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds, -and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of— wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air...

Up, up the long, delirious burning blue
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace
Where never lark, or eagle ever flew—

And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod
The high untrampled sanctity of space,
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.
-John Gillespie Magee, Jr., 1922-1941

Kathleen Kennedy & Sean Sweeden, soloists

ALLELUIA

Premiered by the William Baker Festival Singers
Friday, 17 December 2021

Sean Sweeden, percussion

INTERMISSION OF FIFTEEN MINUTES

III

Cantata No. 80 EIN FESTE BURG IST UNSER GOTT A Mighty Fortress Is Our God Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685-1750

Cantata for Reformation Day
Premiered 31 October 1723 at Leipzig
Text of Salomon Franck, 1659-1725
and Martin Luther, 1483-1556

Sung in German

Chorus

A mighty fortress is our God,
A sword and shield victorious;
He helps us freely out of the distress
That we have now met with.

The old evil enemy
Earnestly plots against us,
Great might and many forms of deceit
Are his fearsome weapons,
On earth there is none to match him.

Soprano & Bass

All that is born of God
Is destined for victory.

By our own power nothing is accomplished
We are very soon lost.
The right Man fights for us
Whom God Himself has chosen.

Those who by the bloodstained banner of Christ
Have sworn faithfulness in baptism
Gain victory in the Spirit for ever and ever.

Do you ask Who He is?
He is called Christ Jesus,
The Lord of Sabaoth,

And there is no other god
He shall hold the field of battle.

All that is born of God
Is destined to victory.

Bass

Only consider, child of God how great His love,
Since Jesus Himself
With His blood has given His pledge for you,
By which for the war against Satan's army
And against the world and sin,
He has enlisted you!

Do not give any place in your soul
To Satan and depravity!
Do not let your heart,
God's heaven on earth,
Become a desert!
Repent your guilt with sorrow
So that Christ's spirit may be firmly united with you!

Soprano

Come into my heart's house,
Lord Jesus, my desire!
Drive out the world and Satan
And let Your image renewed within me shine in splendor!
Away, loathsome horror of sin!

Chorus

And if the world were full of devils
And they wanted to devour us
Then we would not be very afraid,
We would still be successful.

The Prince of this world,
However grimly he presents himself
Can do nothing against us,
Since he is already condemned,
A little word can fell him.

Tenor

Then take your stand by Christ's bloodstained banner,
O soul, firmly,
And believe that your Leader will not forsake you,
Yes, that His victory
Will open the way to your crown!
March joyfully to war!

If only God's Word
Is both heard and kept by you
Then your enemy will be forced to withdraw,
Your Savior remains your protector!

Alto & Tenor

How blessed are those who bear God in their mouths,
But more blessed is the heart that bears God in faith
Such a heart remains unconquered and can strike its enemies
And will in the end be crowned after death has been defeated.

Chorus

They shall pay no heed to God's word
And have no thanks for it.
He is indeed with us on the field of battle
With His Spirit and His gifts.
Let them take our body
Wealth, honor, child and wife
Let them be taken away,
They gain nothing by this;
The kingdom must still remain ours.

Megan Moore, soprano
Erica Seago, alto
Sean Sweeden, tenor
Ed Frazier Davis, bass

Chamber Orchestra

Eric Williams, violin I
An Tran, violin II
Christine Grossman, viola
Emma Hoeft, violoncello
Kassie Ferreo, bass

Keith Benjamin, trumpet
*The appearance of Keith Benjamin is
made possible by a grant from Dr. Pratima Singh*
Samuel Milam, trumpet
William Landon, trumpet

Margaret Marco, oboe & English horn
Emily Foltz, oboe & English horn

Mark Lowry, timpani
*The appearance of Mark Lowry is made possible
by a grant from Dr. & Mrs. William O. Baker*
John Schaefer, organ

The Award Winning William Baker Festival Singers

24th Concert Season Kansas City Home Concert

With Our Special Guests, *Allegro Con Spirito*, Kolby Van Camp, conductor

Early American Folk Hymns, Spirituals & Gospel Selections
Classical Works by Edward Elgar, Alexander Gretchaninov, and Ēriks Ešenvalds
Kansas City Premier of Institute for Choral Creativity Contest Winners
Works of Choral Foundation Composers in Residence

Sunday Afternoon, 1 May 2022 at 3:00 PM

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1306 Holmes Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64106
Post Concert Wine & Cookie Reception Presented by the Choral Foundation Board of Trustees

Admission: \$20 Adults; \$15 Students & Seniors 65+; \$5 Youth 17 & Under; \$50 Patron Reserved
Available at the Door or Online www.FestivalSingers.org/concerts

Advance Purchase Recommended

For Additional Information, Call: 913.488.7524 or Email: Mail@FestivalSingers.org

Kenneth Charles Babcock, 1941-2013

Hero to the William Baker Choral Foundation



The work of an organization like the Choral Foundation would not be possible without the loving and generous encouragement of our heroes. Choral music in the Kansas City area has never had a more faithful friend and supportive hero than Kenneth Charles Babcock. Ken died tragically on January 11, 2013 at the age of 71 in a private plane incident, but his love for his fellow man and the witness of his deep faith lives on.

Ken was a long-time member of the Summer Singers of Kansas City, enjoying the weekly trip to the city with daughters Kenna and Matea. As a member of the Summer Singers, Ken was always sensitive and welcoming to new members around him, offering words of encouragement to both the most experienced and least experienced singers. In the years that his daughter Kenna performed as a member of the Youth Festival Singers of Kansas City, he assisted the staff with rehearsals and was always ready with warm words of blessing for the student members. He was a champion of the Festival Singers in both Kansas City and Atlanta, hardly ever missing a concert and always ready with expressions of appreciation for the Singers and a joyful response to the music. His generous financial support contributed mightily to the growth of our organization in the last decades, enabling many participants and audience members to be connected to music of timeless beauty and worth.

With the help of Ken's family and many friends, the Board of Trustees of the William Baker Choral Foundation and all members and staff of our organization dedicated the entirety of spring semester of the 2012-2013 concert season in memory of Ken Babcock. The debut performance of the Festival Singers in Helzberg Hall of the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts on April 11, 2013, an event that Ken had anticipated with great excitement, was designated as the first Kenneth Babcock Memorial Concert.

Today's performance is the tenth annual memorial concert. Prior performances have included Brahms: *Ein deutsches Requiem*, Mozart: *Coronation Mass* and *Great Mass in C minor*, Bach: *The Passion of Our Lord According to St. Matthew*, Dello Joio: *To St. Cecilia*, Rutter: *Requiem*; Bernstein *Chichester Psalms*, and the world premier of three works by Ed Frazier Davis: *Sweetest Fruit Beyond Human Sense*, *At Our Last Awakening*, and *Seven Last Words from the Cross*. The 2023 Kenneth Babcock Memorial Concert will again feature the *Ein deutsches Requiem* of Johannes Brahms with full orchestra.

Ken Babcock was the founder and owner of Ken Babcock Sales, a Hiawatha, Kansas, based company specializing in agricultural construction. In the wake of his loss, the countless friends and colleagues that remember him may prove to be his greatest legacy. "Ken was legendary," said Varga Gladhart, representing Gladhart Farms. "He was a builder of many things...including people." An everyman's king-maker, he seems larger than life because he influenced people each day in ways that changed them forever.

Born December 23, 1941, Ken demonstrated an early inclination toward nurturing potential in things and people around him. An avid nature lover, he received a Master of Science degree in Biology from Emporia State University in 1970. Holding a Bachelor of Science degree in Education as well, Babcock decided to focus on growing people through teaching, a gift evident throughout his life.

"He was a guiding force in my life," said Ken McCauley, former president of the National Corn Growers Association. "People like Ken Babcock make their mark on the world and set the bar very high for the next generation." For those of us left behind we are encouraged to, in Ken Babcock's own, well-remembered words, "Keep the faith!"



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William Baker Festival Singers, Prairie Village, Kansas, 1998

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William O. Baker, DMA, Music Director & Conductor

Cobb Summer Singers, Marietta, Georgia, 2006

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

Jennifer Lahasky, MME, Music Director & Conductor

Voces Festivas, Roeland Park, Kansas, 2021

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

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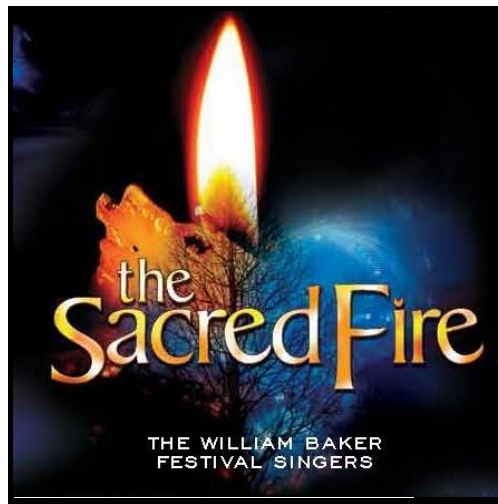
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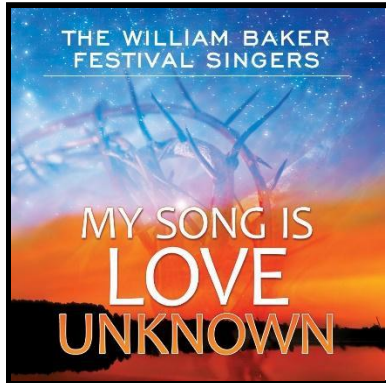
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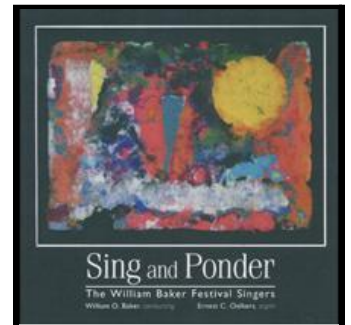
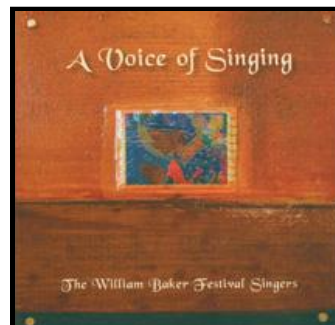
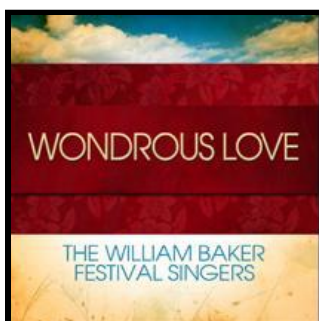
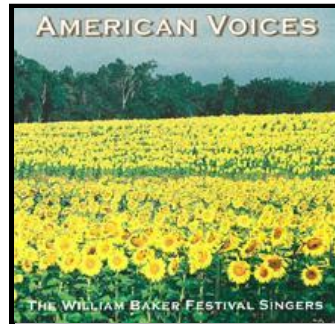
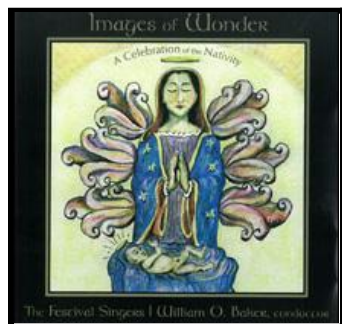
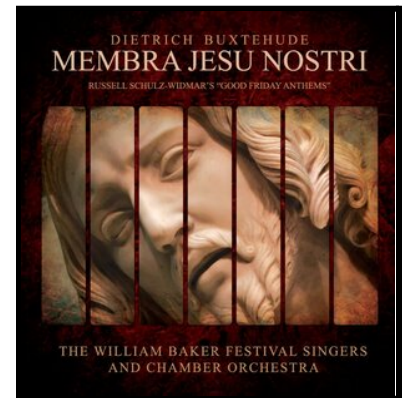
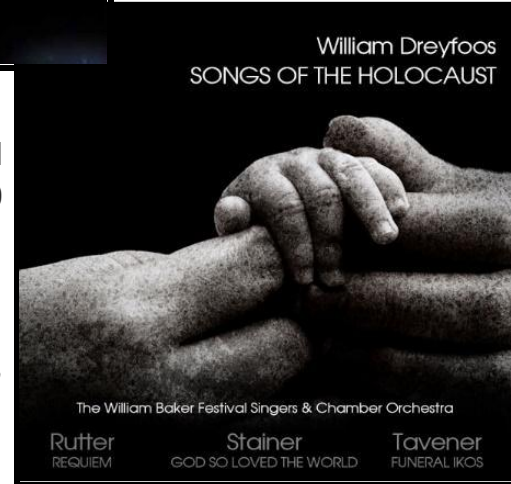


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