

*The Choral Foundation & the Kenneth Babcock Memorial Music Fund,  
With Support from ArtsKC, Presents Our Silver Anniversary Concert*

# **The William Baker Festival Singers**

Dr. William O. Baker, Music Director & Conductor

Christine Freeman, MME, Associate Music Director & Senior Vocal Coach

Jamea J. Sale, PhD, Executive Associate Director

Ed Frazier Davis, MM, Director, Institute for Choral Creativity

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

## ***Kansas City Home Concert***

*With Allegro Choirs of Kansas City, Christy Elsner, director*

Sunday Afternoon, 7 May 2023

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Kansas City, Missouri



*When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise,  
Than when we first begun.*

**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

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

5450 Buena Vista Street, Suite 100

Roeland Park, Kansas 66205 913.488.7524

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

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*\*Daniel Baker '22*

*Laura Rene Baker '99*

*Chris Barnard '09*

*David Beckers '02*

*Dale Bolyard '19*

*Timothy DeWerff '22*

*Kelsey Dingman '23*

*Eric Edman '12*

*Emily Fish '18*

*Christine M. Freeman '06*

*Emily Freeman '21*

*Kristin Gaddis '22*

*Jonathan Gobdes '22*

*Clare 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*

*Donovan Jones '23*

*Amanda Kimbrough '08*

*Ross Kimbrough '11*

*\*Jennifer Labasky '14*

*Kimberly Megow '19*

*Megan Moore '20*

*Martina Pezzino '16*

*Jamie Roberts '12*

*Jamea Sale '02*

*Erica Seago '17*

*Cindy Sheets '09*

*Pratima Singh '06*

*Monty Smith '22*

*Sean Sweeden '16*

*Jessika Toro '19*

*Daniel Trainor '22*

*Denice Trawicki '03*

*Nicholas Trivelas '20*

*Leilani Velasco Vaughn '20*

*Ted Williams '18*

*\*Niccole 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 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.

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 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 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. Dr. Baker, his wife Laura and their three grown children, reside in Roeland Park, Kansas.

# *The William Baker Festival Singers*

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



The William Baker Festival Singers has been hailed by *The Kansas City Star* as “The best of the several volunteer choirs in the city...” Though the membership of the 50-voice semi-professional chorale is comprised entirely of volunteers, a large majority of the singers hold music degrees and many are vocational musicians. It is the mission of the Festival Singers to bring the highest standards of musicianship and professionalism to the realm of volunteer choirs. Celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert Season, the metro Kansas City-based ensemble has enjoyed numerous triumphs through a tradition of ambitious concerts, recording, touring and broadcasting.

Tours have included performances in some of America’s most prestigious venues, including Trinity Wall Street Church in New York City, The National Cathedral and the Basilica of the National Shrine in Washington, DC, the Cathedral Basilica in St. Louis, St. James Cathedral in Chicago, St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans, the Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Atlanta, and the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts in Kansas City. Their richness of tone, diversity of programming and expressiveness has won praise from audiences and critics alike. In April 2013 the Festival Singers presented their debut concert in Helzberg Hall, a performance that featured the *Requiem* of Maurice Durufle performed with members of the Kansas City Symphony. John Heuertz, in the *Kansas City Star* said, “It’s hard to know where to begin praising this chorus’ performance...What came across Thursday night above all was the great warmth in this chorus’ singing. It was almost like hearing a family.”

The signature repertoire of the William Baker Festival Singers is short-form sacred a cappella classics and spirituals from all eras and cultures. The chorus also performs a major choral/orchestral masterwork each spring. Recent concerts have included the *Requiems* of Faure, Durufle, Mozart, Brahms and Rutter, the *Dona Nobis Pacem* of Vaughan Williams, and the *Laudes Organi* of Kodaly. The Festival Singers own the distinction of being the first Kansas City-based ensemble to perform the *Mass in B minor* and the *St. Matthew Passion* of Bach, in addition to Ernest Bloch’s *Avodath Hakodesh (Sacred Service)* in a quarter century.

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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 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).

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

Christine M. Freeman was appointed Associate Music Director of Kansas City ensembles and Senior Vocal Coach for the William Baker Choral Foundation in August 2011. She is a native of Topeka, Kansas. Mrs. Freeman holds a Bachelor of Music Education, emphasis Voice, and a Master of Music Education in Choral Pedagogy from the University of Kansas in Lawrence. She was appointed to membership in The William Baker Festival Singers in 2006, and served as Student Intern for the Choral Foundation in the 2007-2008 season, where she conducted Foundation ensembles in Kansas City, Atlanta, and at the Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston. Christine Freeman has conducted the Festival Singers and the Summer Singers of Kansas City, along with members of the Kansas City Symphony, in performances of Vivaldi *Beatus Vir*, Haydn *Te Deum*, and Mozart *Regina Coeli*. She recently conducted the Festival Singers in performances at the National Cathedral, the Basilica of the National Shrine, and at the historic Christ Church in Alexandria, Virginia. She appears as soloist on recordings of the Festival Singers and as conductor on *A Festival for Christmas, Promised Land, The Sacred Fire, and True Religion*. She has been a featured soloist for the Lee's Summit Summer Singers and the *Hark! Christmas Spectacular*.



In addition to her work with the Choral Foundation, Mrs. Freeman is a Music Educator and is in her tenth year in the Blue Valley School District instructing middle school choral music. She previously taught elementary and middle school music for eight years in the Archdiocese of Kansas City, Kansas. She has been a clinician for honor choirs in Kansas and Missouri. Mrs. Freeman was awarded the honor of Master Teacher in her building for the 2021-22 school year. She is active in professional organizations and was recently awarded by her colleagues the (ECKMEA) East Central Kansas Music Educators Association "Outstanding Middle Level Choir Teacher of the Year" Award. She was previously nominated for the (KCDA) Kansas Choral Directors Association "Prelude" Award. She was the KCDA Repertoire and Standards Chair for Children's Choirs from 2012-2015 where she organized the Statewide Treble Honor Choir. She is a Fellow of the Institute for Healthy Singing & Voice Research. With her husband Daniel and their two children, she makes her home in Olathe, Kansas.

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



**Jamea Sale** is a native of Colby, Kansas. She graduated from Kansas State University in Manhattan in 1987 with a Bachelor of Music in Voice and Instrumental Music Education, and in 2012 she completed the Master of Music in Vocal/Choral Pedagogy at the University of Kansas in Lawrence. She earned her Doctor of Philosophy in Music Education/Choral Pedagogy in 2022. She met rigorous requirements for membership to the International Voice Care Network at St. John's University in 2010. Other memberships include ACDA, NAFME, NATS, the Voice Foundation, and Pan American Vocology Association.

Jamea has been a member and soloist with the William Baker Festival Singers and the Summer Singers of Kansas City since 2002, and served as Student Intern for the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 concert seasons. She was appointed as Choral Assistant in Kansas City in August 2012, Education Director for the Institute for Healthy Singing & Voice Research in 2016, Executive Associate Director of the William Baker Choral Foundation in 2017, and Director of the Institute for Healthy Singing & Voice Research in 2018.

With a certification in Preschool Musikgarten Education, Jamea led experiential music programs for parents and toddlers for five years. She served as Assistant Choral Director and Vocal Coach at St. James Academy High School in Lenexa, Kansas, for 3 years and has taught Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade music in the Olathe School District. She serves as the Vocal Coach for the Allegro Choirs of KC. In her voice studio (JameaSale.com), Dr. Sale works with singers of all ages, including persons needing vocal recovery treatment.

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

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

*Have you considered remembering the work of the William Baker Choral Foundation in your will, estate plan or through a donor advised fund? At the Choral Foundation we are working to build an organization that will connect people with music of timeless beauty and worth for many generations to come. Your gift through your estate will help WBCF bring the life-changing joys of participation in the performance of great music to thousands of men, women, and youth.*

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

## *Dr. Sean Sweeden, Composer in Residence*



A native Arkansan, **Sean Sweeden** began studying music with his parents at a young age, singing in church choirs, various ACDA honor choirs, and musical theatre. He studied percussion with Philip Parker, voice with Dr. Jon Clements, and saxophone with Kenneth Futterer at Arkansas Tech University, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Percussion and Vocal Performance. While there, Sean performed in a wide variety of ensembles including percussion ensemble, band, choir, jazz band, theatre orchestra, music theatre workshop, and opera workshop. In May 2013, he earned the Master of Music in Percussion Performance from the University of Arkansas, where he studied percussion with Chalon Ragsdale and composition with Dr. Robert Mueller. Sean received the Doctorate of Musical Arts in Percussion Performance at the University of Missouri at Kansas City in May 2018. While there, he studied with principal percussionist of the Kansas City Symphony, Christopher McLaurin, as well as Dr. Nick Petrella. Sean is published with C-Alan Publications, won the Lee University Percussion Ensemble Composition Contest in 2014, and the VocalEssence Welcome Christmas Carol Contest in 2016. Dr. Sweeden plans to compose for a variety of ensembles, but is especially interested in creating works that combine percussion and chorus. Sean continues to perform, teach, and study percussion, sing, and also further his compositional style. Sean was appointed to membership in The William Baker Festival Singers in 2016 and has been a featured soloist in numerous concerts and recordings. He was appointed Composer in Residence in 2020 and serves as a fellow of the Institute for Choral Creativity.

## *Emily Fish, Choral Intern*



**Emily Fish** has been a member of the William Baker Festival Singers since 2018. She graduated *summa cum laude* with a Bachelor of Music Education from Kansas State University. During her time at KSU she participated in Women's Choir, Collegiate Choral, Grand Chorus, and a jazz ensemble. Mrs. Fish was the treasurer and secretary for the KSU chapter of the American Choral Directors' Association, and she conducted University Chorus and the Manhattan Community Choir her senior year. She is currently enrolled at Baker University working on her Orff-Schulwerk certification. Emily teaches general music at Leawood Elementary school in the Blue Valley School district. She also leads the school's 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade chorus and teaches guitar lessons. She is hoping that this experience as the 2021-2023 choral intern will strengthen her conducting and leadership skills for choruses of all ages, and further develop her study in her upcoming master's work.

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# 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, 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 2023-2024 Concerts, Tours & Recordings*

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6101 Nall Avenue, Mission, Kansas

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# The Silver Anniversary Celebration

## The William Baker Festival Singers

Sunday, 7 May 2023, 3:00 PM, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Kansas City, Missouri

### Introit

#### FAIRE IS THE HEAVEN

William HARRIS, 1883-1973  
HHW Deane and Sons, Ltd

Faire is the Heaven where happy souls have place.  
In full enjoyment of felicitie;  
Whence they doe still behold the glorious face  
Of the Divine Eternal Majestic.  
Yet farre more faire be those bright Cherubins  
Which all with golden wings are overdight,  
And those eternal burning Seraphins,  
Which from their faces dart out fiery light.  
Yet fairer than they both and much more bright  
Be the angels and archangels  
Which attend on God's own person without rest or end.  
These then in faire each other farre excelling,  
As to the highest they approach more neare.  
Yet is that highest farre beyond all telling  
Though all their beauties joined together were;  
How then can mortal tongue hope to expresse  
The image of such endless perfectnesse?  
*-Edmund Spencer, 1552-1599*

### Welcome

#### I

#### THREE EARLY AMERICAN HYMNS

American Traditional arranged by Alice Parker  
Lawson Gould Music

##### Watts Lyre - Begin My Soul

Begin my soul, the exalted lay,  
Let each enraptured thought obey  
And praise the Almighty's Name  
Lo, heaven and earth and seas and skies  
In one melodious concert rise  
To swell the inspiring theme.

Ye angels catch the thrilling sound,  
While all the adoring thrones around  
His boundless mercy sing;  
Let every listening saint above  
Wake all the tuneful soul of love  
And touch the sweetest string.

Let Man by nobler passions swayed,  
The feeling heart, the judging head  
In heavenly praise employ:

Spread His tremendous Name around  
Till Heaven's arch rings back the sound,  
The general burst of joy!

##### Suffield - Teach Me the Measure

Teach me the measure of my days, Thou Maker of my frame;  
I would survey life's narrow space, And learn how frail I am.  
A span is all that we can boast, An inch or two of time;  
Man is but vanity and dust in all his flower and prime.  
See the vain race of mortals move like shadows o'er the plain;  
They rage and strive, desire and love, but all the noise is vain.  
What should I wish or wait for then,  
From creatures, earth and dust?  
They make our expectations vain and disappoint our trust.  
Now I forbid my carnal hope, My fond desires recall;  
I give my mortal interest up, And make my God my All.  
*-Isaac Watts, 1674-1748*

##### Bradshaw - Worthy the Lamb

Glory to God on high,  
Let earth and skies reply, praise ye His Name.  
His love and grace adore Who all our sorrows bore,  
Sing aloud evermore: Worthy the Lamb.  
Jesus, our Lord and God, bore sin's tremendous load,  
Praise ye His Name.  
Tell what His arm hath done, what spoils from death He won;  
Sing His great Name alone: Worthy the Lamb.  
While they around the throne  
Cheerfully join as one praising His Name.  
Those who have felt His blood sealing their peace with God,  
Sound His dear fame abroad: Worthy the Lamb.

#### II

#### STARS

Ēriks EŠENVALDS, Born 1977  
Musica Baltica MB1264

Alone in the night on a dark hill,  
With pines around me spicy and still,  
And heaven, a heaven full of stars over my head,  
Oh misty red: Myriads with beating hearts of fire,  
Oh the eons cannot vex or tire;  
The dome of heaven like a great hill  
And my roads with beating hearts of fire, Heaven full of stars.  
I know I am honored to be witness of so much majesty.

*-Sara Teasdale, 1884-1933*

*Associate Music Director Christine Freeman, conducting*



## SUNWARD

Sean SWEEDEN, Born 1989  
Composer Manuscript

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 untrespassed sanctity of space,  
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.  
*—John Gillespie Magee, Jr., 1922-1941*

*Megan Moore and Sean Sweeden, soloists*

## III

### OTCHE NASH

Alexandre GRETCHANINOFF, 1864-1956  
Musica Russica

*Sung in Church Slovak*

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Sabaoth,  
Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.  
Thine art kingdoms, thrones, dominions, might and majesty.  
Thy Name be hallowed on earth as it is hallowed in Heaven.  
Thou givest strength to the weak;  
Thou rememb'rst the poor and the distressed.  
And upon them that fear Thy Name,  
Showers of blessing unnumbered shall fall;  
Peace shall follow them.  
By still waters their path shall be.  
Sing then of mercy, judgement, kingdoms, thrones,  
Dominions and powers forever more.  
Holy, Lord God of Hosts.  
Come to us, O Lord, in splendor bright.  
Fill our hearts with everlasting light. Amen.  
*—Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom*

*Mrs. Christine Freeman conducting*

## PSALM 50

F. Melius CHRISTIANSEN, 1871-1955  
Augsburg Publishing House

Offer unto God the sacrifice of thanksgiving  
And pay the vows unto the Lord.  
And call upon Me in the day of thy trouble.  
I will deliver thee and thou wilt glorify Me.

Whoso offereth praise glorifieth God.  
And call the earth from the rising of the sun.  
Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!  
Praise Him all creatures here below!  
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts!  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

*—Psalm 50: 14-15*

*Mrs. Freeman, conducting*

## IV

### ALL YOU WORKS OF THE LORD

Kenneth JENNINGS, 1923-2015  
Augsburg Publishing House

All you works of the Lord, bless the Lord-  
Praise God and magnify Him forever.  
You angels of the Lord, bless the Lord;  
You heavens bless the Lord;  
All you powers of the Lord, bless the Lord;  
Praise God and magnify Him forever.  
You sun and moon, bless the Lord;  
You Stars of heaven, bless the Lord;  
You showers and dew, bless the Lord;  
Praise God and magnify Him forever.  
You winds of God, bless the Lord;  
You fire and heat, bless the Lord;  
You winters and summers bless the Lord;  
Praise God and magnify Him forever.  
You dews and frost, bless the Lord;  
You frost and cold, bless the Lord;  
You ice and snow, bless the Lord.  
Praise God and magnify Him forever.  
You nights and days, bless the Lord;  
You light and darkness, bless the Lord;  
You lightnings and clouds, bless the Lord;  
Praise God and magnify Him forever.  
Let the earth bless the Lord;  
You mountains and hills, bless the Lord;  
All you green things that grow on the earth, Bless the Lord.  
You wells and springs, bless the Lord;  
You rivers and seas, bless the Lord;  
You whales and all who move in the waters, Bless the Lord.  
All you birds of the air, bless the Lord;  
All you beast and cattle, bless the Lord;  
All you children of mortals, bless the Lord;  
Praise God and magnify Him forever.  
You people of God, bless the Lord;  
You priests of the Lord, bless the Lord;  
You servants of the Lord, bless the Lord;  
Praise God and magnify Him forever.  
You spirits and souls of the righteous:  
You pure and humble of heart, bless the Lord.  
Let us bless the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit!  
Praise God and magnify Him forever. Amen!

*—Psalm 148*

*Daniel Baker, organ*

## V

**Allegro Choirs of Kansas City**  
**Christy Elsner, conductor**

### **COME YE SONS OF ART**

Henry PURCELL, 1659-1695

Arranged by Christy Elsner

Come, come ye sons of art.

Come, come away.

Tune all your voices and instruments play,

To celebrate, to celebrate this triumphant day.

### **EXULTATE JUSTI**

Lodovico DA VIADANA, 1560-1627

Arranged by Christy Elsner

Rejoice in the Lord, O ye just;

Praise befits the upright.

Give praise to the Lord on the harp;

Sing to him with the psaltery, the instrument of ten strings.

Sing to him a new canticle,

Sing well unto him with a loud noise.

*-Psalm 33: 1-3*

### **THE STORM IS PASSING OVER**

Charles Albert TINDLEY, 1851-1933

Arranged by Barbara Baker

Have courage my soul and let us journey on.

Though the night is dark and I am far from home,

Thanks be to God the morning light appears.

The storm is passing over. Hallelu!

### **GOOD NEWS**

American Spiritual

Arranged by Rosephanye Powell

Good news, chariot's a comin',

Don't wantuhm to leaveuh me behin'.

Dere's a seat for me in the heavens I know,

Don't wantuhm to leaveuh me behin'.

Dere's a long white robe in the heavens I know,

Don't wantuhm to leaveuh me behin'.

Bedduh git on bo'd an' don't you be late,

Don't wantuhm to leaveuh me behin'.

'Cause the chariot's a comin' from the heavenly gates,

Don't wantuhm to leaveuh me behin'.

Ol' Moses is a leadin' an' she won't wait long

Don't wantuhm to leaveuh me behin'.

So get a movin' chillum when you hear this song,

Don't wantuhm to leaveuh me behin'.

*Annabelle Sweet, soloist*

## VI

### **STEAL AWAY**

American Spiritual arranged by Joseph Jennings

Hinshaw Music Publishing

Steal away to Jesus. I ain't got long to stay here.

My Lord, He calls me in the thunder.

The trumpet sounds within-a my soul.

Green trees are bending, Poor sinner stands a-trembling.

*Dr. Sweeden, soloist*

### **MY SOUL'S BEEN ANCHORED**

American Spiritual arranged by Moses Hogan

Hal Leonard Corporation

My soul's been anchored in the Lord.

Before I'd stay in Hell one day,

I'd sing and pray myself away.

Goin' shout and pray and never stop,

Until I reach the mountaintop.

Do you love Him? Oh, yes! God Almighty!

Are you anchored? Oh, yes!

Will you serve Him? Oh, yes! Anchored in the Lord.

## VII

### **HEALER IN THE HOUSE**

Randy PHILLIPS, Born 1957

Birdwing Music

Now it was told that the Holy Healer was passing by one day.

There was a man who was afflicted,

But he had the strength to say,

"If I could ever get to Jesus, my healing will be the proof,

If I can't get through the door, then I'll tear off the roof,

'Cause there's a Healer in the House today!"

Now, if you're sick or you're feeling lonely,

I have good news to bring!

For this Healer -His Name is Jesus-

And He is the King of all Kings!

He rides on the wind of mercy,

And there's healing in His wings!

Take the roof off of doubt and let your faith cry out!

'Cause there's a Healer in the House today!

He wants to heal your body!

He wants to soothe your soul!

So, just ask and believe, by faith receive,

'Cause there's a Healer in the House today!

*Ms. Toro, solist    Denice Trawicki, piano*

**Wine & Cookie Reception to Follow**  
**Provided by the Friends of St. Paul's Music**

## 2023 Italy Tour Choir of Allegro Choirs of Kansas City

Christy Elsner, Founder & Music Director

Katie Barber	Julia Haney	Ava Odum	Jaxie Smith
Bonnie Bartlett	Maizie Hicks	Abigail Oler	Alyssa Stoskopf
Lilly Breuer	Paige Jackson	Kate Pfeister	Bella Stowe
Landon Bertsch	Katie Jane Karlstrand	Julia Quigley	Annabelle Sweet
Nora Butler	Olivia Kaspar	Corena Racine	Grace Vandehey
Charlotte Chadwick	Emma Lee	Joli Renfro	Lucy Wittek
Sienna DelBorrell	Braden Magistro	Rose Rulifson	Makenna Wolgast
Jordin DeRossett	Ava Martinez	Alyiah Shirley	Keegan Wootton
Danielle Droessler	Lucy Menzies	Brody Shulda	Ella Zysk
Sophie Ewens	Taylor Morton	Gracie Smith	
Natalia Fierro-Cheda	Olivia Norris		

### 2023 Italy Tour Choir of Allegro Choirs of Kansas City



Allegro Choirs of Kansas City: Today's singers feature our 2023 Italy Tour Choir comprised of singers from Allegro con Brio (high school treble) and Spirito (7th-12th grade tenor/bass). Since its creation in 1999, Allegro Choirs of Kansas City has grown from one choir of 28 to five choirs with over 180 singers. Heralded as "the voice of angels" by the Kansas City Star, the choirs inspire thousands of audience members each year locally, nationally, and abroad with their varied repertoire and heartfelt singing. Known for connecting with their audience, the upbeat premier youth choir program enriches and transforms the lives of young singers by learning and performing beautiful music of the highest quality with technical and artistic excellence. Allegro directly impacts

the Kansas City community by providing numerous free concerts each season as well as 3 major performances to sold-out crowds. The choirs give back to the community with performances for local events and charity functions. Drawn from across the Kansas City metro, the five choirs are composed of young ladies and gentlemen in 3rd through 12th grade. The singers represent over fifty public and private schools in eleven counties as well as home-schooled singers. The choirs have shared their fresh, energetic sound by invitation for state, regional, and national conventions and events. Allegro has toured extensively including Sweden, France, Switzerland, Italy, Austria, Czech Republic, and England. The choirs were invited guests of the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., Dallas Meyerson Symphony Hall, Carnegie Hall, St Peter's Basilica, and for former President and First Lady Obama in the White House. Allegro is a frequent guest of the Kansas City Symphony and received acclaim for two recent performances of Britten's War Requiem and Transmigration of Souls. We are excited to return to the Symphony in December 2023. The choirs are featured on multiple music publishing websites. Auditions are now open for our 2023-24 concert season: please visit our audition website for more information: [www.groyourvoice.org/audition2](http://www.groyourvoice.org/audition2)



**Alex Piazza, Spirito Director**, is excited to be returning to Allegro this year as director of Spirito. Currently in his first year as Director of Choirs at Topeka High School, Alex recently completed his Master of Music in Choral Conducting from the University of Missouri-Kansas City where he directed choirs, taught Music Education courses, and was selected to lead the Conservatory's newly-formed Tenor-Bass Ensemble. Previously, Alex earned his Bachelor of Music Education at The University of Kansas and led choir programs at the middle and high school level in Wichita and El Dorado, Kansas.

Dedicated to working with young and developing singers, Alex earned his Level III Kodály Certification from Wichita State University and has served as Assistant Director of the Newton Community Children's Choir and guest clinician for Bethany College's annual Real Men Sing.



**Christy Elsner, Brio Director and Founder of Allegro Choirs of Kansas City**, is a native Kansan and is the Founder and Artistic Director of the Allegro Choirs of Kansas City. Under her direction since 2000, the premier auditioned youth choir program has grown from one choir of 38 to five choirs with over 200 singers. Heralded as “the voice of angels” by the Kansas City Star, Allegro inspires thousands of audience members each year with its varied repertoire, technical excellence, and heartfelt singing. Christy is engaging and demanding but wraps her unwavering pursuit of excellence in humor and inspiring messages. As an active clinician for children’s, youth, and treble choirs, Christy enjoys giving workshops on innovative rehearsing and the female changing voice and is honored to conduct regional, state, and national honor choirs. Her first book, *Gadgets for Great Singing*, was published in 2013 by Hal Leonard. She is currently finishing her second book, *The Athletic Singer*. Her choral arrangements are published with MusicSpoke and Hal Leonard. She is the 2010 recipient of the Kindest-Kansas Citian and the 2008 recipient of the MENC Outstanding Middle Level Educator. She obtained her music education degree

from the University of Kansas and received the Marcus E. Hahn Award for Outstanding Senior in Music Education. Professional memberships include MENC, Choristers Guild, Chorus America, and ACDA. When she’s not dreaming about Allegro, she loves to cook, work out, play with her two Boxers, and watch Jayhawk basketball. She is married to her high school sweetheart, Sean, and their three kiddos are all Allegro alums.



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

*The William Baker Festival Singers are proud to be  
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## **WILLIAM BAKER FESTIVAL SINGERS SILVER ANNIVERSARY CIRCLE**

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Nancy Babcock, Hiawatha, Kansas

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

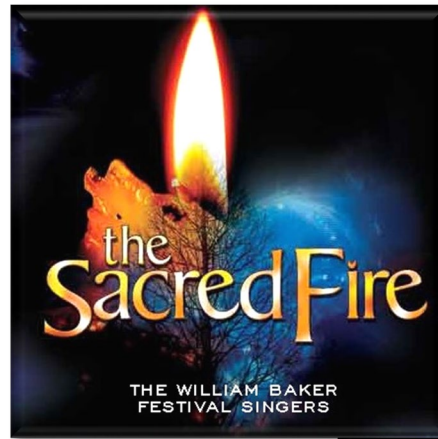
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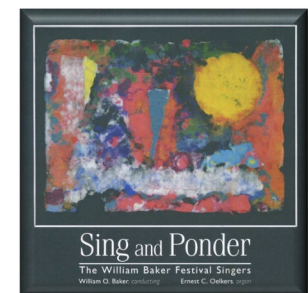
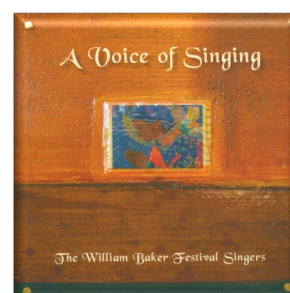
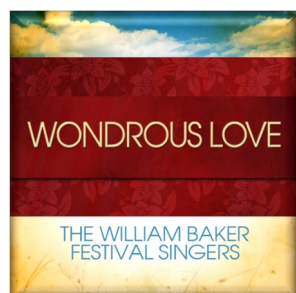
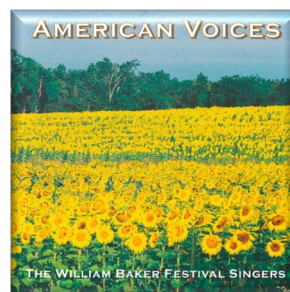
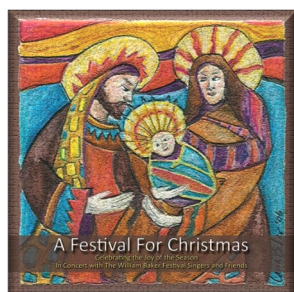
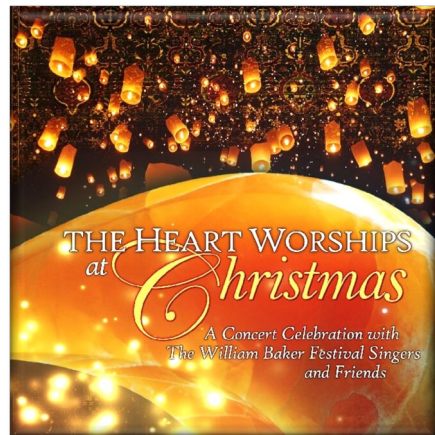
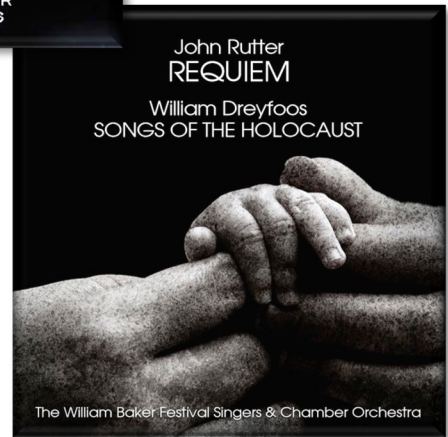
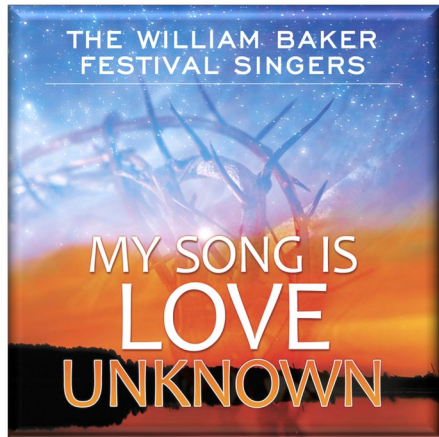


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**THE SACRED FIRE**  
 January/February 2020

and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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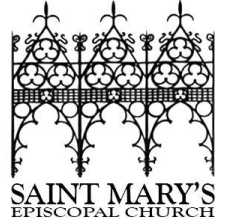
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