

The Choral Foundation Proudly Presents

The William Baker Festival Singers

Music of Timeless Beauty and Worth from Kansas City Since 1998

Dr. William O. Baker, Music Director & Conductor

Christine M. Freeman, Associate Music Director & Senior Vocal Coach

Jamea Sale, WBCF Executive Associate Music Director Ed Frazier Davis, Composer in Residence

WASHINGTON 2018

Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

Christ Church, Alexandria, Virginia

Washington National Cathedral

Saturday & Sunday, 13-14 October 2018



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?



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' *German 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 few years 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. 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 25 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*.

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 Johnson County (KS), by the cities of Roeland Park, KS, and Kansas City, MO, 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 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 community music. Now in its 21st concert season, the metro Kansas City-based ensemble has enjoyed numerous triumphs through a tradition of ambitious concerts, recording, touring and broadcasting.

Tours have taken the choir throughout the Midwest, South, and Northeast, including performances in New York, Chicago, St. Louis, San Antonio, Austin, New Orleans, Atlanta, Omaha, Des Moines, and now Washington, DC. Their richness of tone, diversity of programming and expressiveness has won praise from audiences and critics alike. In the Festival Singers 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."

In addition to its signature short-form sacred a cappella classics and spirituals, the chorus performs a 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.

The William Baker Festival Singers

Saturday, 13 October 2018, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, DC

Sunday, 14 October 2018, Christ Church, Alexandria, Virginia

Sunday, 14 October 2018, Washington National Cathedral of St. Peter and St. Paul, Washington, DC

Repertoire Will Be Chosen from the Following

- I HAIL GLADDENING LIGHT Charles WOOD, 1866-1926
Conducted by Associate Music Director Christine Freeman
- II THREE AMERICAN HYMNS American Traditional arranged by Alice Parker
Come, Ye That Love the Lord
God Is Seen
Hark I Hear the Harps Eternal
Conducted by Student Intern Nicole Winney
Karen Kay Hall, soloist
- III MY BELOVED SPOKE Ed Frazier DAVIS, Born 1989
Mr. Davis was appointed Composer in Residence of the William Baker Choral Foundation in 2016
Amy Imperato, Erica Seago, Sean Sweeden & Vince Gover, soloists
- O SACRUM CONVIVIUM Javier BUSTO, Born 1949
Jennifer Berroth, soloist
- O SALUTARIS HOSTIA Eriks ESENVALDS, Born 1977
Kathleen Kennedy & Amy Imperato, soloists
- IV SWING LOW, SWEET CHARIOT Spiritual arranged by Alice Parker
RIDE THE CHARIOT Spiritual arranged by William Henry Smith
Christine Freeman, soloist

Jamea J. Sale, Executive Associate Music Director, is a native of Colby, Kansas. She holds the Bachelor of Music Education Kansas State University in Manhattan. In 2012 she completed the Master of Music in Vocal/Choral Pedagogy at the University of Kansas. Jamea has been a member of the William Baker Festival Singers and the Summer Singers of Kansas City since 2002. She 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, Executive Associate Music Director of the Choral Foundation in 2017 and Director of the Institute for Healthy Singing in 2018. In addition to her work with the Choral Foundation Jamea is a candidate for the Ph.D. in Choral Pedagogy at the University of Kansas. She teaches voice in private studio and serves on the faculty of the Allegro Choirs of Kansas City.



Christine M. Freeman, Associate Music Director, was appointed 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. She was appointed to 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 appears as conductor on two Festival Singers recordings: *A Festival for Christmas* and *Promised Land*.



Ed Frazier Davis, Composer in Residence, 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. 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.



Nicole Winney, Student Intern, was appointed Student Intern for the William Baker Choral Foundation in February 2018. She will serve through the 2018-2019 concert season. She is a graduate of Kennesaw State University in Georgia, earning the Bachelor of Music Education. She has been a member of several Choral Foundation ensembles in Atlanta since 2014. She came to Kansas City in August 2018, and was appointed Music Educator for the Ray Marsh Elementary School in Shawnee, Kansas.

The William Baker Festival Singers

William O. Baker, DMA

Founder & WBCF Music Director

Jamea J. Sale, MME

WBCF Executive Associate Music Director
Director, Institute for Healthy Singing

Lynn Swanson, MME

Music Director, Lynn Swanson Chorale

Andrew Phillip Schmidt, MM

Music Director, New South Festival Singers

Amy Thropp, MM

Music Director, Zimria Festivale Atlanta

Christine M. Freeman, MME

Associate Music Director/Senior Vocal Coach

Scott C. Smith

Choral Associate & Administrator, Atlanta

Ed Frazier Davis, MM

Composer in Residence

Jennifer Berroth, MM

Associate Music Director, Lee's Summit

Nicole Winney

Student Intern

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Ivy Belk Pirl, Staff Accompanist

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www.HealthySinging.org

www.SullivanChoralLibrary.org

www.FestivalSingers.org www.ChoralFoundation.org

Laura Rene Baker '99

Chris Barnard '09

David Beckers '02

**Jennifer Berroth '14*

Jocelyn Botkin '04

Joyce Braddock '07

William Brubaker '15

Sandra Buntin '15

Kim Claxton '12

Ed Frazier Davis '16

Laura Dickinson '04

Kent Dickinson '03

Eric Edman '12

Emily Fish '18

Bethany Franklin '16

Christine M. Freeman '06

Vincent Gover '16

**Karen Kay Hall '12*

Marcia Higginson '02

Jill Holtkamp '07

Amy Imperato '17

Jim Jandt '01

**Gary Jarrett '02*

Jill Jarrett '12

Russell Joy '18

Abby Judah '16

Kathleen Kennedy '11

Amanda Kimbrough '08

Ross Kimbrough '11

Katie Lorand '16

Roger McDougale '18

Nathaniel Murken '18

Martina Pezzino '16

**Brad Piroutek '01*

Julie Piroutek '07

Jamea Sale '02

Erica Seago '17

Ethan Sberman '17

Cindy Sheets '09

Jennifer Schoenfeldt '06

Stephanie Sullivan '11

Sean Sweeden '16

Denice Trawicki '03

Ted Williams '18

Nicole Winney '14

Doug Woolery '17

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