

*The William Baker Choral Foundation, with Support from the  
Georgia Council for the Arts and Jane G. Sullivan, Presents  
Our 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Performance*

# **Johann Sebastian Bach MAGNIFICAT**

## **Camille Saint-Saëns ORATORIO de NOËL**

**The Cobb Summer Singers  
Cumberland Chamber Orchestra**

Lynn Swanson, MME, Music Director & Conductor

Brian Parks, Organ

Ivy Belk Pirl, Rehearsal Accompanist      Catherine Moulton, Vocal Coach

**Arietha Lockhart, soprano      Aliyah Auerbach, mezzo-soprano**

**Holly McCarren, alto      Jonathan Pilkington, tenor**

**Zachary Futch, bass**

**Sunday Afternoon, 20 August 2023**

**Marietta First United Methodist Church**

**Marietta, Georgia**

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

# The 16<sup>th</sup> Cobb Summer Singers

**Lynn Swanson, MME**

Music Director, New South Festival Singers  
Music Director, Cobb Summer Singers

**William O. Baker, DMA**

WBCF Founder & Director

**Jamea J. Sale, PhD**

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Associate Music Director/Kansas City

**Scott C. Smith**

Choral Associate & Administrator, Atlanta

**Sean Sweeden, DMA**

Composer in Residence

**Kelsey Emmanuel, MME**

Choral Intern

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

**Sue Lawton**, Concert Manager, Atlanta

**Leanne Elmer Herrmann**, Staff Accompanist

**Ivy Belk Pirl**, Staff Accompanist

**Geoffrey Wilcken DMA**, Staff Accompanist

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

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## *Lynn Swanson, Music Director & Conductor*



Ms. Swanson is a native of the Atlanta suburb of Marietta, Georgia. She holds the Bachelor of Music in Organ Performance from Shorter University, and the Master of Music Education in Choral Pedagogy from the University of Kansas.

Ms. Swanson is one of the most consequential leaders in the nearly four-decade history of the William Baker Choral Foundation. She has enjoyed a significant international career, and has just been honored with an ACME Award (Artists, Composers, Musicologists, and Educators) by Mu Phi Epsilon International Music Fraternity for having achieved a high level of musical excellence in her concentrated field. She served as Associate Organist of the Kronberg Evangelical Church, Kronberg, Germany and Christ the King Anglican Church, Frankfurt, Germany. Her position also included a choral performance in the iconic Notre Dame Cathedral and organ/choral performance at the American Cathedral in Paris. Significant church positions where she has served as Music Director and as Organist/Choirmaster, include All Saints Cathedral in Milwaukee, St. Benedict's Episcopal Church in Smyrna, Georgia, and Due West United Methodist Church in Marietta. She currently serves as Music Director & Organist at Grace Episcopal Church in Gainesville, GA. The Grace Parish Choir will serve as Choir-in-Residence at Exeter Cathedral, England in August, 2024.

From 2017-2018 she served as Assistant Director of the Zhuhai Classical Children's Choir in Zhuhai, China, near Hong Kong. During her lauded tenure there she conducted the chorus on national television as part of the Tenth Annual International Chamber Music Festival of the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing. While in residence in China, she traveled to the city of Wuhan where she served as Artist-in-Residence at the Hong An Tian Thai Temple Monastery. During her three week tenure she prepared the 60 voice Monastery Choir for their first performance at the Beijing International Choral Competition 2018. The choir performed Italian motets, anthems in Latin, English and Chinese. The choir was awarded gold medals for their inaugural performance by adjudicators from around the world.

Ms. Swanson served a number of leading positions with the Choral Foundation from 2006-2018. She founded the Cobb Summer Singers in 2006, the Northside Young Singers in 2008, the Cobb Festival Singers in 2009, and the Institute for Healthy Singing in 2015. She served as associate director of the Choral Foundation's original ensemble, now called The New South Festival Singers, from 2010 to 2015, before her appointment as the second music director of the ensemble in 2015, a positions she held until 2017. Lynn Swanson co-created the Summer Singers of Lee's Summit in 2014, and served as Executive Associate Music Director of the Choral Foundation from 2011-2017. Her choirs have recorded three albums: *Between Heaven and Earth*, *Live in Charleston*, and *Legacies of Light*.

From 2017-2019, Ms. Swanson's blog ~ *Developing Voices* was featured as the headline blog each Tuesday on ChoralNet.org ~ The American Choral Directors Association's daily newsletter. Her articles were all researched-based bringing new findings on the science behind the voice to aid fellow singers and choral directors around the world.

Ms. Swanson's conducting portfolio of choral-orchestral masterworks is extensive, including Brahms Ein deutsches Requiem, Bach: Mass in B Minor, Magnificat, Christ lag in todesbanden, and Wachet auf; Faure: Requiem; Handel: Messiah, Israel in Egypt, Dettingen Te Deum and Coronation Anthems, Mozart: Coronation Mass, Great Mass in C Minor, Solemn Vespers Missa Brevis in D, Mass in D Beethoven: Mass in C and Mendelssohn: Elijah, Saint-Saëns: Christmas Oratorio along with many other works. Collaborations have involved musicians from the Kansas City Symphony, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, and the Kazinetti String Quartet.

Ms. Swanson is a member of the Mu Phi Epsilon Fraternity and the American Choral Directors Association. In 2023 she was one of eight music leaders world-wide named a recipient of the ACME Award, given annually by the Mu Phi Epsilon International Music Fraternity.

## *The Cobb Summer Singers*



**The Cobb Summer Singers** was originally founded in 2006 by Lynn Swanson. After participating in the 2005 Summer Singers of Atlanta under the direction of Dr. William Baker, Ms. Swanson made the decision to create a new ensemble on the same model based in Cobb County. The project was an immediate success with more than 55 singers joining for the first season to perform acclaimed concerts of classics and spirituals before capacity audiences. In early 2009 the Cobb Summer Singers became a constituent ensemble of the William Baker Choral Foundation, a national organization created in Atlanta in 1990 that presently sponsors ten ensembles and three educational institutes active in four states and involving hundreds of men, women, and youth. As a result of the support

of the Choral Foundation, the Cobb Summer Singers has grown dramatically in artistic accomplishment.

Performances have included Mozart: *Great Mass in C Minor*, *Coronation Mass* and *Solemn Vespers*; Beethoven: *Mass in C*; Brahms: *Ein deutsches Requiem*; Handel: *Israel in Egypt*, *Coronation Anthems*, and *Judas Maccabeus*, among many other immortal masterworks.

The 2024 Cobb Summer Singers will prepare and present the *Holocaust Cantata* of Donald McCullough. Registration will open March 1, 2024. For additional information, please contact the Office of the Choral Foundation at 913-488-7524 or visit [www.ChoralFoundation.org](http://www.ChoralFoundation.org).

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# The 16<sup>th</sup> Cobb Summer Singers & Cumberland Chamber Orchestra

Lynn Swanson, MME, Music Director & Conductor

Brian Parks, Organ  
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Arietha Lockhart, soprano    Aliyah Auerbach, mezzo-soprano  
Holly McCarren, alto    Jonathan Pilkington, DMA, tenor    Zachary Futch, bass

Sunday Afternoon, 20 August 2023 at 4:00 PM  
Marietta First United Methodist Church, Marietta, Georgia

## I

### ORATORIO de NOËL, Opus 12

Camille SAINT-SAËNS, 1835-1921

The Choral Public Domain Library

*First Performance 24 December 1858, La Madeleine, Paris  
The Composer at the Organ  
This is the first performance by a Choral Foundation ensemble*

Orchestral Prelude

There were shepherds at night in the same country, abiding in the fields, and silently keeping watch by night over the sleeping flocks around them.

And lo, an angel of the Lord appeared, standing there beside them: And the glory of the Lord shone 'round about them, and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them: Fear not, O ye shepherds! For behold, I bring tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people: For unto you is born this day a Savior, Christ the Lord, in the city of David.

This shall be a sign for you: You will find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of heavenly hosts. Praising God and saying...

Glory be to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will to men. Praise the Lord

Patiently have I waited for the Lord, and lo, He heard my cry.

In my heart, O Lord, I believe, that Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God, He Who was to come into this world.

Blessed is He Who cometh in the Name of the Lord. God, the Lord of Light, hath shined upon us.

Thou alone art my God: and all my trust is in Thee. I will exalt Thee Lord, and praise Thy Name.

Wherefore do the heathen clamor? Why do the nations imagine vain and foolish things?

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, World without end. Amen.

My soul doth magnify the Lord: and my spirit hath rejoiced in God. For mine eyes have seen Thy glory.

Alleluia! Ye heavens sing praises, be joyful on earth. For the Lord hath poured His consolation upon His people, And He to His afflicted will be merciful.

Arise now, Daughter of Zion! Praise God. Alleluia! That Zion's true glory might be manifested, That her Savior might rise and shine before the nations.

Praise ye the Lord of Hosts, Sing His salvation, Bless His Name, show forth His praise in His holy house.

Rejoice ye heavens and be joyful on earth,  
Rejoice in the Face of the Lord for He cometh. Alleluia!  
*-Vulgate Bible, 4<sup>th</sup> century*

## INTERMISSION OF TEN MINUTES

### MAGNIFICAT, BWV 243

Johann Sebastian BACH, 1685-1750

The Choral Public Domain Library

*First Performance 25 December 1723, Thomaskirche, Leipzig  
The Composer at the Harpsichord  
First Choral Foundation Performance, 7 December 1985  
William Baker Festival Singers, Norcross, Georgia*

*Sung in Latin*

My soul magnifies the Lord.

And my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.

For He has considered the humble condition of His  
handmaiden; Behold, henceforth, I shall be called blessed by...

...all generations.

For He that is mighty has done great things for me,  
And holy is His Name.

And He is merciful to those who fear Him  
From generation to generation.

He has shown strength in His arm.  
He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He has brought down the mighty from their thrones  
And exalted those of low degree.

He has filled the hungry with good things,  
And the rich He has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of His servant Israel,  
In remembrance of His promised mercy.

As He spoke to our forefathers, to  
Abraham and to his posterity forever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
World without end, Amen.

*-The Gospel of St. Luke 1:46-55*

## ***Cumberland Chamber Orchestra Personnel***

*George Butler Orchestra Contractor*

### **Violin I**

Carolyn Hancock, *concertmaster*

### **Bass**

Lauren McComb

Clayton Chastain

John Bryant

### **Violin II**

Michele Volz

### **Flute**

Candace Keach

Sarah Ambrose

### **Harp**

Dania Lane

### **Viola**

Lana Teko-Ahatefou

### **Oboe**

Rebecca Testerman

Kim Lorch Perrin

### **Timpani**

Jeff Kershner

### **Violoncello**

George Butler

### **Trumpet**

Paul Poovey

### **Organ**

Nicole Marane

**We thank Jane G. Sullivan for a gracious gift in support of 16<sup>th</sup> annual performance of the Cobb Summer Singers**

**The appearance of Candace Keach, flute, is made possible by a grant from Susan and Horace White**

**The appearance of Jeff Kershner, timpani, is made possible by a grant from Amy Thropp  
To the memory of the Parents of Amy & Steve Thropp**

**The appearance of George Butler, violoncello, is made possible by a grant from  
Dr. & Mrs. William O. Baker, in honor of Mr. Butler's twenty years of gracious support**



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

## *Soloists & Resident Staff*



**Arietha Lockhart, coloratura soprano**, has been awarded many prizes and honors, including a fellowship to perform the role of Zerbinetta (Ariadne auf Naxos) at the Aspen Music Festival Opera Theatre, 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the first Classical Singer Competition sponsored by Classical Singer Magazine, The National Opera Association Competition's Legacy Award in the professional division, 2<sup>nd</sup> place in The Center for Contemporary Opera International Competition (prize, a New York debut recital at Weill Recital Hall of Carnegie Hall), and the Friedrich Shorr Memorial Prize in Voice and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Oratorio Society of New York competition. During studies at the American Institute for Musical Studies, won the first place vote of the jury in the Meistersinger Competition in Graz, Austria, and received the gold medallion as the audience's 1<sup>st</sup> place choice.

Ms. Lockhart is a member of the Grammy Award winning Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus and has performed with the Atlanta Chamber Players and the Atlanta Baroque Orchestra. She is a favorite of Choral Foundation audiences, having performed in several productions with the William Baker Festival Singers, the Cobb Summer Singers, and the Summer Singers of Atlanta, including Bach's *St. John Passion*, Haydn's *The Creation*, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Mozart's *Requiem & Mass in C Minor*, and Beethoven *Mass in C* and *Symphony No. 9*. She is a former music educator and Co-President of the Atlanta Chapter of Mu Phi Epsilon Music Fraternity.



**Aliyah Auerbach, mezzo-soprano**, is a performer and an educator in the Atlanta area. She graduated summa cum laude from Emory University, earning her Bachelor of Arts degree in Vocal Performance and her Bachelor of Science degree in Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology. Since her time at Emory, she has explored a multi-faceted career in music, from performance to mentorship to education.

Over the years, Aliyah has performed with a number of ensembles, including the Emory Concert Choir, Emory University Chorus, Collegium Vocale, and the Gathering, Emory's all-female a cappella group. She is currently the soprano staff singer at St. James United Methodist Church. She is also the youth conductor at St. James, where she works with school-age children on the fundamentals of choir singing.

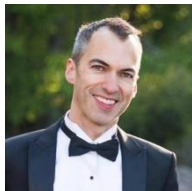
Aliyah has experience singing in various languages, including Mandarin. In 2018, she performed a popular Chinese ballad as a featured soloist at the National Chinese Language Conference. She has also been a featured soloist at both the 2018 and 2019 Atlanta Chinese New Year Celebrations. As one of her primary occupations, Aliyah is a music mentor at Songs for Kids, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing musical enrichment to children with illness, disability, or injury.



**Holly McCarren, alto**, is a native of Atlanta. She completed her Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance in 1997. Under the tutelage of Early Music Specialist Lyle Nordstrom, she participated in Master Classes with Emma Kirkby & Anthony Rooley, Paul Hilliard and the Theatre of Voices, and Elizabeth Mannion. She went on to pursue graduate studies with a graduate teaching fellowship at The University of Oregon where she studied Early Music performance practices with Baroque Cellist Marc Vanscheeuwijck. Ms. McCarren was a participant in a master class with the well-known early music group

Tapestry. While in Oregon, she was a soloist at Central Lutheran Church with organist Andrew ElRay Stewart-Cook. Musical theater experience includes Ruth in *The Pirates of Penzance* and Buttercup in *HMS Pinafore* with the Atlanta Lyric Theatre under the direction of J. Lynn Thompson. She has worked with Cartersville Opera, The Oregon Lyric Opera, and The Oregon Opera Ensemble. Ms. McCarren can be found on a soon-to-be-released CD of Gace Brule music with The Goliard Ensemble under the direction of John Hillenbrand. Solo concert engagements include singing with the Carroll Symphony Orchestra, The Atlanta Baroque Orchestra, The Etowah Chamber Orchestra, and New Trinity Baroque. Ms. McCarren is currently an adjunct teacher of voice at Clayton College & State University and a soloist at All Saints' Episcopal Church in Atlanta. She appears on the Towerhill recordings of *Promised Land* and *A Christmas Alleluia* by the Choirs of All Saints. She appeared in the 2014 performance of Mozart's *Coronation Mass* with conductor Lynn Swanson and the Festival Singers.





**Jonathan Pilkington, tenor**, Atlanta based tenor and voice teacher, specializes in oratorio and art song. In recent years as an oratorio soloist, he has performed solos in Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Mozart's *Requiem*, Handel's *Messiah*, Verdi's *Requiem*, Orff's *Carmina Burana*, and Handel's *Judas Maccabaeus*, among others. As tenor soloist, he sang in the New York premiere of Mendelson's *Humboldt Cantata*, as well as a performance of Elliott Carter's *The Defense of Corinth* with the National Chorale at Avery Fisher Hall. Recent recital appearances have included performances at regional colleges, universities, and churches, as well as in Dallas, TX, Kansas City, MO, and northern California, featuring a variety of American, English, French, German, and Italian song repertoire. He holds degrees from Shorter College (B.M.), Westminster Choir College (M.M.), and University of Georgia (D.M.A.). As a dedicated voice teacher, he has participated in the highly selective NATS Intern Program and competed further training at the LoVetri Institute for Somatic Voicework™ at Baldwin Wallace University. After ten years of teaching at Piedmont College, Pilkington currently teaches at United Music Studios and at his private studios in Atlanta and LaGrange.



**Zachary Norris Futch, bass**, is the Director of Traditional Music at Dahlonega UMC and a student at Piedmont University. He is a member of the Piedmont Chorale and the Piedmont Singers and has performed many operatic roles including the title role in *Le nozze di Figaro*, John Proctor from *The Crucible*, and Leporello from *Don Giovanni*. Mr. Futch also regularly performs as a soloist and has recently served as baritone soloist in Gabriel Faure's *Requiem*, Ralph Vaughn Williams' *Five Mystical Songs*, Maurice Duruflé's *Requiem*, and Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*. He also composes music and has recently had multiple pieces premiered in the local area. He currently lives in Dahlonega, Georgia with his wife and two cats. Soli Deo Gloria!



**Catherine Moulton, vocal coach**, a native Mariettan, is Head of Education at The Strand where she has worked as a performing arts clinician since 2013. Her pedagogy highlights the embodiment of music theory through vocal technique, stagecraft, confident self-presentation, and the building of other critical life skills. Currently she runs an active private lesson studio and directs Quadratum, with Brian Parks, an auditioned ensemble that strives to develop intelligent, self-reliant young people through rigorous musical training. She is also the Director of Chapel Choir (6th through 12th grade) and Chorister Choir (3rd through 5th grade) at Marietta First United Methodist Church. A graduate of CCCEPA, she holds a bachelor's degree from Indiana University with additional studies taking place at Manhattan School of

Music and Jacobs School of Music. Over her years at The Strand she has directed, music directed, or production managed a vast array of shows, camps, and educational performing opportunities.



**Ivy Belk Pirl, principal accompanist**, serves the Choral Foundation as Principal Accompanist for the New South Festival Singers and the Cobb Summer Singers. Over the past two decades she has appeared with our Atlanta-based ensembles in numerous local performances and with the Festival Singers at Charleston's Piccolo Spoleto Festival. She is a native of Marietta and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Piano Performance from Florida State University in Tallahassee, with post-graduate study in piano performance at Georgia State University. She is a certified Kindermusik instructor and she teaches piano in private studio. Ms. Pirl makes her home in North Atlanta.

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# William Baker Choral Foundation Center

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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  
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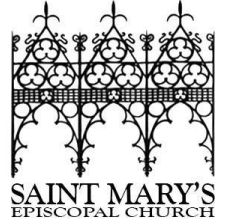
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