

The Summer Singers of Atlanta

The William Baker Choral Foundation
5450 Buena Vista Street #100, Roeland Park, KS 66205 913.488.7524
Mail@FestivalSingers.org www.ChoralFoundation.org

Friday, 1 March 2024

INVITING YOU TO JOIN US FOR THE 34th SUMMER OF SINGING OF ATLANTA'S ORIGINAL SUMMER CHORUS

Dear Singing Friends,

I am writing today to invite you to be a part of a wonderful season of singing with Atlanta's original summer chorus, the one and only **Summer Singers of Atlanta**.

Music Director Andrew Schmidt has chosen a majestic program of music for chorus, organ and brass featuring the thrilling *GLORIA* of John Rutter. The rest of the program includes Mendelssohn: *VERLEIH UNS FRIEDEN*; Fauré: *CANTIQUE DE JEAN RACINE*; Bruckner: *OS JUSTI* and *LOCUS ISTE*; and a modern work by Glenn Rudolph: *THE DREAM ISAIAH SAW*. It is a great collection of diverse and beautiful music.

Rehearsals will be Monday evenings, 7:00-9:30, beginning June 3, at the Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church, 1660 North Decatur Road in Atlanta, on the campus of Emory University. There is plenty of free off-street parking adjacent to the building. Concert weekend will be Saturday/Sunday, August 3/4.

As always, there will be no audition for participation in the 2024 Summer Singers of Atlanta. All adults and mature youth (16 & older) are invited to participate. Youth younger than 16 may participate if a parent or guardian is present with them at all times. The Summer Singers program is not recommended for youth below the age of 12.

General tuition for 2024 is unchanged from last year: \$95, or \$85 if paid by May 1. Students, and members of ACDA, AGO, GMEA and/or NafME will enjoy an any-time tuition of \$70. This tuition helps cover the cost of staff, music scores, royalties, programs, guest musicians, promotion and concert production expenses. As a Core Value, the Choral Foundation will not deny participation to anyone because of inability to pay tuition. We do ask, however, that a request for tuition assistance **ONLY** be made if the need is truly genuine.

You may register by completing the form enclosed with this letter and mailing it to the Choral Foundation office. Or, if you prefer to use your credit card, you may register online at www.ChoralFoundation.org/registernow. Please register today, and please forward this opportunity to every singing friend you know.

Soli Deo Gloria,

*William O. Baker, DMA, Founder of the Summer Singers of Atlanta
& Director of the Choral Foundation*

THE 2024 SUMMER SINGERS OF ATLANTA FAQ

Who is invited to participate in Summer Singers?

All adults regardless of their musical background are invited to sing. No audition is required. Mature youth in grades 9-12 are invited to participate. Youth under the age of 16 may participate only if a parent or guardian is a registered, participating member of the Summer Singers. The program is not recommended for youth 12 and under.

What is the schedule of rehearsals and concerts?

MN	June	3:	7:00-9:30	Rehearsal 1	Glenn Memorial UMC
MN	June	10:	7:00-9:30	Rehearsal 2	Glenn Memorial UMC
MN	June	17:	7:00-9:30	Rehearsal 3	Glenn Memorial UMC
MN	June	24:	7:00-9:30	Rehearsal 4	Glenn Memorial UMC
MN	July	1:	7:00-9:30	Rehearsal 5	Glenn Memorial UMC
MN	July	8:	7:00-9:30	Rehearsal 6	Glenn Memorial UMC
MN	July	15:	7:00-9:30	Rehearsal 7	Glenn Memorial UMC
MN	July	22:	7:00-9:30	Rehearsal 8	Glenn Memorial UMC
MN	July	29:	7:00-9:30	Rehearsal 9	Glenn Memorial UMC
<u>ST</u>	August	3:	9:00-Noon	Dress Rehearsal	Glenn Memorial UMC
<u>SU</u>	August	4:	2:30	Concert Preparation	Glenn Memorial UMC
			4:00	PERFORMANCE	Glenn Memorial UMC

Where are rehearsals located?

All rehearsals and the performance will be in the nave of the historic **Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church on the campus of Emory University**. The address is 1660 North Decatur Road, Atlanta, GA 30307.

What is the tuition, and where does the money go?

Tuition for the 2023 Summer Singers of Atlanta is \$95, or \$85 if paid before May 1. A special rate of \$70 is available for Students and Choral Directors (members of ACDA, AGO, GMEA or NafME). Those electing to pay tuition early enable the Foundation to save money by making purchases in advance of need. The tuition helps fund the Choral Foundation, paying staff salaries, promotional mailings and announcements, printed materials and music scores. For the record, tuition payments and concert donations pay only a small portion of these expenses. The balance is made up by generous gifts to the Choral Foundation and the Summer Singers of Atlanta from individuals and organizations. **Tuition is NOT refundable for any reason**, but may be applied to any future Summer Singers if you are unable to participate.

What is the Choral Foundation?

The Choral Foundation is a national organization founded in Atlanta in 1990. It is best known in Atlanta as the sponsoring organization for The New South (formerly William Baker) Festival Singers, the Cobb Summer Singers and the Summer Singers of Atlanta, along with the Jane Sullivan Choral Resource Library and the Institute for Healthy Singing. In all, the twelve ensembles of the Choral Foundation will register over 600 men, women and youth in the course of the year. The Choral Foundation is a 501-c-3 tax exempt corporation of the State of Kansas, licenced to conduct business in Georgia, Missouri and Illinois.

What if I can't pay tuition?

The By-Laws and Core Values of the Choral Foundation (read them at www.FestivalSingers.org) direct that no one will ever be denied the benefits of the Choral Foundation based on ability to pay. Full tuition assistance, partial tuition assistance and extended tuition payment arrangements are available upon request. We rely on an honor system and ask that singers make application ONLY in case of genuine need.

I would love to sing, but my family will be away on vacation and I might miss one or two rehearsals.

The Summer Singers of Atlanta is, obviously, a "summer" chorus. We realize that summer is the vacation season and that most members will miss a rehearsal or two. We ask that every member do their very best to be present for all rehearsals possible and that, to the extent of their ability, every singer practices his/her music at home between rehearsals.

I sang in choir in high school and college, but I am WAY out of practice. Is there any program that will help me learn my music? Is my out-of-practice voice going to be a problem?

One of the great things about the Summer Singers is that it gives singers a chance to get their voices back in shape, or keep them in shape during the traditional off-season. Sectional rehearsals are held periodically to help singers learn their part. We would also recommend that singers purchase a recording of the scheduled works. Listening to a quality recording will help you understand how the parts fit together. It will also increase your excitement for the concerts.

May I enroll in both the Summer Singers of Atlanta and the Cobb Summer Singers?

Yes! Of course. Music Director Lynn Swanson will be on sabbatical for 2024. Our guest conductor/composer will be Amy Thropp, music director of the Choral Foundation's Zimria Festival Atlanta. ZFA is our choral ensemble specializing in music of Jewish composers and traditions. Ms. Thropp will be leading the deeply moving HOLOCAUST CANTATA of Donald McCullough along with her own setting of KADDISH IN MEMORY OF THE SIX MILLION. Cobb Summer Singers rehearsals are Tuesday evenings in Marietta, and all events are scheduled during the month of June. As about a special tuition discount for participating in both choirs.

What do singers wear for concerts?

All singers are asked to dress in professional black, attire. Bottoms must be ankle length. If the length of a skirt or pants does not extend that far, black stockings must be worn. Shoes are to be closed-toed and black with minimal heels. Black socks may be necessary. Tops are all black. Sleeves must reach at least the elbow, and collars should be open and/or modest. Jackets, ties, shawls, or other coverups are optional, but must also be black. Any jewelry must have limited shine, preferably small and modest. If you have any questions or require additional clarification, please ask. Get as close as you can with items from your own closet. However, ALL SINGERS are asked to refrain from fragrances at ANY rehearsal or concert.

More Questions? Call the Choral Foundation Home Office at 913-488-7524, or email Mail@FestivalSingers.org Information about the Summer Singers, and registration materials can be found at www.ChoralFoundation.org.

PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ENJOY GREAT MUSIC
FEEL FREE TO COPY AND DISTRIBUTE THIS INFORMATION FAR AND WIDE

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING
THE SUMMER SINGERS OF ATLANTA**

The Summer Singers of Atlanta

A Program of The William Baker Choral Foundation
5450 Buena Vista Street, Suite 100, Roeland Park, Kansas 66205 Office: 913-488-7524
E-mail: Mail@FestivalSingers.org Internet: www.ChoralFoundation.org

THIRTY-FOURTH SEASON REGISTRATION - 2024

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!

Name _____

Voice Part: S1 S2 A1 A2 T1 T2 B1 B2

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone (_____) _____ Cell Phone (_____) _____

E-mail _____

Do you presently sing with a local community chorus and/or church choir? Yes No
If so, please list the name(s) of the choir(s) and the conductor(s):

Choir _____ Conductor _____

Choir _____ Conductor _____

Are there any rehearsals between June 3 & August 4 that you know now you must miss?
If so, please **CIRCLE** the dates here:

June 3 June 10 June 17 June 24 July 1 July 8
July 15 July 22 July 29 August 3 (dress) August 4 (concert)

See Page 6 of this document for information about Andrew Schmidt's Dissertation Research Study.
Do you wish to be a participant in Andrew Schmidt's study? Yes No

Your signature is a commitment to participate in the 2024 Summer Singers of Atlanta. If possible, please include your check with this registration. If necessary, however, you may pay tuition at the first rehearsal or apply for tuition assistance. Though unexpected the Choral Foundation reserves the right to change announced repertoire, instrumentation, and/or soloists if such becomes necessary for any reason.

Signature/Date _____

Please make your check payable to: **Summer Singers of Atlanta** and mail it to:
The William Baker Choral Foundation, 5450 Buena Vista Street, Suite 100, Roeland Park, KS 66205
_____ \$95 tuition enclosed (\$85 before May 1) _____ (\$70 Student/Director)
_____ Pay at First Rehearsal _____ Tuition Assistance Information Requested

Prefer to use your credit card? Please register online at www.ChoralFoundation.org/registernow

The Summer Singers of Atlanta

ANDREW PHILLIP SCHMIDT, MM, Music Director & Conductor
LEANNE HERRMANN, MM, Accompanist

OUR 34th SUMMER OF SINGING

John Rutter: GLORIA **Works for Chorus, Organ & Brass** *Mendelssohn, Faure, Bruckner & Glann Rudolph*

Rehearsals Monday Evenings, 7:00-9:30, beginning June 3
GLENN MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Campus of Emory University
Concert Weekend, Saturday/Sunday, August 3/4

Tuition Only \$95 (\$85 if paid before May 1)
(\$70 Students & Members of ACDA, AGO, GMEA or NAFME)
Confidential Tuition Assistance Available In Cases of Need
Participation in Both Summer Singers of Atlanta & Cobb Summer Singers Welcome

NO AUDITION REQUIRED

Adult Singers & Mature Youth 16 & Older

Call 913-488-7524 or e-mail Mail@FestivalSingers.org

Register online at www.ChoralFoundation.org/registernow

The Summer Singers of Atlanta is an ensemble of The William Baker Choral Foundation, Inc.

Take Part in Andrew's Schmidt's Dissertation Study!

Our director, Andrew Schmidt, has pursued his Ph.D. in music education at Georgia State University for the last two years. With your help, he will have data to complete his degree in the fall of 2024.

Participants in Summer Singers of Atlanta are invited to participate in Andrew's study investigating the effect of choral rehearsals on a singer's executive function. Executive function skills heavily influence job success, marital and relationship success, academic success, and public safety. It is often said that music makes you smarter, and research among instrumental musicians suggests there are cognitive benefits. More research is needed to clarify such benefits among choral singers, which is the focus of Andrew's work.

How Can I Participate?

If you are 18 or older, you can easily participate by simply agreeing to do so. Taking part in the study requires no additional travel or expense. You will participate in a few tests and surveys and take part in some specially designed rehearsal activities throughout the study. In total, your participation will require about three hours over 9 weeks. Consistent attendance is needed to collect the best data for this study, so those wishing to participate should only miss one rehearsal.

Finally, for the study to be possible, some participants will need to be available beginning at 6pm on Tuesdays rather than 7pm. Those who start at 6pm will end rehearsal early at 8:30pm rather than 9:30pm. Note: Yes! You can still participate if you're unavailable at 6pm.

What if I Don't Want to Participate?

You will have the full Summer Singer of Atlanta experience whether or not you choose to participate in the study. Suppose you sign up to participate, and things change in your schedule. In that case, you can freely and, without any fear of recourse, discontinue participating in the study. Summer Singers of Atlanta is, first and foremost, a place where friends and family come together to sing and partake in an amazing choral experience. Your voice and spirit are vital whether you're a part of the study or not.

Will Summer Singers Be Different This Year?

Andrew's research design will have little impact on the traditional SSA experience, but you may notice some differences. First, the study-participating singers will be assigned to two groups that rehearse together and separately each week. One group will begin rehearsing earlier and leave earlier than the other. Still, the entire chorus will rehearse together for most of the time. Second, you may notice extra attention given to vocal technique, or how we learn to sing. If you've worked with Andrew in the past, you already know what this might look like as he runs rehearsals a little like a voice lesson.

I Want to Participate, What Do I Need to Do?

If you choose to register online, there will be an extra box to click that lets us know you'd like to participate in the study. If you're registering by the paper form, there is a similar box to check on the registration sheet. You will then receive an email with an "informed consent form." Please read it carefully, sign it, and submit it electronically or bring it to rehearsal. Once you've returned the consent form, your study participation has begun!

What Will I Be Doing In the Study?

You will learn one of two vocal techniques designed to help you learn the concert music. Both groups will complete some online tests and surveys, watch videos, listen to recordings, try some activities, and have opportunities to ask questions and give feedback. A concluding survey will inquire about your experience as a participant. The "informed consent form" provides details about all the study procedures. ALL DATA WILL REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL and will be destroyed within one year of its analysis. Your participation and name will remain completely anonymous.

Will I Get to Know the Results of the Study?

Absolutely. Time will be required to analyze and review the results, but Andrew will let SSA participants know as soon as they are ready. At the latest, this will occur in December 2024.