

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

The 2023 Kenneth Babcock Memorial Masterworks Concert

Dr. William O. Baker, Music Director

Christine M. Freeman, Associate Music Director

Dr. Jamea J. Sale, WBCF Executive Associate Director

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

Johannes Brahms

EIN DEUTSCHES REQUIEM

Ed Frazier Davis: MOTHER & CHILD

The William Baker Festival Singers & Orchestra

Megan Moore, soprano

Ed Frazier Davis, bass

**Sunday Afternoon, 16 April 2023
Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral
Kansas City, Missouri**

*How lovely is Thy dwelling-place, O Lord of Hosts.
My heart and my flesh cry out for the Living God.*

*Blessed are they that dwell in Thy house,
Forever they will praise Thee.*

SOLI DEO GLORIA

What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

The William Baker Festival 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 www.ChoralFoundation.org

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Karen Kay Hall '12

Chip Handrich '21

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Erica Seago '17

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Monty Smith '22

Sean Sweeden '16

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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 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 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 Purdew, 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 25th 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 us at Mail@FestivalSingers.org.

Megan Moore, Soloist



Megan Moore is an up-and coming singer and conductor in the greater Kansas City community. Originally from the Dallas-Fort Worth area, she graduated summa cum laude from William Jewell College in May 2017, with B.A. degrees in Music, Psychology, and Applied Critical Thought and Inquiry. During her time at Jewell, she studied voice under Dr. Ronald Witzke; served as student conductor for the award-winning Concert Choir and William Jewell Handbells; and was involved in the Chapel Choir, Choral Scholars, and Schola Cantorum. Additionally, she served as a Choral Scholar for Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral under the direction of John Schaefer and Dr. Paul Meier. Megan has sung in Carnegie Hall with Winthrop University under the direction of Dr. Jeremy Mims, as well as in Texas-based Voci d'Amici, conducted by Dr. Loyd Hawthorne. Ms. Moore was appointed to the William Baker Festival Singers in 2020, and is now in her third season with the ensemble. Locally, she has also sung with Musica Vocale, Cardinalis, and Songflower Chorale. Additionally, Ms. Moore serves as the Choral Assistant St. Mary's Episcopal Church in downtown Kansas City. She served as Choral Intern for the Kansas City ensembles of the Choral Foundation from 2020-2021.

Ed Frazier Davis, Soloist & Composer

Ed Frazier Davis is an English-American composer, singer, and conductor living and working in Chicago. He served as Composer-in-Residence for the William Baker Choral Foundation from 2016-2022, and was appointed as founding Director of the Institute for Choral Creativity in 2020. He was a member of the William Baker Festival Singers from 2016-2022. He created the Choral Foundation's newest ensemble, Vox Venti, in Chicago in September of last year. Vox Venti is enjoying a most successful inaugural season in 2022-2023.



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.



The Choral Foundation Presents

25

The **William Baker**
FESTIVAL SINGERS
25th Anniversary Celebration

Dr. William O. Baker, Music Director

Christine Freeman, Associate Music Director

Emily Fish, Choral Intern

with guests

Allegro Choirs of Kansas City

Christy Elsner, Music Director

Sunday, May 7, 2023 at 3:00 PM

St. Mary's Episcopal Church
1307 Holmes Street
Kansas City, MO 64106

Tickets online and at the door.
www.FestivalSingers/concerts
913-488-7524

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 eleventh annual memorial concert, and it marks the 25th anniversary season of the William Baker Festival Singers in Kansas City. Prior performances of the Babcock Memorial Concert 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 2024 Kenneth Babcock Memorial Concert will feature Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem*, Leonard Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*, William Dreyfoos' *Songs of the Holocaust* and Benjamin Britten's *Festival Te Deum*.

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!"

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
Dr. Sean Sweeden, Composer in Residence

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*

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A Personal Word

Thank you for joining us for the 25th Anniversary Season of the William Baker Festival Singers, and for the Eleventh Annual Kenneth Babcock Memorial Concert. At this time of celebration I want to express my humble appreciation to you for your encouragement and support, but most of all, for your prayers. No man walks the face of this earth more blessed than I.

For today's performance I have chosen a principal work that has been close to my heart for over four decades, the Ein deutsches Requiem of Johannes Brahms. As a conductor whose performances of this work number in the dozens, I have heard time after time, from audience members, chorus singers, and orchestra players how this music, like no other, has given voice to comfort, assurance, encouragement and hope.

I think it also especially fitting to offer today the Kansas City premier of a work created by our former Composer in Residence, and present director of our Institute for Choral Creativity, Ed Frazier Davis. This brilliant orchestral tone poem was written in memory of Ed's mother, opera star Gianna Rolandi, 1952-2021. There is no greater love than that of a Mother and Child, as Brahms himself testifies in the fifth movement of his Requiem: "I will comfort you as one whom his own mother comforts."

Many years ago, when I was a young man singing in the Atlanta Symphony Chorus under the leadership of my mentor Robert Shaw, the great master wrote a letter to us inspired by Brahms' choral masterpiece. The letter is one of my most precious possessions to this very day. Here is an excerpt:

I suppose the first scriptural enigma any of us memorize as a child is "God is love." In my case it was some years before I realized that there was a possibility that it said exactly what it meant and meant exactly what it said. Not, "God is to **be loved**," or "God **loves**," but "God **is** love. G=L."

At least by analogy (and I would say by absolute coincidence) music is love, and so is a chorus, and so is singing together.

I now invite you to realize -with appropriate wonder- that your participation and your "chorus" are not extra baggage, addendum, or post-script, but provide an involvement and commitment which furnish the only light there is. There is no other meaning. Certainly not in words.

Robert Shaw

I believe each one of us was created with love and intention. Each one of us was woven together in our mother's womb by our Loving Creator. I believe the breath of Holy Spirit was poured into us that we, too, might love and create. Singing in a chorus is a part of that creation and it is an expression of our own creation. This is why the Festival Singers came to exist, first in Atlanta in 1985, and in Kansas City in 1998. This is why I come before you today to lead the Ein deutsches Requiem and to create its wonders anew in partnership with our chorus, orchestra and soloists, and with you.

Someone asked recently, "Will the Festival Singers be ready to perform the Brahms Requiem on April 16?" "...After all these years of leading it, are you beginning to feel comfortable with it?"

The answer is no. We will never be worthy of it. We will bow before it and struggle against it until that day when our own spirits have been filled with eternal light, and our mortal tongues lie silent and still.

We approach our work rightly only as beggars, and as slaves in chains to these immortal words and sounds. Our worthiness is not found in any performance accomplishment, but in our common love, our shared blessing, and in service to the Spirit Whose love caused Brahms to compose it, inspired each of us to learn it, and gathered us in this sacred place to share it.

*Soli Deo Gloria,
William O. Baker, DMA, Music Director*

The 25th Anniversary of the Festival Singers in Kansas City

Sunday Afternoon, 16 April 2023 at 2:00, Grace & Holy Cathedral, Kansas City, MO

The William Baker Festival Singers & Symphony Orchestra

Megan Moore, soprano Ed Frazier Davis, bass Dr. William O. Baker, conductor

Today's Performance is the Eleventh Kenneth Babcock Memorial Masterworks Concert

Ed Frazier Davis, Born 1987

MOTHER AND CHILD

Kansas City Premier - Composed in Memory of Mr. Davis' Mother, Gianna Rolandi, 1952-2021

Johannes Brahms, 1833-1897

EIN DEUTSCHES REQUIEM

Premier performance at Bremen Cathedral, Good Friday, 10 April 1868, the composer conducting

First WBCF performance, The William Baker Festival Singers of Atlanta, Saturday, 7 June 1986, Norcross, Georgia

Most recent WBCF performance, The Summer Singers of Atlanta & Orchestra, Sunday, 4 August 2019, Atlanta, Georgia

SUNG IN GERMAN

I

Matthew 5:4; Psalm 126:5-6

Blessed are they that mourn for they shall have comfort.

They that sow in tears surely shall reap with joyful singing.

Who goeth forth, weeping and bearing precious seed shall come with rejoicing bringing his sheaves with him.

II

I Peter 1:24; James 5:7-8; I Peter 1:25; Isaiah 35:10

Behold all flesh is as the grass, and all the glory of Mankind is as the flower of grass.

For lo, the grass with'reth, and the flower thereof is fallen.

So therefore be patient, my dear Brethren unto the coming of the Lord.

See how the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and with long patience.

He waiteth until he receive the early and latter rain. So be ye patient.

But still the Lord's Word standeth forevermore.

And the ransomed of the Lord shall return with singing unto Zion.

Joyfully coming rejoicing, joy everlasting on their heads shall crown their heads forevermore.

Gladness and glory welcome and embrace them, and grief and sighing shall flee from them.

III

Psalm 39:4-7; Wisdom of Solomon 3:1

Lord, make me to know the measure of my days on earth, to consider my frailty, that I must perish.
Surely, all my days here are as an handbreadth to Thee, and my lifetime is as naught to Thee.
Verily Mankind walketh in a vain show, even his best state is vanity.
He goeth about like a shadow. In his anxieties and in vain he heapeth up riches,
But knoweth not who shall gather them.
Now Lord, what then do I wait for? My hope is in Thee.
For the righteous souls are in the hand of God, and ne'er shall harm reach unto them.

IV

Psalm 84: 1, 2, 4

How lovely is Thy dwelling-place, O Lord of Hosts.
For my soul it longeth and fainteth for the courts of the Lord.
My heart and flesh cry out for joy unto the Living God.
Blest are they who make Thy house their dwelling. They praise Thy Name evermore.

V

John 16:22; Ecclesiasticus 51:27; Isaiah 66:13

Ye now are sorrowful. Weep not, for I will see you again and your heart shall be joyful.
Given by Karen Berroth in memory of Bob Berroth
And I will comfort as one whom his own mother comforts.
Look on me then, for it was but a little time labor and trouble were mine, yet I have found at last comfort.

VI

Hebrews 13:14; I Corinthians 15:51-52, 54-55; Revelation 4:11

Here on earth have we no continuing place, wherefore we seek one to come.
Lo, I will show unto you a mystery: we shall not all sleep here forever.
But we shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the sound of the trumpet.
For the trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall all be changed.
Then, what the prophet hath told, the saying shall be brought to pass, for death is swallowed in victory.
Grave, where is thy victory? Death, where is thy sting?
Lord, Thou art worthy of honor, praise and glory and might.
By Thee alone were all things created, and by Thy good will all creatures have their being.

VII

Revelation 14:13

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord, from henceforth.
Sayeth the Spirit: that they rest from their labors, and that their works do follow after them.
Given by the William Baker Choral Foundation in memory of Festival Singers who have passed into eternal life

We Recommend the 1984 Recording of the *Ein Deutsches Requiem* by Robert Shaw & the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and Chorus on Telarc Records for Continuing Enjoyment of the Work



The 2023 Summer Singers invite you to add your voice!
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Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral in Kansas City, MO

The Summer Singers of Lee's Summit

Donald McCullough: HOLOCAUST CANTATA

Jennifer Lahasky, MME, Music Director & Conductor

Dr. Geoffrey Wilcken, Accompanist

REHEARSALS THURSDAY EVENINGS, 7:00-9:30, beginning June 1
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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.

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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 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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Symphony Orchestra

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Eric Williams, *concertmaster*
An Tran
Shupeí Wang

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Francesca Manheim
Set May-Patterson
Joanna Metsker

Viola

Kathryn Hilger
Shelley Armer

Violoncello

Sascha Groschang
Emma Hoeft

Bass

Sara Neilson

Piccolo

Lily Josefsberg

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Mary Jamerson

Oboe

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The appearance of Eric Williams as Concertmaster is made possible by a grant from Dr. William & Mrs. Laura Baker in memory of Linda Gayle Franklin, 1941-2023, of Old Fort North Carolina, and in honor of Earl Franklin, Wayne Franklin, Roger Franklin, and Robin Shoemaker.

The appearance of Kathryn Hilger as Principal Violist is made possible by a grant from Timothy DeWerff.

The William Baker Festival Singers express loving appreciation to Karen Kay Hall and Timothy DeWerff for serving as rehearsal accompanists during preparations for the Brahms: Ein deutsches Requiem

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William Baker Festival Singers, Prairie Village, Kansas, 1998

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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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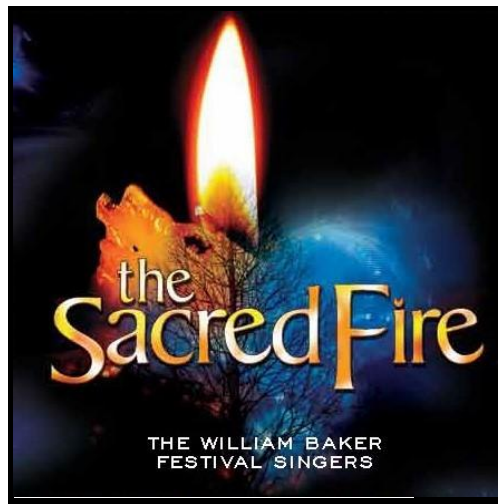
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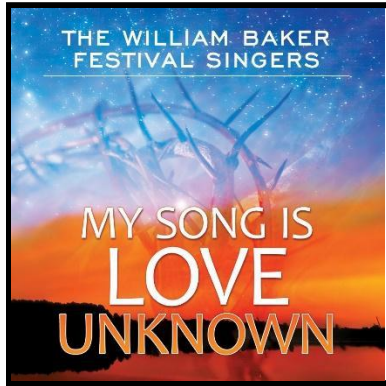
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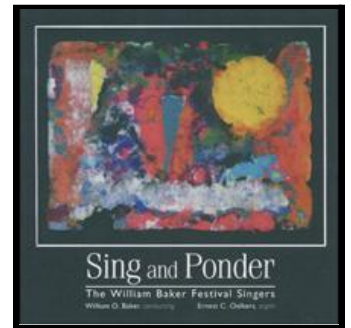
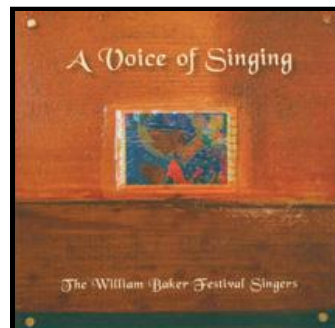
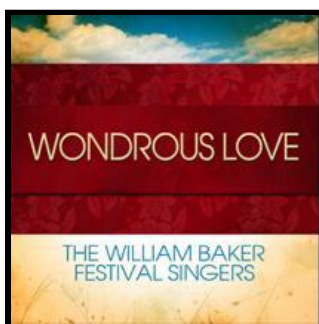
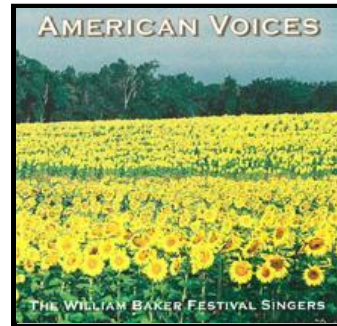
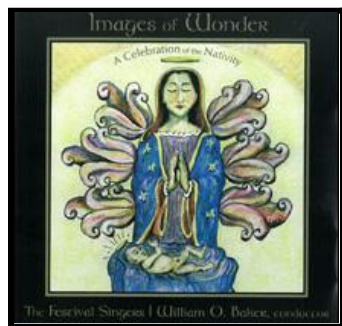
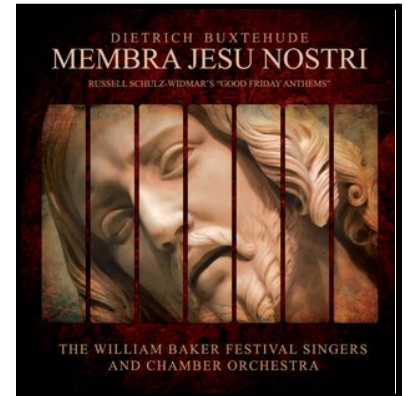
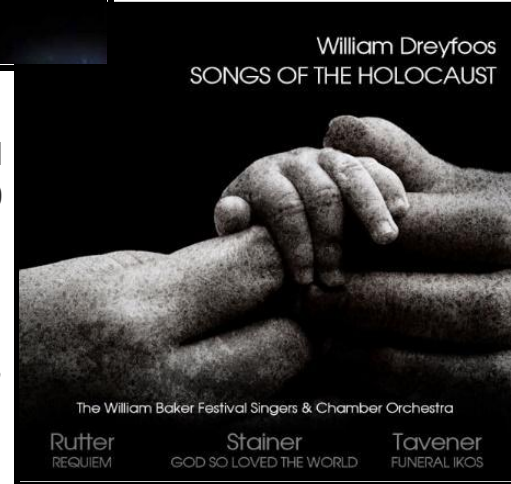


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