

*The Choral Foundation & the Piccolo Spoleto Festival,
An Outreach of the City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs,
With Support from the Georgia Council for the Arts, Presents*

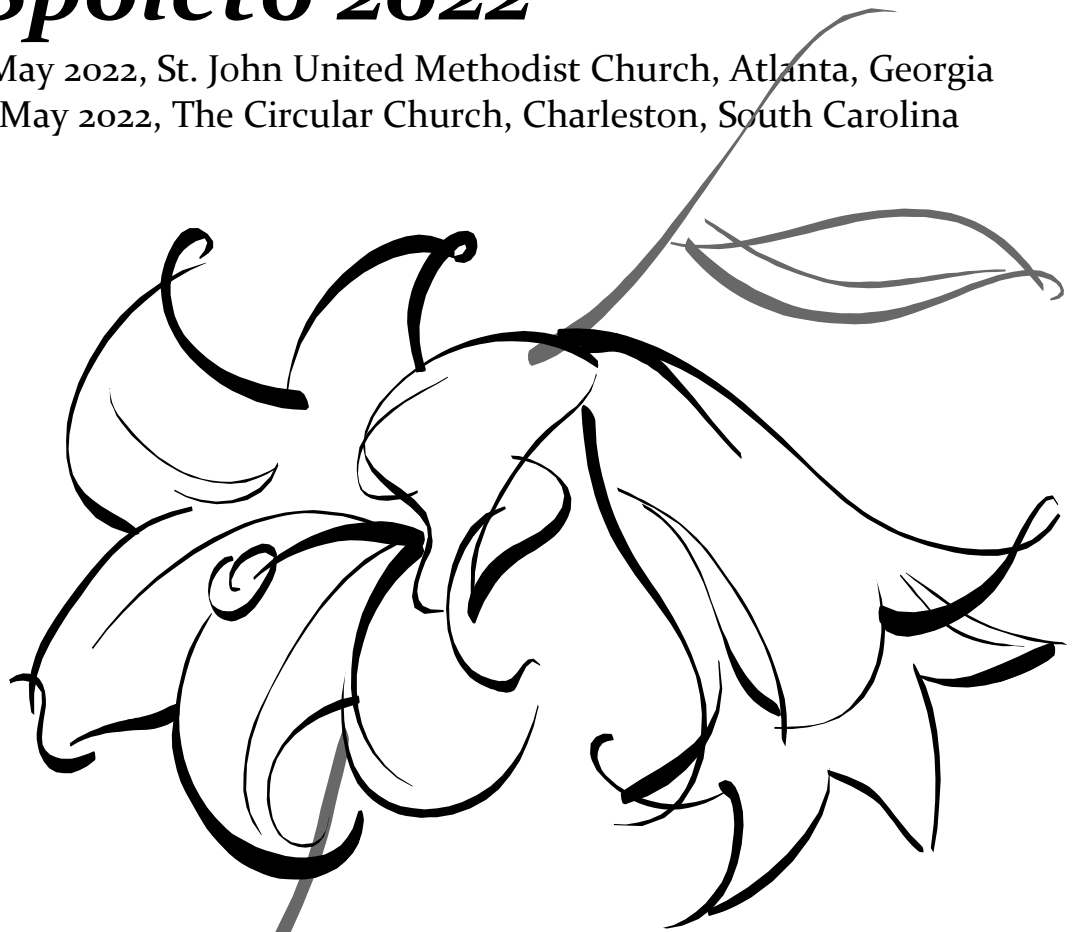
The New South Festival Singers

Lynn Swanson, MME, Music Director & Conductor

Gwinnett Festival Singers 1985-1998 William Baker Festival Singers Atlanta 1998-2015
Performing at Charleston's Piccolo Spoleto Festival Since 1989

Piccolo Spoleto 2022

Sunday Afternoon, 22 May 2022, St. John United Methodist Church, Atlanta, Georgia
Monday Afternoon, 30 May 2022, The Circular Church, Charleston, South Carolina



*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 New South Festival Singers

Lynn Swanson, MME

Director, New South Festival Singers
Director, Cobb Summer Singers
Director, Smoky Mountain Summer Singers
Creator, Institute for Healthy Singing

William O. Baker, DMA

Creator & Director of the Choral Foundation

Jamea J. Sale, Ph.D.

WBCF Executive Associate Director
Director, Institute for Healthy Singing

Andrew Phillip Schmidt, MM

Music Director, Summer Singers of Atlanta

Amy Thropp, MM

Music Director, Zimria Festivale Atlanta

Jennifer Lahasky, MM

Director, Summer Singers of Lee's Summit

Leilani Velasco

Music Director, Voces Festivas

Ed Frazier Davis, MM

Senior Composer in Residence
Director, Institute for Choral Creativity
Music Director, Vox Venti Chicago

Christine M. Freeman, MME

Associate Music Director/Kansas City

Scott C. Smith

Choral Associate & Administrator, Atlanta

Sean Sweeden, DMA

Composer in Residence

Emily Fish

Choral Intern

Nicole Williams

Administrative Assistant

Leanne Elmer Herrmann, Staff Accompanist

Ivy Belk Pirl, Staff Accompanist

Michelle Reed, Staff Accompanist

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

www.HealthySinging.org www.ChoralCreativity.org

Terrell Abney '07

Kristin Boyle '14

Steve Brailsford '14

Anthony Cochran '21

James Cordell '21

Matthew Edwards '19

Marla Franks '03

Jane Freeman '22

Harley Granville '14

Felicia Hernandez '04

Laura Hotchkiss '21

Mark Kagika '14

Jody Kershner '09

Alexis LaSalle '10

Sue Lawton '14

Sarah Means '10

Marcia Mein '11

Bess Miller '19

David Nieland '12

Audra Pagano '21

Yolanda Phillips '03

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Lynn Swanson, Music Director & Conductor



Lynn Swanson, Director of the Cobb Summer Singers and The New South Festival Singers, is a native of the Atlanta suburb of Marietta, Georgia. She holds the Bachelor of Music in Organ Performance from Shorter College, 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 Choral Foundation in Atlanta. She is, unmistakably, one of the most significant music leaders of our time in the Atlanta community.

She has enjoyed an accomplished international career, serving church positions in Germany that included a performance in the iconic Notre Dame 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, Due West United Methodist Church in Marietta and, presently, Grace Episcopal Church in Gainesville.

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 at Central Conservatory in Beijing where the performance was viewed on Chinese National Television. She also led the first-ever Buddhist Monastery Choir in a classical performance at the Beijing International Music Festival. From 2018-2020 she served as Executive Artistic Director of the Milwaukee Children's Choir.

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, the Institute for Healthy Singing in 2015, and the Smoky Mountain Summer Singers in 2022. 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 position she held from 2015-2017 and resumed in 2021. 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.

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

The Choral Foundation Board of Advisors

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The New South Festival Singers

Music of Timeless Beauty and Worth from Atlanta Since 1985



2022, 37th concert season.

The New South Festival Singers traces its history to the 1985 creation of Gwinnett Festival Singers by founder William Baker and his long-time associate, Janis Lane. The choir was known as The William Baker Festival Singers from 1998-2015. The Festival Singers was led by its founder through its 30th concert season. The ensemble is now “The New South Festival Singers” in homage to Henry W. Grady’s description of Atlanta’s historic legacy of tolerance, justice, opportunity and enterprise. We are delighted to welcome Lynn Swanson’s return to the podium as Music Director & Conductor, beginning with the 2021-

The Festival Singers specializes in short-form sacred a cappella classics and spirituals, in addition to annual performances of masterworks for chorus and chamber orchestra. Major concerts have included a performance of Brahms *Ein deutsches Requiem* with the Gwinnett Symphony Orchestra, and a performance in Spivey Hall of Johann Sebastian Bach’s *St. John Passion* and *Mass in B Minor*. Other masterworks over the years have included Stravinsky’s *Symphony of Psalms*, Bernstein’s *Chichester Psalms*, Mozart’s *Requiem*, *Solemn Vespers*, *Missa Brevis in D*, and *Mass in C minor*; Buxtehude’s *Membra Jesu Nostri*, and Britten’s *Rejoice in the Lamb* and *Ceremony of Carols*, along with dozens of works from Palestrina to Kodaly. The Festival Singers performed the Ernest Bloch *Avodath Hakodesh* for the rededication of the magnificent pipe organ at The Temple on Peachtree, and at the historic Community Christian Church in Kansas City, a performance broadcast in its entirety by Kansas Public Radio on the eve of Passover 2012. The Festival Singers’ recording of the *Requiem* of John Rutter and *Songs of the Holocaust* by William Dreyfoos was reviewed graciously in the December 2020 edition of *American Record Guide*.

The ensemble is known for its expressive memorized performances of signature a cappella concerts demonstrating a striking diversity and depth of repertoire. The sound of the Festival Singers has been hailed by music critics and the general public, including The Atlanta Journal-Constitution “*Sensuous tonal beauty ...a level of balance, blend, intonation and expressiveness that puts the average community chorus to shame...*” The Charleston Post & Courier, “*...the South’s premier a cappella choir...exceptional tone and ferocious emotion...*” and the New Orleans Times-Picayune, “*...inspiring and exhilarating.*”

The Festival Singers has produced 25 nationally released recordings hailed in reviews by *The Atlanta Constitution* and *The American Record Guide*. The choir has been featured in local television programs across the South, and on national radio programs that include *The Sounds of Majesty*, *The First Art* and National Public Radio’s *Performance Today*. They have toured throughout the South and Midwest in the United States and Great Britain,



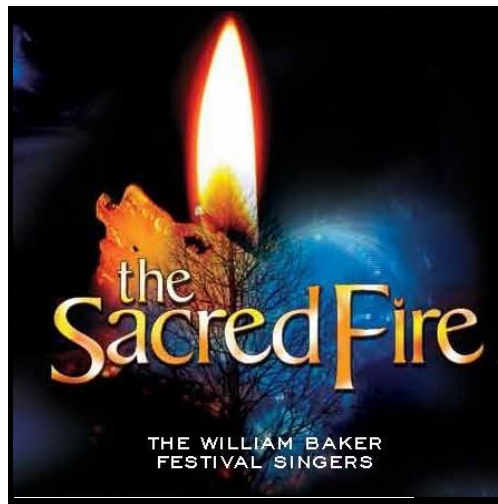
having appeared in Birmingham’s Divinity Chapel, Atlanta’s Spivey Hall, the DeKalb International Choral Festival, Canterbury Cathedral, and the Bristol (England) Festival, in addition to annual performances before capacity audiences at the Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston, South Carolina, since 1989.

The Festival Singers has become a model for professional-level volunteer choruses that have inspired the creation of similar organizations in the Atlanta area and across the nation. Indeed, the ambitious chorus that met for a first rehearsal in the basement of a Norcross church in 1985 is now the flagship ensemble of the William Baker Choral Foundation, a national arts organization that through the years has created over a dozen choirs involving hundreds of men, women and youth in Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, North Carolina and Missouri.

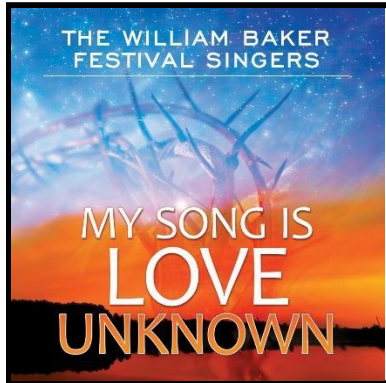
www.NewSouthFestivalSingers.org

Recordings of
The CHORAL FOUNDATION
Music for the Human Grace

Available at Today's Concert
 iTunes, Amazon, Spotify, CD Baby
 AND www.FestivalSingers.org/Recordings

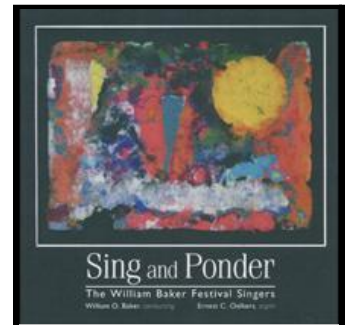
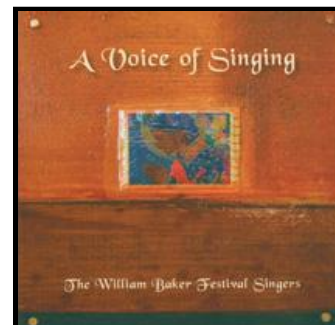
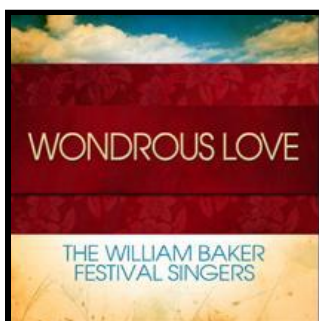
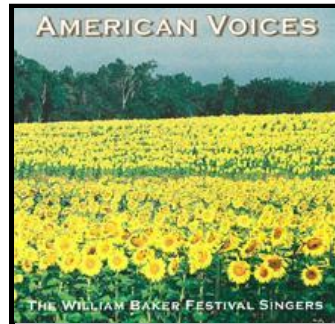
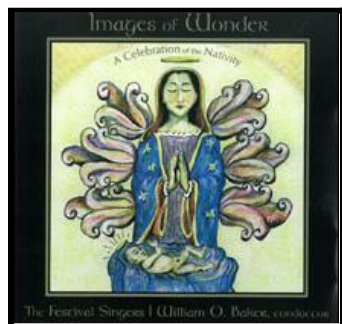
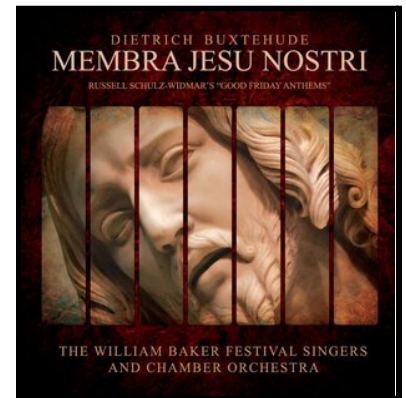
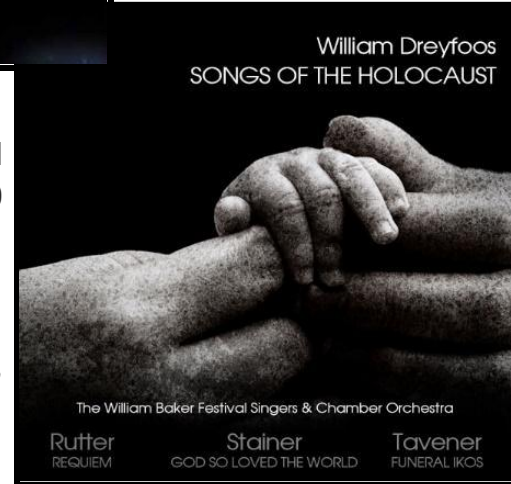


THE SACRED FIRE
 January/February 2020



Rutter REQUIEM
 November/December 2020

Both lauded in
The American Record Guide



Feeling Human - A Journey Through the Soul

Sunday Afternoon, 22 May 2022, 4:00 PM, St. John United Methodist Church, Atlanta, Georgia

Monday Afternoon, 30 May 2022, 3:00 PM, The Circular Church, Charleston, South Carolina

The New South Festival Singers, Lynn Swanson, Music Director & Conductor

Dr. Jamea Sale, WBCF Executive Associate Music Director Scott Smith, Choral Associate
Ed Frazier Davis, Senior Composer in Residence Dr. Sean Sweeden, Composer in Residence
Dr. William O. Baker, Founder of the Festival Singers & Head of the Choral Foundation

Welcome

Introit

SALVE REGINA

Gregorian Chant

The Choral Public Domain Library

Men of the Festival Singers

SALVE REGINA

Gabriel FAURÉ, 1845-1924

The Choral Public Domain Library

Women of the Festival Singers

Ivy Belk Pirl, piano

Sung in Latin

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of mercy,
Our life, our sweetness, and our hope.
To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve.
To thee do we send up our sighs,
Mourning and weeping in this valley of tears.

Turn then, most gracious Advocate,
Thine eyes of mercy towards us.
And after this exile show unto us
The blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

I

O THOU IN WHOSE PRESENCE

American Traditional arranged by Alice Parker
Lawson Gould Music 917

O Thou in Whose presence my soul takes delight,
On Whom in affliction I call,
My comfort by day and my song in the night,
My hope, my salvation, my all.

Ye daughters of Zion declare have ye seen
The star that on Israel shone?
Say, if in your tents my beloved has been
And where with His flock He is gone?

This is my Beloved: His form is divine,
His vestment shines odors around,
The locks from His head are as grapes on the vine
When autumn with plenty is crowned.

I WONDER AS I WANDER

American Traditional arranged by Paul Hillier
Oxford University Press

I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die.
For poor on'ry people like you and like I,
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus 'twas in a cow's stall,
With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all.
But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,
And the promise of ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
A star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,
Or all of God's angels in heav'n for to sing,
He surely could have it, 'cause he was the King.

Women of the Festival Singers

CALLING MY CHILDREN HOME

Dolye Lawson, Charles Waller & Robert Yates
Hinshaw Music HMC2130

Those lives were mine to love and cherish,
To guard and guide along life's way.
Oh, God forbid that one should perish,
That one alas should go astray.

Back in the years with all together,
Around the place we'd romp and play.
So lonely now I often wonder,
Oh, will they come back home someday.

I'm lonesome for my precious children.
They live so far away.
Oh, may they hear my calling,
And come back home someday.

I gave my all for my dear children,
Their problems still with love I share.
I'd brave life's storms, defy the tempest
To bring them home from anywhere.

I lived my life, my love I gave them,
To guide them through this world of strife.
I hope and pray we'll live together
In that great glad hereafter life.

THE ROAD HOME

American Traditional arranged by Stephen Paulus
Paulus Publications SP370

Tell me where is the road I can call my own,
That I left, that I lost so long ago?
All these years I have wandered,
Oh when will I know
There's a way, there's a road that will lead me home.

After wind, after rain, when the dark is done,
As I wake from a dream in the gold of day,
Through the air there's a calling from far away,
There's a voice I can hear that will lead me home.

Rise up, follow me, come away is the call,
With a love in your heart as the only song;
There is no such beauty as where you belong,
Rise up, follow me, I will lead you home.

-Michael Dennis Browne, Born 1940

Sarah Means, soloist

OVER THE RAINBOW

Tune from Harold ARLEN, 1905-1986
Setting by Sean SWEEDEN, Born 1987
Composer Manuscript

World Premier Performance

Dr. Sweeden is Composer in Residence for the
Choral Foundation. This is his first commission for
The New South Festival Singers.

When all the world is a hopeless jumble
And the raindrops tumble around, heaven opens a magic lane.
When all the clouds darken up the skyway
There's a rainbow highway to be found.
Leading from your windowpane to a place behind the sun,
Just a step beyond the rain.

Somewhere over the rainbow, way up high,
There's a land that I heard of once in a lullaby.
Somewhere over the rainbow skies are blue,
And the dreams that you dare to dream really do come true.

Someday I'll wish upon a star
And wake up where the clouds are far behind me.
Where troubles melt like lemon drops
Away above the chimney tops, that's where you'll find me.

Somewhere over the rainbow, bluebirds fly.
Birds fly over the rainbow,
Why, then, O why can't I?

If happy little bluebirds fly beyond the rainbow,
Why, then, O why can't I?

-Yip Harburg, 1896-1981

Laura Hotchkiss, soloist

II

**MEERES STILLE und
GLÜCKLICHE FAHRT**, Opus 112
Ludwig Van BEETHOVEN, 1770-1827
The Choral Public Domain Library

Sung in German

Deep stillness rules the water
Without motion lies the sea,
And worried the sailor observes
Smooth surfaces all around.
No air from any side!
Deathly, terrible stillness!
In the immense distances not a single wave stirs.

The fog is torn,
The sky is bright,
And Aeolus releases the fearful bindings.
The winds whisper,
The sailor begins to move.
Swiftly! Swiftly! The waves divide,
The distance nears; Already I see land!

-Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, 1749-1832

III

NOCTURNES

Daniel ELDER, Born 1986

GIA Publications G-8071; G-8368

Ballade to the Moon

On moonlit night I wander free,
My mind to roam on thoughts of thee.
With midnight darkness beckoning
My heart toward inward fantasy:
Come and dream in me!

How beautiful this night in June!
And here, upon the velvet dune,
I weep with joy beneath the moon!

The path lies dark before my sight,
And yet my feet with pure delight
Trode onward through the blackened vale
Beneath the starry sky so bright,
O share thy light!

These woods their weary wanderer soon
In awe and fearful wonder swoon.
I weep with joy beneath the moon.

And as the darkened hours flee,
My heart beats ever rapidly,
Though heavy hang my eyes with sleep,
My singing soul, it cries to thee:
Come sing with me!

The twinkling sky cast forth its tune,
O must I leave thy charms so soon?
I weep with joy beneath the moon!

Lullaby

Lullaby, sing lullaby, the day is far behind you.
The moon sits high atop the sky,
Now let sweet slumber find you.

Away, the day is done, and gone the sun
That lit the world so brightly.
The earth's aglow with speckled show
Of twinkling stars so sprightly.

Away, where the sunlight is beaming
Through a deep, cloudless blue,
And the treetops are gleaming with a fresh morning dew;

Where the mountains are shining at the meadows below,
In a brilliant white lining of a new-fallen snow.

Close your eyes, breath in the night;
A softer bed I'll make you.
The trial is done, all danger gone;
Now let far-dreaming take you.

Away, where the ocean is lapping at a soft, pearly shore,
And the swaying palms napping
As their swinging fronds soar.
Now the dark night approaches, yet so soft and so mild.
Lullaby, sing lullaby; sleep now, my child.

Ivy Belk Pirl, piano

IV

MY SOUL'S BEEN ANCHORED

African-American Spiritual

Arranged by Moses Hogan, 1957-2003

Hal Leonard Music HL8703235

My soul's been anchored in the Lord.
Before I'd stay in hell one day,
I'd sing and pray myself away.
Gonna shout and pray and never stop,
Until I reach the mountaintop.

Hallelujah, Will you praise Him?
Yes, will you serve Him? Oh, yes!
Do you love Him? Oh, yes!
Are you anchored? Oh yes!
Lord I'm anchored! Oh yes!
Lord I love You! Oh yes!
Yes, I'll serve You! Oh yes!
God Almighty, my soul's been anchored in the Lord!

AIN'T NO GRAVE

CAN HOLD MY BODY DOWN

American Spiritual

Arranged by Paul Caldwell and Sean Ivory
earthsongs

Ain't no grave can hold my body down,
There ain't no grave that can keep a sinner underground.
Oh, I will listen for the trumpet sound.
Ain't no grave can hold my body down.

You know they rolled the stone on Jesus
And then they tried to bury me.
But then the Holy Ghost it freed us
So we could live eternally.

Sister, you better get your ticket if you want to ride.
Catch a ride in the morning when Jesus calls my number.
I'll be on the other side.

Ain't no serpent gonna trick me,
I will fly to Jesus in the morning when I die.
Don't look here. I'll be way up in the sky.
Soon one day He's gonna call me
Up to Heaven for a chariot ride.

Ivy Belk Pirl, piano

*Recorded by the Festival Singers
on the Amber Waves album "Light Everlasting"*

HIS EYE IS ON THE SPARROW

Charles GABRIEL, 1856-1932
The Rodeheaver Company

Why should I feel discouraged,
Why should the shadows come,
Why should my heart be lonely,
And long for Heaven and Home,
When Jesus is my portion?

My constant Friend is He:
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

"Let not your heart be troubled."
His tender word I hear,
And resting on His goodness,
I lose my doubts and fears;

Though by the path He leadeth, but one step I may see,
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

I sing because I'm happy! I sing because I'm free!
For His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

Mary Anne Valenti, soloist

I SING BECAUSE I'M HAPPY

GABRIEL

Arranged by Rollo Dilworth
Hal Leonard Publishing HL154175

A Gospel Interpretation of 'His Eye is On the Sparrow'

*Alexis LaSalle & Scott Smith, soloists
Ivy Belk Pirl, piano*

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.

The New South Festival Singers expresses appreciation to the Members & Staff of St. John United Methodist Church in Atlanta for providing our rehearsal and concert home, and to the Members & Staff of The Circular Church in Charleston for providing our principal concert home for the Piccolo Spoleto Festival since 1992. Finally, we express special appreciation to the City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs, Scott Watson, Director.

William Baker Choral Foundation Center

5450 Buena Vista Street, Suite 100, Roeland Park, KS 66205 913-488-7524

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

Zimria Festivale Atlanta, Dunwoody, Georgia, 2014

Amy Thropp, 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, Music Director

Kansas City Bronze, Roeland Park, Kansas, 2018

Vox Venti, Chicago, Illinois, 2022

Ed Frazier Davis, MM, Music Director & Conductor

Smoky Mountain Summer Singers, Waynesville, North Carolina, 2022

Lynn Swanson, MME, Music Director & Conductor

Institute for Healthy Singing, Roeland Park, Kansas, 2015

Jamea J. Sale, MME, Director

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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If YOU would like to invest in the quality of life in your community, please consider supporting the Choral Foundation.

All gifts are fully tax-deductible and urgently needed. See your tax professional for maximum benefit.

Learn about the Choral Foundation's certification at www.Guidestar.org/profile/48-1214336

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