

The William Baker Festival Singers

The Choral Foundation, 5450 Buena Vista Street, Suite 100, Roeland Park, KS 66205
Email: Mail@FestivalSingers.org Home Office Phone 913.403.9223 www.FestivalSingers.org

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP & AUDITION REGISTRATION

Name_____

Requested Voice Part S1 S2 A1 A2 T1 T2 B1 B2

Year of Birth_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Home Phone (_____)_____

Office Phone (_____)_____ Cell Phone (_____) _____

E-mail address_____

If you are an alumnus of the William Baker Festival Singers, and are auditioning for membership reinstatement, please list your first and last seasons.

Please list any choral organizations (church/community/school) in which you currently participate.

Please list any private or class voice instruction you have received in the past twelve months. Please include names of teachers and instructors.

I HAVE READ THE MEMBERSHIP POLICIES OF THE WILLIAM BAKER FESTIVAL SINGERS CAREFULLY. IF CHOSEN, I WILL PARTICIPATE AS A MEMBER OF THE FESTIVAL SINGERS AND I WILL FULFILL THE EXPECTATIONS OF CHORUS MEMBERSHIP TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY.

Signature_____

Date_____

**APPLICANTS FOR NEW MEMBERSHIP & MEMBERSHIP REINSTATEMENT
WILL PLEASE COMPLETE THE QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE BACK.**

TO BE COMPLETED ONLY BY APPLICANTS FOR NEW MEMBERSHIP
OR MEMBERSHIP REINSTATEMENT

Please list any choral experience from school (high school/college/music degrees/all-state/etc)
Please include name/location of schools.

Please list church-related choral experience. Please highlight any in the Kansas City area and
give name(s) of the director(s).

Please list any community or professional choral experience. Please highlight any in the Kansas
City area and give the names of the director(s).

Do you have any instrumental experience? Please list instruments played, number of years of
experience and any ensemble participation.

Do you smoke? ____ Yes ____ No If you are a previous smoker, how long has it been since you
quit?

How did you learn of The William Baker Festival Singers?

_____Newspaper Notice Which paper?_____

_____Summer Singers of Kansas City

_____Television/Radio Which station?_____

_____CD Purchase Source?_____

_____Our Mailing/Web Site _____Referral of a Friend

_____Other Please Explain_____

The William Baker Festival Singers

ELEVENTH MASTER SEASON 2008-2009 MEMBERSHIP POLICIES

BEFORE YOU AUDITION FOR THE FESTIVAL SINGERS...

...we would like to tell you about our organization and thoroughly acquaint you with the expectations we have of our members. We usually have a number of qualified candidates for each vacancy in the chorus. It is our desire that the ones chosen for membership fully understand our purpose and will be fully committed to working with us toward the realization of our goals and objectives.

Please read these pages thoroughly before entering the audition room. If you have any questions about the Festival Singers, you may ask them of the proctors or the audition panel. Reading these pages carefully is the first part of your audition. Take your time and read every word carefully.

GOALS AND PURPOSES

The William Baker Choral Foundation was established in 1990 to coordinate the work of the Summer Singers of Atlanta, the William Baker Festival Singers, and the conductor's guest appearances, teaching and consulting efforts. The Choral Foundation is principally funded through gifts, concert ticket proceeds and private donations, but also through grants from arts councils, local and state governments, corporations and foundations. In July 1998, the Choral Foundation expanded to Kansas City, providing support for the William Baker Festival Singers in Kansas City and the Summer Singers of Kansas City. In 2004, the Youth Festival Singers in both cities were added to the Foundation's portfolio of ensembles.

Tracing its history to the first Festival Singers' chorus created by Dr. William Baker and Janis Lane in Atlanta in 1985, the William Baker Festival Singers is a 50-voice chorus specializing in sacred *a cappella* classical works and spirituals. The chorus also includes performances of major choral works, both sacred and secular, as part of its regular programming. Concerts conducted by Dr. Baker have gained national recognition through performances at Spivey Hall, conventions of the American Choral Director's Association and Music Educator's National Conference, Charleston's Piccolo Spoleto Festival, and other renown events. The William Baker Festival Singers continues this tradition of recordings, broadcasts, tours and concerts in both concert halls and churches.

MONEY ISSUES

Membership tuition for The William Baker Festival Singers is \$125.00 (\$80 if membership begins after January 1) per season. Fees are to be paid to the Treasurer by the third rehearsal of your membership. Tuition is **not refundable** in the event of termination of membership for any reason.

The William Baker Choral Foundation, Inc. is funded primarily by private sources. Chorus members are not expected to engage in fund-raising activities as an obligation of chorus membership, but all are strongly encouraged to support the efforts of the organization in the sales of concert tickets and CD recordings.

SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT

As a Core Value (read our Mission Statement and Core Values at www.FestivalSingers.org) no person is denied participation in any Choral Foundation ensemble or event because of inability to pay membership tuition. The Andrew Cain Scholarship Fund was created to provide financial assistance for chorus members to pay membership tuition, secure concert attire and participate in concert tours.

Merit scholarships or scholarship awards for musical accomplishment or services are not offered. **Scholarship support is provided on the basis of financial need and not for any other reason.** No request for scholarship support will be denied, but each member receiving support must affirm *on their honor* that the need for scholarship support is genuine. Scholarship support can come in the form of tuition waiver, tuition reduction, or agreement to pay tuition in installments.

Members requesting scholarship support for concert tours are strongly urged to make application for that support *at least 30 days prior to the commencement of the tour.*

CHORUS REHEARSALS

Our schedule of performances and activities is so intense that absence from any rehearsal endangers the quality of our musical preparation. Faithful and punctual attendance to rehearsals and performances is required of everyone.

When a rehearsal must be missed, it is the responsibility of the chorus member to notify the staff as far in advance as possible. Failure to notify the staff of the circumstances of the absence, except in the case of emergency, may result in termination of membership. Every reasonable effort should be made to contact the organization as soon as possible following the emergency.

Absence from concerts, tours, and recording sessions for any reason can jeopardize continued membership. Anticipated absence from any concert or recording session should be discussed *personally* with the Music Director or the Associate Music Director *in addition* to the Section Leader.

Members are responsible for all instructions, markings, and announcements given in rehearsal. If a member is absent from a rehearsal, or any portion of a rehearsal, it is his or her responsibility to contact the Section Leader or another member and “catch up” on what has been missed. No effort will be made to notify absent members of schedule changes or markings. In a hectic concert season there will be adjustments made to schedules, plans and markings. It is imperative that each member takes personal responsibility in these areas.

PREPARATION OF CHORAL LITERATURE

In the eleventh season of 2008–2009, the Festival Singers will be preparing a large number of choral selections for concerts, broadcasts, tours and recording sessions. Concerts will begin with our annual season opening concert in November, our annual Christmas Candlelight Concert in December, followed by a number of special events in the spring. The chorus will perform a weekend of tour concerts in neighboring states in May 2009. (Travel by the Festival Singers occurs only once per season, and is usually contained within a weekend. Scholarship support is also available for concert tours in cases of need. Ask for a scholarship information sheet for additional details.)

There will be little time spent on basics in rehearsal. It is our expectation that each member will have a complete mastery of all fundamentals within 30 days after scores are issued. Staff members and Section Leaders are always available to give assistance as needed at any time.

With the exception of major works with orchestra or organ and some specifically seasonal pieces, all choral literature will be memorized. The Festival Singers perform all concerts in mixed arrangement.

The choral sound we seek to achieve requires constant adjustment of balances and textures. It is expected that each chorus member will have a workable familiarity with the parts above and below their assigned one to enable the conductors to adjust balances and tone colors as needed for a most effective performance. Chorus rehearsals begin at 7:00 PM and extend through 9:30 PM each Tuesday evening at the Faith Lutheran Church, Roe Avenue at 67th Street in Prairie Village, Kansas.

CONCURRENT MEMBERSHIP IN OTHER CHORUSES

The responsibilities of membership in the William Baker Festival Singers are great. Concurrent membership in other community or professional choral ensembles is permitted, but strongly discouraged. If a member elects to participate in both the William Baker Festival Singers and another community or professional chorus, **it is done with the understanding that any and all schedule conflicts will be resolved in favor of the Festival Singers.** Any exceptions must be approved individually and personally by the Music Director.

SOLO OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHORUS MEMBERS

We invite qualified persons to join the William Baker Festival Singers to be a part of a selectively chosen and intensely trained choral ensemble. There are singers who might expect solo opportunities as a part of chorus membership. We strongly discourage this, and insist that singers not come into our chorus expecting solo opportunities.

Our membership does include many fine professional and amateur soloists and we will, on occasion, assign solos in choral literature to our members. To insure that applications for solo consideration does not distract from choral preparation, the staff does not usually hear auditions for solos. We will select soloists based on information we have on hand from membership auditions and will reserve the right to employ outside soloists at any time. The Music Staff further reserves the right to change solo assignments at any time and for any reason.

CONCERT ATTIRE

Concert attire for women is a formal, solid black concert dress assigned by the organization. Concert attire for men is a basic black tuxedo, basic white shirt with standard pleats, wing collar, white or black buttons or studs and black bow tie and cummerbund. All chorus members are to wear black shoes. Several outlets offer new and used tuxes at minimal prices. Scholarship support is available for dress or tuxedo purchases in the same manner, and under the same conditions, as membership tuition. **Fragrances are not to be worn to any rehearsals or concerts.**

YOUR AUDITION

The audition will consist of a Basic Musicianship Test which will include note identification, intervals and basic music terms; your prepared solo; sight-reading; tonal memory; major/natural minor scales; and a blending test. The results will be available to you by request and will remain, otherwise, completely confidential.

You will be informed of your acceptance status by mail or, if requested, by e-mail. Letters will be sent the day after the last audition. If you do not receive your letter by the Monday following your audition, you may call the Kansas City Office of the William Baker Choral Foundation at 913.403.9223, or may send e-mail to Info@FestivalSingers.org. We hope you will also visit our web site at www.FestivalSingers.org. New members will be expected to attend a brief orientation session following their first rehearsal.

Thank you for your interest in the William Baker Festival Singers!

The William Baker Festival Singers of Kansas City Rehearsal & Concert Schedule 2008–2009 11th Master Season

TU	August	19:	5:00–10:00	Auditions by Appointment	FLC
TH	August	21:	5:00–10:00	Auditions by Appointment	FLC
TU	August	26:	6:15	Late Registration	FLC
			7:00–9:30	First Rehearsal	FLC
TU	September	2:	7:00–9:30	Rehearsal 2	FLC
TU	September	9:	7:00–9:30	Rehearsal 3	FLC
TU	September	16:	7:00–9:30	Rehearsal 4	FLC
TU	September	23:	7:00–9:30	Rehearsal 5	FLC
TU	September	30:	7:00–9:30	Rehearsal 6	FLC
ST	October	4:	8:00–Noon	Fall Workshop	FLC
TU	October	7:	7:00–9:30	Rehearsal 7	FLC
TU	October	14:	7:00–9:30	Rehearsal 8	FLC
TU	October	21:	7:00–9:30	Rehearsal 9	FLC
TU	October	28:	7:00–9:30	Rehearsal 10	FLC
ST	November	1:	9:00–Noon	On-Site Final Rehearsal	GHTC
SU	November	2:	12:45	Warm-up Call	GHTC
			2:00	SEASON OPENING CONCERT	GHTC
TU	November	4:	7:00–9:30	Rehearsal 11	FLC
TU	November	11:	7:00–9:30	Rehearsal 12	FLC
TU	November	18:	7:00–9:30	Rehearsal 13	FLC
FR	November	21:	6:15	Warm-up Call	TBA
			7:30	THANKSGIVING BENEFIT CONCERT	TBA
ST	November	22:	TBA	Warm-up Call	CCCC
			TBA	Wedding Service/Christine Smith	CCCC
TU	November	25:	7:00–9:30	Rehearsal 14	FLC
TU	December	2:	7:00–9:30	Rehearsal 15	FLC
TU	December	9:	7:00–10:00	On-Site Final Rehearsal	GHTC
FR	December	12:	6:15	Warm-up Call	GHTC
			8:00	CANDLELIGHT CONCERT I	GHTC
SU	December	14:	12:45	Warm-up Call	GHTC
			2:00	CANDLELIGHT CONCERT II	GHTC

End of Fall Semester

TU	January	6:	7:00–9:30	Rehearsal 16	FLC
TU	January	13:	7:00–9:30	Rehearsal 17	FLC
ST	January	17:	8:00–Noon	Winter Workshop	FLC
TU	January	20:	7:00–9:30	Rehearsal 18	FLC
TU	January	27:	7:00–9:30	Rehearsal 19	FLC
TU	February	3:	7:00–9:30	Rehearsal 20	FLC
ST	February	7:	8:30–Noon	Winterfest Workshop	GHTC
SU	February	8:	12:45	Warm-up Call	GHTC
			2:00	WINTERFEST CONCERT	GHTC
TU	February	10:	7:00–9:30	Rehearsal 21	FLC
TU	February	17:	7:00–9:30	Rehearsal 22	FLC
TU	February	24:	7:00–9:30	Rehearsal 23	FLC

TU	March	3:	7:00-9:30	Rehearsal 24	FLC
TU	March	10:	7:00-9:30	Rehearsal 25:	FLC
TU	March	17:	7:00-9:30	Rehearsal 26	FLC
TU	March	24:	7:00-9:30	Rehearsal 27	FLC
MN	March	30:	6:30-10:00	On Site Final rehearsal w/orch	GHTC
TU	March	31:	6:15	Warm-up Call	GHTC
			7:30	B MINOR MASS PERFORMANCE	GHTC
TU	April	7:	7:00-9:30	Rehearsal 28	FLC
TU	April	14:	7:00-9:30	Rehearsal 29	FLC
TU	April	21:	7:00-9:30	Rehearsal 30	FLC
TU	April	28:	7:00-9:30	Rehearsal 31	FLC

Concert Tour - Friday-Sunday, May 1-2-3, 2009
Missouri, Iowa & Minnesota

TU	May	5:	7:00-9:30	Final Rehearsal	FLC
FR	May	8:	6:15	Warm-up Call	GHTC
			8:00	HOME CONCERT	GHTC
ST	May	9:	8:30-5:00	Recording Sessions (tentative)	TBA
TU	May	12:	6:00-10:00	Recording Sessions (tentative)	TBA

End of 2008-2009 Concert Season

Working A Cappella Repertoire
Repertoire Projection for Kansas City

Introit	AGNUS DEI	Samuel BARBER
I	TRISTIS EST ANIMA MEA	Orlando DI LASSO
	A NEW COMMANDMENT	Thomas TALLIS
	DEO DICAMUS GRATIAS	Gottfried August HOMILIUS
II	COOL OF THE DAY	American/John Rutledge
	MY SONG IN THE NIGHT	American/Paul Christiansen
	POOR WAYFARIN STRANGER	American/Malcom Richardson
III	VILLAGE WEDDING	John TAVERNER
	SEEK YE THE LORD	Knut NYSTEDT
IV	PILGRIMS HYMN	Stephen PAULUS
V	SONGS OF THE HOLOCAUST	William DREYFOOS
	K-DUSHAH	William DREYFOOS
VI	IN BRIGHT MANSIONS	American/Roland Carter
	SWEET HOME	American/Wendall Whalum
	I GOT A KEY	American/Alice Parker
VII	THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD	Adolphus HAILSTORK

Major Works

MASS IN B MINOR	Johann Sebastian BACH	chamber orchestra
SONGS OF THE HOLOCAUST	William DREYFOOS	piano trio
CHRISTMAS CANTATA	Daniel PINKHAM	double brass choir