

The William Baker Choral Foundation in Georgia Presents

Carl Orff

CARMINA BURANA

The Summer Singers of Atlanta

William O. Baker, DMA, Music Director
Lynn Swanson, MME, Associate Music Director
Leanne Elmer Herrmann & Ivy Belk Pirl, Piano
Jeffrey Kershner, Karen Hunt, Courtney McDonald,
Todd Mueller & John Lawless, Percussion

Arietha Lockhart, soprano
Jonathan Pilkington, tenor
Stephen Ozcomert, baritone

Sunday Afternoon, 13 August 2017
Grace United Methodist Church
Atlanta, Georgia

www.ChoralFoundation.org

The 28th Summer Singers of Atlanta

William O. Baker, DMA

Founder & WBCF Music Director

Jamea J. Sale, MME

WBCF Executive Associate Music Director
Acting Director, Institute for Healthy Singing

Lynn Swanson, MME

Director, Institute for Healthy Singing
Associate Director, Summer Singers of Atlanta

Andrew Phillip Schmidt

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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' *German 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 nearly forty years. In the last few years 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 singers in the course of any year. His choirs have performed for numerous 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 24 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 and the Kansas City Wind Symphony in 1998. Recent 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, and the Charleston Symphony Orchestra. He is Founder & Music Director of the Atlanta-based Orchestra of the American Heartland.



Dr. Baker served as Minister of Music for a number of 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. From 2012-2017 he served as director of The Cathedral Chorale, the choir for Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral in Kansas City's 8:00 AM Eucharist. He is the author of *Hearts & Hands & Voices: Weekly Reflections on Music and the Church*, published by Amber Waves Music.

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 native state through proclamations by two Georgia Governors, Joe Frank Harris and Sonny Purdue, by United States Congressman Phil Gingrey, and by a 2015 proclamation by the State of Georgia House of Representatives. In 2012 he was honored for his lifetime 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.

***Lynn Swanson, Associate Music Director
Director of the Institute for Healthy Singing***



Lynn Swanson is a native of Atlanta. A life-long resident of the area, she has served the metro community as a leader in the musical arts for over 30 years. She holds the Bachelor of Music in Organ Performance from Shorter University in Rome, Georgia, and the Master of Music Education in Choral Pedagogy from the University of Kansas.

She has served as Music Director for several Greater Atlanta churches, building strong and diverse music programs in each. She was appointed Music Director & Organist for the St. Benedict's Episcopal Church in Smyrna, Georgia in August 2011, and served with great distinction through July 2017. Her community performances of works including Handel's *Messiah*, Antonio Vivaldi's *Gloria* and *Beatus Vir*, Franz Joseph Haydn's *The Creation*, and Gabriel Faure's *Requiem*, attracted growing audiences from across the Atlanta region. During her tenure, the

program grew to a comprehensive music ministry including handbell ensembles and children's choirs.

From 2011 to 2017 Lynn Swanson served as Executive Associate Music Director of the William Baker Choral Foundation. She is the Founder of the Northside Young Singers, the Summer Singers of Lee's Summit (co-founder) and the Cobb Summer Singers and the Baroque Summer Institute. From 2015-2017 she served as Music Director of the organization's original Festival Singers ensemble, now known as the New South Festival Singers.

In August 2017, Lynn Swanson will begin an appointment with the Zhuhai Classical Children's Chorus in Zhuhai, China. Zhuhai is about an hour by ferry from Hong Kong. The Chorus is a program of the Webb-Mitchell Arts Center, in partnership with the British Schools Foundation. Ms. Swanson will remain Director of the Institute for Healthy Singing on a leave of absence. Upon her return to the United States she will become Music Director for the Choral Foundation's first fully professional ensemble, The Lynn Swanson Chorale.



Recent choral/orchestral masterworks have included Handel's *Messiah*; Mozart's *Solemn Vespers*; Faure's *Requiem*; Schubert's *Mass in G*; Haydn's *Te Deum*, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Beethoven's *Mass in C*, Vivaldi's *Beatus Vir*, in addition to Bernstein: *Chichester Psalms & Missa Brevis*; Brahms: *A German Requiem*, Handel: *Dettingen Te Deum & Water Music Suite*, Mozart: *Exsultate Jubilate*, *Eine kleine Nachtmusik* and *Coronation Mass*; Bach: *Brandenburg Concerto No. 2 in F*, *Cantata No. 51 "Juchzet Gott in allen Landen," Cantata No. 140 "Wachet auf," Cantata No. 4, "Christ lag in todesbanden," Mass in B Minor* and *Magnificat*. Her choral ensembles have been featured as headline performers at the Christmas Atlanta Festival, Arts International, and have appeared annually at the Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston, South Carolina.

The Summer Singers of Atlanta

William O. Baker, DMA, *Music Director & Conductor*

Lynn Swanson, MME, *Associate Music Director* Ellen Hicks, *Manager* Wayne Burdette, *Operations Manager*
Leanne Elmer Herrmann, MM, *Accompanist* Scott Smith, *Choral Associate*



The Summer Singers of Atlanta was founded in 1990 as one of the first projects of the William Baker Choral Foundation. The membership of the non-auditioned ensemble ranges from 100-150 members each summer, with singers coming from as far as Florida, Alabama and Tennessee to join in the summer tradition. Rehearsals begin in June of each year in preparation for August performances of a major work for chorus and orchestra, along with other varied selections. Past seasons have included the *Requiems* of Brahms, Faure, Mozart and Rutter, Haydn's *The Creation*, Schubert's *Mass in G*, Vivaldi's *Gloria*, Bach's cantata *Wachet auf*, Beethoven's *Mass in C* & *Symphony No. 9*, Mozart's *Mass in C minor*, *Coronation Mass* & *Solemn Vespers*, and many other classical masterpieces.

As "Atlanta's original summer chorus," The Summer Singers of Atlanta has become a model that has been often imitated in Atlanta and in other cities. One of the greatest accomplishments for the organization has been the heightened interest in the choral art and in classical masterworks that the chorus has inspired. Membership is open to all adults and mature youth.

The 2018 29th Summer Singers of Atlanta will feature Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem* with orchestra and distinguished soloists. Registration opens March 1, 2018. The 2019 30th season will be Dr. Baker's final summer as Music Director and will feature Brahms' *Ein deutsches Requiem*. Please visit the Choral Foundation's website at www.FestivalSingers.org throughout the year for additional information about the Summer Singers and all of the Choral Foundation's exciting ensembles.



Leanne Elmer Herrmann, Accompanist, has served as Accompanist of the Summer Singers of Atlanta since the chorus' founding in 1990. She is a graduate of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and holds a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance. She works throughout the metro Atlanta area as a free-lance accompanist and chamber music pianist. Ms. Herrmann has been the accompanist of The DeKalb Choral Guild since being appointed to the post by then-director William Baker in 1988. She is the accompanist for the Collegium Vocale and is the staff pianist for the Paideia School in Atlanta. She has appeared in concert with the Gwinnett Young Singers, the Young Singers of Callanwolde, and the William Baker Festival Singers. She makes her home in Decatur, Georgia.

The appearance of Leanne Elmer Herrmann in today's concert is made possible by a grant from Jane G. Sullivan

New Initiatives from the Choral Foundation

Two newer initiatives of the organization are **The Institute for Healthy Singing** and **The Jane Sullivan Choral Resource Library**. The Institute for Healthy Singing (www.HealthySinging.org) is under the leadership of director Lynn Swanson, MME, and her faculty of Christine Freeman, MME, Melissa Shallberg, MME, and Jamea Sale, MME. The Institute promotes choral and vocal education, health and hygiene from a science-based perspective. Faculty members have presented clinics and seminars in high school, church and community arenas. The first Kansas City Honors Choral Institute for young singers was held at Bonner Springs, Kansas, in July 2016, the second in July 2017.

The Jane Sullivan Choral Resource Library in Roeland Park, Kansas, is presently under development with a public opening scheduled for October 2017. Having acquired the entire choral library of a former large choral society and a major research university, the WBCF's Sullivan Library represents one of the largest and most diverse collections of choral scores in the Midwest. In addition to supplying music for our growing family of choral ensembles, the Sullivan Library will be a national music lending and rental resource for choral ensembles, churches and schools across America.

Please learn more at www.SullivanChoralLibrary.org.

THE NEW SOUTH FESTIVAL SINGERS

*Gwinnett Festival Singers, 1985-1998 William Baker Festival Singers, 1998-2015
Lynn Swanson Festival Singers, 2015-2017*

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ANDREW PHILLIP SCHMIDT, Music Director & Conductor**

"The Festival Singers is one of the very finest choral groups of any size or genre in the Southeastern United States and beyond. Their annual performances at the Piccolo Spoleto Festival, usually before standing room only audiences, are excellent, breathtaking and inspiring."

-Ellen Dressler Moryl, Former Director, Cultural Affairs for the City of Charleston, Founder of Piccolo Spoleto

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www.FestivalSingers.org

Sunday Afternoon, 13 August 2017, 3:00 PM, Grace United Methodist Church, Atlanta, Georgia

CARMINA BURANA

A Scenic Cantata by Carl ORFF, 1895-1982

Performed in Latin and German

The 28th Summer Singers of Atlanta

Dr. William O. Baker, conducting Leanne Elmer Herrmann & Ivy Belk Pirl, piano
Karen Hunt, Jeff Kershner, Courtney McDonald & Todd Mueller, percussion John Lawless, timpani
Arietha Lockhart, soprano Dr. Jonathan Pilkington, tenor Stephen Ozcomert, bass
First Performance 8 June 1937 by the Frankfurt Opera, Frankfurt, Germany, Bertil Wetzlesberger, conducting
Today's Performance is the First by the Ensembles of the Choral Foundation

FORTUNE EMPRESS OF THE WORLD

O FORTUNA *O Fortune*
FORTUNA PLANGO VULNERA *I Bemoan the Wounds of Fortune*

IN THE SPRINGTIME

VERIS LETA FACIES *The Merry Face of Spring*
OMNIA SOL TEMPERAT *The Sun Warms Everything*
ECCE GRATUM *Behold the Pleasant Spring*

ON THE LAWN

TANZ *Dance*
FLORET SILVA *The Noble Woods are Burgeoning*
CHRAMER GIP DIE VARWE MIR *Shopkeeper, Give Me Color*
REIE *Round Dance*
WERE DIU WERLT ALLE MIN *If All the World Were Mine*

IN THE TAVERN

ESTUANS INTERIUS *Burning Inside*
OLIM LACUS COLUERAM *Once I Swam on Lakes*
ERGO SUM ABBAS *I am the Abbot*
IN TABERNA QUANDO SUMUS *When We Are in the Tavern*

THE COURTS OF LOVE

AMOR VOLAT UNDIQUE *Cupid Flies Everywhere*
DIES, NOX ET OMNIA *Day, Night and Everything*
STETIT PUELLA *A Girl Stood*
CIRCA MEA PECTORA *In My Heart*
SIE PUER CUM PUELLULA *If a Boy with a Girl*
VENI, VENI, VENIAS *O Come, O Come, O Come*
IN TRUTINA *In the Balance*
TEMPUS EST IOCUNDUM *This is the Joyful Time*
DULCISSIME *Sweetest One*
BLAZIFLOR ET HELENA *Hail, Most Beautiful One*
O FORTUNA *O Fortune*

SOLOISTS



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

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

The appearance of Arietha Lockhart in today's concert is made possible by a grant from Dr. William O. Baker in honor of Lynn Swanson upon her appointment as leader of the Zhubai Classical Children's Chorus

Jonathan Pilkington, tenor, is a native of LaGrange, GA. He has recently been a featured soloist in Mozart's *Requiem*, Handel's *Messiah*, Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Bach's *Cantata No. 4*, Bach's *Magnificat*, Bruckner's *Te Deum*, and Schütz's *Weihnachts Historie*. Pilkington was the tenor soloist for Elliott Carter's *The Defense of Corinth* at Avery Fisher Hall in New York, and sang the tenor solo in New York's premiere of Felix Mendelssohn's "Humboldt" Cantata. Upcoming performances include scenes from Rossini's *Il barbiere di Siviglia* in Peach State Opera's "Operatizers." In September, he will perform a recital of 20th century vocal works, including Barber's Knoxville: *Summer of 1915*, at Piedmont College. Recent recitals featured Vaughan Williams' *On Wenlock Edge*, Britten's *Winter Words*, Beethoven's *An die ferne Geliebte*, Schumann's *Dichterliebe*, as well as other selections from the art song repertoire. In July 2014, he was a guest soloist at the Bassi Brugnattelli International Conducting and Singing Symposium in Robbiate, Italy. As a professional chorister, Pilkington has performed many major choral works with the New York Philharmonic, American Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Little Orchestra Society, and Taylor Festival Singers. Recently, Mr. Pilkington has made appearances as guest lecturer on vocal pedagogy topics at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and in Sautee, GA for the Sautee Chorale. He holds degrees from Shorter College (B.M.), Westminster Choir College (M.M), and University of Georgia (D.M.A.). Dr. Pilkington is Assistant Professor of Music at Piedmont College in Demorest, and he is a staff singer at Cathedral of Christ the King in Atlanta.



The appearance of Jonathan Pilkington in today's concert is made possible by a grant from Jane G. Sullivan



Stephen Ozcomert, bass, is regularly heard in Atlanta area concert halls. He has performed as a soloist with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, including an assisting soloist ("Sergeant") for 2007 performances and Telarc Digital recording of Puccini's *La Boheme* under Robert Spano. He also played the role of a Japanese Envoy in the 2009 ASO performances of Stravinsky's *Nightingale* in both Atlanta and Carnegie Hall. Steve also was an assisting soloist under Robert Shaw for the 1996 performances of Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* in Atlanta and Carnegie Hall and has served as soloist in performances of the ASO Chorus and Chamber Chorus on several other occasions under Norman Mackenzie, Donald Runnicles, Jere Flynt, Yoel Levi, and others. Steve currently serves as a staff soloist at the Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church and frequently appears as soloist with the Meridian Chorale conducted by Steven Darsey and with the Emory University Orchestra and Chorus under Eric Nelson and Richard Prior. He appeared in the 2010 Spivey Hall performance of Bach's *Passion According to St. John* with The William Baker Festival Singers, and in a 2011 performance of the title role in Mendelssohn's *Elijah* with Dr. Baker and the Summer Singers of Atlanta. He appeared in recent Choral Foundation performances of Beethoven's *Mass in C* and Ernest Bloch's *Avodath Hakodesh*. Steve's solo work has been featured several times in radio broadcasts by WABE. Steve has sung performances of a number of operas and operettas and has an extensive repertoire of more than twenty oratorios from Bach Cantatas, the *Requiems* of Mozart, Faure, Durufle, and Brahms, to Orff's *Carmina Burana*. Steve was a student of the late Elizabeth Colson.

The appearance of Stephen Ozcomert in today's concert is made possible by a grant from Joseph & Jill Ferst in memory of M. Rita Ferst

THE WILLIAM BAKER CHORAL FOUNDATION BY THE NUMBERS

673 men, women and youth have participated in Choral Foundation ensembles since June 1, 2016

446 number of participants in six summer choruses in 2017 alone

19 number of states where our choruses have performed. 24 number of languages sung by the Festival Singers

17% the percentage of operational funds received from concert ticket sales in a typical year.

\$25,000 the approximate production costs of six summer concerts serving six communities in three states

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Ivy Belk Pirl, Pianist



Ivy Belk Pirl, Organist & Accompanist, has been with the Baroque Summer Institute, formerly Cobb Summer Singers, since its founding. She is a favorite of Choral Foundation audiences, having also performed with The William Baker Festival Singers and The Lynn Swanson Festival Singers. She is a native of Marietta and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Piano Performance from Florida State University in Tallahassee. She recently completed her Master of Music in Piano Pedagogy from Georgia State University in Atlanta. She is a certified Kindermusik instructor and she teaches piano in private studio. Ms. Pirl makes her home in North Atlanta.

*The appearance of Ivy Belk Pirl in today's concert is made possible
by a grant from Jane G. Sullivan.*



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in honor of Barbara Moberg
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in memory of Katherine Hicks
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