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praising Him

A Newsletter for the Arkansas Master Singers

*Merry
Christmas*



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A Cooperative Program ministry of



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DIRECTIONS

Merry Christmas, Master'Singers!

I love Christmas! It is all about Jesus, and it is all about people who are important in your life! YOU are people who are important in my life! I hope you have some down time to enjoy, rest and reflect during these next weeks!



As we end the year, I wanted you to know what a difference you make in our state. People I work with at the ABSC, and people I see in the churches I visit ALWAYS comment about Master'Singers! You are loved because you share the love and message of Jesus with incredible impact! I had a pastor last Friday night say... "The Master'Singers at the Annual Meeting were incredible! I can't tell you how much I loved that song...was it called "God"? He was super excited about that one!

Just so you know, we will be recording in our rehearsals and during the concert in February. This will be a recording for us to give away in Ukraine. Though all of you aren't going (yet), you WILL go with your voices and instruments through this recording. I am working on plans for us to do another recording that we will have available for our concerts, but that will come later!

Speaking of Ukraine, it is not too late! Amy is booking flights this week! If all of the flights continue to come in as mine did on Monday, it should cost us less than anticipated! Woo-hoo! Don't count on it yet...I'll let you know soon!! I know I have asked this a million times, it seems, but should you be going??? Our neighboring state added 10+ people after the first of the year when they went in April 2017. What about us? God is providing in amazing ways for those who have committed to go...in ways they never thought possible! The next big trip of this magnitude should be in 2022...that's a long time away, and a lot can change in our lives! Don't miss THIS opportunity! Don't put off for four years what God is calling you to do now!

2 Timothy 1:7 "God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control."

I can't wait to see you in January at the Evangelism Conference when we will sing some Brooklyn Tabernacle music again this year (different from last year's) since Pastor Jim Cymbala speaks after us. Or I will see you in February at Central in Conway. Look for details on these after the first of the year.

Merry Christmas, my friends!
Larry Grayson



PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS



Christmas!

Sharon Sanders
Women's Chorus President

C ookies	C hrist	C arols
H olly	H igh Priest	H eavenly Host
R eindeer	R edeemer	R adiance
I cicles	I mmanuel	I nn
S anta	S avior	S hepherds
T ree	T eacher	T hree Gifts
M istletoe	M essiah	M anger
A ntlers	A dvocate	A ngel
S leigh	S on of God	S tar

"CHRISTMAS" can bring to mind so many different associations. "CHRISTMAS" spans the gamut of secular as well as religious connotations. Perhaps this is because the very foundation of CHRISTMAS – God's demonstration of His vast, all encompassing love.

We give gifts at CHRISTMAS to those we love—with no price tag attached. God's gift of salvation comes without a price tag—that's why it is a gift. We can never earn it, but His Son paid the price for it. WHAT LOVE – WHAT A GIFT!!! Thank you, Father, for this love and for this gift.

May each of you experience anew the realization of GOD'S LOVE and HIS GIFT during this holiday season.

Thank you for giving of your time and abilities to share this Love through music in your local community and through Master'Singers. The new year will present many opportunities for us to give back to others the Gift that has been given to us—and I am looking forward with great anticipation to 2018.

MERRY CHRISTMAS !!!!!

Live the Miracle

Tim Gunter
Men's Chorus President



In less than two weeks, we will celebrate, along with the angels and the community of saints past and present, that the God of the heavens and the earth is with us. Jesus Christ was "conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; on the third day, He rose from the dead; He ascended into Heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead." (excerpt from The Apostle's Creed).

I hope that you are on a journey of expectation and purpose during this Christmas season. John 1:14 begins with "The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us". What a powerful and humbling message for believers! My challenge for us is to be someone in whom the indwelling Christ can have His way. Let's choose to live this miracle all year long through 2018 and show those close to us and those who watch us what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

I am so excited about the opportunity we have to return to Ukraine in April 2018 and share this life-changing message. There are literally thousands of lost souls waiting to hear the Good News of the Gospel. It is not too late to say yes and tell Larry you want to go with us. God will provide. Join us on what I know will be another wonderful and life-changing mission for us as well as the people of Ukraine.

Best wishes for an awesome and wonderful season with family and friends! Merry Christmas!

Tim



UKRAINE 2018: IT'S NOT TOO LATE!!

It is not too late to decide to go to Ukraine in April. Plane tickets are in the process of being purchased, and you still have time to get involved. Right now we have 57 singers and 8 instrumentalists confirmed to go, and we have room for many more. Would you take a few moments to consider going? God is doing amazing things in enabling people to go! If God calls, God will provide!

Here is the list of people currently committed to go. Notice the breakdown of voiceparts: (5 Soprano 1's, 7 Soprano 2's, 5 Alto 1's, 9 Alto 2's, 9 Tenor 1's, 9 Tenor 2's, 9 Baritones, 4 Basses, and 8 accompanists)

Soprano 1

Nancy Arnold
Cassi Harp
Sharon Percy
Christina Stanley
Carolyn Stringfellow

Soprano 2

Lequieta Endel
Judy Grimmer
Lamona Gunter
GeorgeAnne McMoran
Sharon Sanders
Janie Thompson
Laverne Wallace

Alto 1

Donna Faith
Kayleen Ferguson
Becky McPherson
Nancy Trull
Carrie Weindorf

Alto 2

Tammy Albrecht
Jane Byers
Barbara Hulse
Lynda Martin
Cynthia McKinstry
Pattie O'Connell
Doris O'Connell
Peggy Wakefield
Carla Whittington

Tenor 1

Douglas Allen
John David Neeley
David Nipps
Phil Powers
Robert Ramsey
Jeff Stotts
Jerry Williams
Larry Killian
Will Thompson

Tenor 2

Taylor Keenen
Peter O'Connell
Michael Shields
Dee Spann
Brian Trostle
Don Nichols
Glynn Stewart
Gordon Wells
Larry Grayson

Baritone

Danny Fagala
Mark Galbreath
Tim Gunter
Gene McPherson
Jim Raney
David Tatum
Kevin Taylor
Wayne Trull
David Whittington

Bass

Michael Battenfield
Jerry Miller
Clint Stanley
William Glover

Instrumentalists

Bart Morrison
Doug Nielsen
Gregg Bennett
Sam Wakefield
Bob Endel
Rick Couch
Ralph Baker
Joe Vallandingham

Brenda Lewellen
Carleen Powers
Marcia Shields
Glenda Vallandingham
Phyllis Wells
Wendy Stotts
Janice Eddemon



(password: worship)



NEWS YOU NEED TO KNOW...

THE CHRISTMAS NAIL

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

It's Christmas time at our house and
We're putting up the tree
I wish I had some simple way
To remember Christ's gift to me.
Some little sign or symbol
To show friends stopping by
The little babe was born one day
But He really came to die.
Some symbol of His nail pierced hands,
The blood He shed for me,
What if I hung a simple nail
On my shining Christmas Tree
A crimson bow tied round the nail
As His blood flowed down so free,
To save each person from their sin
And redeem for eternity.
I know it was His love for me that
Held Him to the tree,
But when I see this simple nail,
I'll know He died for me.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR & JOIN US THIS SUMMER!
JULY 16-20, 2018

JoyWorks and PraiseWorks are two simultaneous camps for children and students on the campus of Quench Baptist University that focus on developing worshipers and worship leaders. Each is an exciting opportunity to develop talents; encounter dynamic, relevant worship; and to be challenged by the truth of God's Word!

JOYWORKS
For children who have completed grades 3-6

pw
praiseworks
For students who have completed grades 6-12

REGISTRATION OPENS
MARCH 1, 2018
www.joyworksarkansas.com
www.praiseworksarkansas.com

A Cooperative Program ministry of the
EVANGELISM & CHURCH HEALTH TEAM

Arkansas
BAPTISTS

www.praiseworksarkansas.com
www.joyworksarkansas.com

Annual Arkansas State Handbell Festival

44th Annual Arkansas State Handbell Festival
March 9 & 10, 2018
Calvary Baptist Church - Little Rock

Music Selections

Bound for the Promised Land -

arr. Derek Hakes

All Is Well - arr. Joel Raney

This Is Amazing Grace - arr. Peggy Bettcher

Prelude on Ellicombe - arr. Michael Helman

PraizFest

January 26 & 27, 2018 - FBC Benton
Clinician: Todd Yokotake - Hawaii Baptist Academy

Get ready for an exciting weekend, Friday night and Saturday, with a massive choir made up of students from all over the state! PraizFest is for students grades 7-12, and students in 6th grade may be included if they are part of the student ministry at your church. Whether your church has a few students who love music and singing, or has several dozen students in a student choir ministry, PraizFest will be an opportunity for them to meet, rehearse, and sing a finale concert with students from all over the state.

Music Selections

Forgiven - arr. Cliff Duren

Death Was Arrested - arr. J. Daniel Smith

God is Our Refuge - Allen Pote

Trust in You - arr. Bradley Knight

I Will Rise - arr. Mike Speck

Alive Forever Amen - arr. Travis Cottrell

2018 Events

January 29, 2018

AMS at ABSC Evangelism Conference
Geyer Springs First Baptist Church
Little Rock

February 22, 2018

Concert of Worship
Central Baptist Church
Conway

March 15, 2018

Split Concerts of Worship
Central Baptist - Magnolia
First Baptist - Searcy
Balboa Baptist - Hot Springs Village

April 5, 2018

Concert of Worship
First Baptist Church
Sherwood

April 16 - 27, 2018

Ukraine Mission Trip

September 20-21, 2018

Master'Singers Retreat
Immanuel Baptist Church
Little Rock

October 23, 2018

AMS at the ABSC Annual Meeting
Central Baptist Church
Jonesboro

November 1, 2018

Concert of Worship
Calvary Baptist Church
Little Rock



2017-2018 Leadership Team



Larry Grayson
Director



Tim Gunter
President



Andrew Pouncey
1st Vice President



Ken Holland
2nd Vice President



Berrik Brumley
Ten 1 Host



David Gagel
Ten 2 Host



Gene McPherson
Baritone Host



Michael Battenfield
Bass Host



Phillip Johnson
Chaplain



Bart Morrison
Accompanist



Darrell Spigner
Seating Coord.



Randy Cross
Seating Coord.



David Tatum
Communications



Doug Moore
Inst. Ens. Director



Carrie Taylor
Director



Sharon Sanders
President



Elizabeth Barnett
1st Vice President



Missy Hines
2nd Vice President



Cheri Cloud
Sop 1 Host



Lequieta Endel
Sop 2 Host



Becky McPherson
Alto 1 Host



Doris O'Connell
Alto 2 Host



Janie Thompson
Chaplain



Peggy Pearson
Accompanist



Glenda Riddle
Seating Coord



Mary Winters
Seating Coord



Lamona Gunter
Past-President