



# praiSING Him

A Newsletter for the Arkansas Master' Singers

2019 - 2020  
CONCERT  
SEASON



**Annual**  
**R**etreat  
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The Arkansas Master'Singers exist as a fellowship of believers to proclaim the majesty and love of Almighty God, to share the gospel message of Jesus Christ, and to provide the encouragement of the Holy Spirit through the medium of music.

A Cooperative Program ministry of



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# DIRECTIONS

I remember, years ago, when I first had the privilege of standing before the Arkansas Master'Singers as we kicked off our retreat. We were CRAMMED into the chapel at the ABSC location. I've learned many things in these years, and still have much to learn. (I hope I am a learner for life!) The thing I know for sure today is that I am still just as honored to have the privilege of leading such an incredible group of people as I was on that first day! I am so grateful for your heart for God and for worship and for your amazing musicianship. I am grateful that you want to offer nothing less than your best!!! Let's do this!



Master'Singers exist as a FELLOWSHIP OF ENCOURAGEMENT! If you serve in the church today, and if you strive to live your life for the glory of God, you know what it means to face negativity and criticism. It is my goal that each of our Master'Singers events, from the beginning to the end, provide that much-needed refreshment that encouragement brings. We play a major part of that encouragement by the kind and loving words spoken to those around us, to those who lead us, and to those who host us. I cling with a tight grip to Psalm 19:14 as a guiding verse for us:

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
Be acceptable in Your sight,  
O LORD, my rock and my Redeemer.

Will you join me in the commitment to be a constant encourager? I am so grateful that you are a constant encouragement for me! Our mission/purpose statement says it really well: "The Arkansas Master'Singers exist as a fellowship of believers to proclaim the majesty and love of Almighty God, to share the gospel message of Jesus Christ, and to provide the encouragement of the Holy Spirit through the medium of music."

We have two changes as we begin this year. The Instrumental Ensemble will be led by Tim Gunter, and the SATB/TTBB group will be accompanied by Josh Junyor! Join me in welcoming, loving and encouraging these guys! I continue to be thankful for David Tatum serving as our webmaster and producer of our Newsletter.

I am excited that 87 of you have committed to be a part of our mission trip to Ukraine! I remember someone making a statement when we started the 2017-2018 year that they weren't going to be a part Master'Singers that year because we would be working toward the Ukraine Mission Trip, and they were not able to go. Please accept my challenge of the flaw in that statement. All 275+ of us are on mission to Ukraine that will be represented physically by 87 (at this point). Make sense? Every one of us will go with your heart, your love for people, your prayers, your offerings, and your desire to proclaim the gospel to the ends of the earth. Thanks to each of you for being a part of this mission in whatever ways you can!!!

*(continued page 3)*

Click [HERE](#) to  
Register for the  
Annual Retreat

<https://www.absc.org/the-arkansas-mastersingers-2019-2020-enrollment>

# PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS



## It's That Time Again

Missy Hines  
Women's Chorus President

It's been said that the months of June, July, and August are about four minutes long! Weren't we just getting out of school and gearing up for summer yesterday? That's what it seems like to me! So even though this time of year means it's time to think about going back to school for teachers and students, it's also a time I've come to love – a time to think about football games (I'm a hopeless Razorback fan!), bonfires, sweaters, hot chocolate, and MASTER'SINGERS!

Master'Singers retreat is September 12-13 at Geyer Springs First Baptist and I'm looking forward to seeing you there! It's a time of glorious singing for sure, but it is so much more! It's a time to come together with those that you've sung with for years, and it's a time to welcome those who are brand new or have been away from Master'Singers for a while. This year I'm going to make it my goal to get to know a new Master'Singer every time we meet. Would you join me? If we do that, it will not only make our new members feel welcome, but it will make our Master'Singers circle of friends bigger! And who doesn't want more friends?

The new year for Master'Singers holds so much to be excited about! Not only do we get to sing several times all over our state, but in April we have the opportunity to spread the good news of Jesus to the people of Ukraine! I didn't get to go on the previous trips, but I'm going this time and I hope you will too! Whether we're singing in Ukraine or Arkansas, the message is the same. It's a message of hope, love, and salvation through Jesus Christ. I can't wait to see you! It's going to be an awesome year!

### *(Directions from page 2)*

You will find a schedule for the retreat in this edition of the newsletter. Please do your best to join us for all of it! I am so grateful to Geyer Springs First Baptist Church for hosting us. Enter through the main front doors to check in. If you have the QR code check-in set up on your phone, your code will be the same as last year.

If you wait to pay your fees until retreat, and wish to use a credit card, be aware that there is a \$1.50 charge for doing that. Gotta love those credit card fees!

If you are new this year, please don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions. I want your first Master'Singers experience to be incredible!!! THANKS FOR BEING AN ARKANSAS MASTER'SINGER!!!

## A "Sacrifice" of Praise?

Ken Holland  
Men's Chorus President



"Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of the lips that acknowledge his name." (Romans 8:15)

We bring the sacrifice of praise  
Into the house of the Lord.  
And we offer up to You  
The sacrifices of thanksgiving;  
And we offer up to You  
The sacrifices of joy.

Is confession good for the soul... really? OK, then – here's goes.

I never liked this song.

There – I said it. Maybe it's because it just didn't do anything for me musically. But my gut hunch is that it just felt too "surfacey" for me. And I'll admit that was largely my problem, not the song's.

Maybe it's the juxtaposition of "sacrifice" and "praise." One is all about cost and the other can often be offered easily at no expense to ourselves. We can readily give praise when God's blessings come. We can praise an employee for a job well done or our dog for fetching the ball. Praise isn't always a sacrifice.

So then, what are we to do with King David's protesting in 2 Samuel 24:24? When a devoted subject offered to cover the cost of David's sacrifice, he replied, "I will not sacrifice to the LORD my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing."

Maybe the key is in the qualifying adverb in the Romans passage. If we are to "continually" offer up praise, then that will cost us, indeed. Sometimes, it may cost us dearly – for praise (or, as the song says, thanksgiving and joy) in the middle of all circumstances, may come at a high price.

Let's be honest. As worship leaders, it is literally our "job" to continually offer a sacrifice of praise. But it is required as believers, as well. The context of the Romans passage is the old system of sacrifice and Jesus' ultimate sacrifice of his life and blood. It's not about happy worship choruses. It concludes with "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."

"Do good and share what [we] have." Isn't that the blessing of being one of the Master'Singers? As we begin a new season of serving together, there may be sacrifice – but "such sacrifices are pleasing to God."



# ANNUAL RETREAT: Geyer Springs FBC

## Arkansas Master'Singers Retreat

**September 12-13, 2019**

**Geyer Springs First Baptist Church - Little Rock**

**Jon Skelly, Host**

### Schedule for Thursday, September 12

- 10:00 am Leadership Team Meeting - Brides Rm
- 12:15 pm Check-In/Registration & Photos - Main Lobby
- 12:15 pm Tablet Training (See info to the right)
- 1:00 pm Opening Session - Welcome - Choir Room
- 1:30 pm Combined Choral Rehearsal - Choir Room
- Instrumental Ensemble Rehearsal - Worship Cen.
- 3:00 pm Fellowship Break - Sanders Hall
- 4:00 pm Separate Rehearsals
  - Ladies - Choir Room
  - Men - The Venue (Youth Room)
- 5:45 pm Dinner & Fellowship - Sanders Hall
- 6:45 pm Combined Rehearsal - Choir Room
- Instrumental Rehearsal - Worship Center
- 8:30 pm Cupcakes and Conversation - Sanders Hall

### Schedule for Friday, September 13

- 8:30 am Worship & Devotions
  - Ladies - Choir Room
  - Men - The Venue (Youth Room)
- 8:45 am Separate Rehearsals
- 9:30 am Fellowship Break - Sanders Hall
- 10:30 am Business Mtg/Combined Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 12:30 pm Retreat Concludes

### Directions



If the links are not working  
for you, please contact  
Melissa Overstreet  
[moverstreet@absc.org](mailto:moverstreet@absc.org)

## Tablet Training

**12:15 pm - Thursday**

**in The Venue (Youth Room)**

For iPads, please download *ForScore* app

For Android *Mobile Sheets* is the best

If you have any questions or need help before the retreat,  
please contact David Tatum

[dtatum@fbcsherwood.org](mailto:dtatum@fbcsherwood.org) (501) 766-3158

### Music for the Retreat

(You will receive an email when this list is finalized  
and pdfs are available for those using tablets.)

#### COMBINED CHORUS

103 (Bless the Lord)  
All the Praise  
Amazing Grace  
Behold Our God  
Breath and Clay  
Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing  
Come to Me  
Doxology (a cappella)  
For God So Loved the World (a cappella)  
He Still Saves  
How Great Is Our God  
In the Beginning  
It Is Well with My Soul  
Mercy Tree  
My Eternal King  
O Give Thanks  
Prayer for the Gathering  
See Him Face to Face

#### MEN'S CHORUS

At the Name of Jesus  
Great Is Thy Faithfulness (a cappella)  
Higher Ground (a cappella)  
I Got Saved  
O Praise the Name (Anastasis)

#### WOMEN'S CHORUS

I Will Rise  
And Can It Be  
Then Sings My Soul

#### ORCHESTRA

A Mighty Fortress is Our God  
On Jordan's Stormy Banks with In the Sweet By and By  
Crown Him King! Medley  
O Praise the Name (Anastasis)  
Revelation Song with Holy Holy Holy

**Click HERE to Register  
for the Annual Retreat**

<https://www.absc.org/the-arkansas-mastersingers-2019-2020-enrollment>

# NEWS YOU NEED TO KNOW...

[click for more information](#)

## PraizFest

January 24 - 25, 2020 - FBC Benton  
Clinician: Trent Blackley  
First Baptist Rockwall, TX

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.



[Click Here to  
say "I want  
to go!"](#)

Arkansas Master'Singers  
Mission Ukraine

April 20 - May 1, 2020

# 2019-2020 Events

**September 12-13, 2019**

Annual Retreat  
Geyer Springs FBC - LR

**October 3, 2019**

Concert of Worship  
Harrison High School Fine Arts Audit.  
(sponsored by Eagle Heights BC)  
Harrison

**October 22, 2019**

ABSC Annual Meeting  
Geyer Springs FBC - LR

**January 27, 2020**

ABSC Evangelism Conference  
Geyer Spring FBC - LR

**February 13, 2020**

Concert of Worship  
Woodland Heights BC  
Conway

**March 19, 2020**

Split Concerts of Worship  
Immanuel BC - Warren  
First BC - West Memphis

**April 16, 2020**

Concert of Worship  
& Ukraine Commissioning  
First BC - Cabot

**April 20 - May 1, 2020**

Ukraine Mission Trip



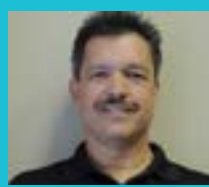
## 2019-2020 Leadership Team



**Larry Grayson**  
Director



**Ken Holland**  
President



**Darrell Spigner**  
1st Vice President



**Taylor Keenen**  
2nd Vice President



**Caleb Reynolds**  
Ten 1 Host



**Don Nichols**  
Ten 2 Host



**Josh Junyor**  
Baritone Host



**Robert Inzer**  
Bass Host



**Jeremy Raines**  
Chaplain



**Josh Junyor**  
Accompanist



**Andrew Pouncey**  
Past President



**Tim Gunter**  
Inst. Ens. Dir.



**David Tatum**  
Communications

### Men's Seating Coordinators

Phillip Johnson

David Gagel

Randy Cross



**Carrie Taylor**  
Director



**Missy Hines**  
President



**Alice Startup**  
1st Vice President



**Cheri Cloud**  
2nd Vice President



**Amy Golden**  
Sop 1 Host



**Shelia Moore**  
Sop 2 Host



**Sherry Polsgrove**  
Alto 1 Host



**Calleen Spigner**  
Alto 2 Host



**Janie Thompson**  
Chaplain



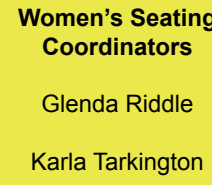
**Peggy Pearson**  
Accompanist



**Sharon Sanders**  
Outfit Coordinator



**Elizabeth Barnett**  
Past President



### Women's Seating Coordinators

Glenda Riddle

Karla Tarkington

Amy Golden