

*Master Singers*  
ARKANSAS

# praiSING Him

A Newsletter for the Arkansas Master'Singers

# ECON

2020 STATEWIDE CONFERENCE ON  
EVANGELISM + CHURCH HEALTH

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## Master Singers

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

Happy New Year!!! We have an important and FULL spring ahead of us. Every Concert of Worship will have special significance as we lead worship and share the Gospel. Every Concert of Worship will also be very important as we gather our final love offerings for Ukraine.



THIS NEWSLETTER IS FOR THE EVANGELISM CONFERENCE. There will be another newsletter coming to you on January 23. Read carefully both newsletters and any follow-up emails so that you will stay on top of things. AGAIN, THIS IS INFORMATION FOR THE EVANGELISM CONFERENCE!

IN THE PAST WE HAVE NOT USED THE INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE AT THE EVANGELISM CONFERENCE because there has not been room on the stage, BUT WE WANT TO USE THE INSTRUMENTAL GROUP THIS YEAR!!! Now that Geyer has a much more integrated orchestra set-up, they can't move it out. Since it is there, it makes it possible for us to use our players!

At the Evangelism Conference, we wear ALL BLACK. Our goal is to make things a little less formal/a little different, so we wear solid black.

We will be singing/playing three songs that are not in our repertoire this year. We will do two songs earlier in the service, and then Marcus has asked us to sing a final number to close out the night. Music is on the website for singers and on the same link as the other orchestra music for instrumentalists in the folder marked *Evangelism Conference*.

Instrumental music link is: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/q7ue-8hufsr792lj/AAB3j4kVS6sYg1anbo1uRXela?dl=0>

Choir Music link demos and pdfs are in the members portal of [www.arkansasmastersingers.org](http://www.arkansasmastersingers.org). The password is *worship*.

I encourage singers and instrumentalists to go over the music prior to Econ. Some of you will know I THEN SHALL LIVE that we did 6 years ago. Psalm 24 will be fairly easy and is repetitive, but Psalm 34 has some places that can use your attention before rehearsal. It is going to be an awesome night!!!

EVERYONE, PLEASE CLICK ON THIS LINK TO REGISTER YOUR YES OR NO TO ATTEND THE EVANGELISM CONFERENCE NOW OR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE:

<https://www.absc.org/mastersingers-at-evangelism-conference-january-27-2020>

More Ukraine information will be coming your way asap. (song lists, etc.) I am planning to have practice trax available at Econ to help you as you memorize music. There has been talk about a prayer time for those who are going sometime during Econ, but it is not finalized yet. The next payment of \$750.00 is due in January. We will work with you if you can't yet make that payment.

At our Concert of Worship in February in Conway, WE WILL RECORD DURING THE AFTERNOON AND EVENING FOR OUR UKRAINE GIVE-AWAY CD. Let's make February 13 a great day at Woodland Heights Baptist Church, Conway

I love serving with you and am honored that your ministry is respected so much that they asked us to close our the evening session at Econ!

Click [HERE](#) to  
Register for the ABSC  
Evangelism Conference

<https://www.absc.org/mastersingers-at-evangelism-conference-january-27-2020>

Please click or double click on the link to register your attendance or absence from the E-Conference. If you do not receive an email confirmation, you have not completed the registration process.

# PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS



## A Fresh Start

Missy Hines  
Women's Chorus President

Well, friends, 2019 is in our rearview mirror and here we are on the threshold of a brand new decade! I love Christmas and all of the joy it brings, but I must admit that when the decorations come down, I tend to breathe a sigh of relief. As musicians, Christmas is by far the busiest time of the year because in addition to buying presents, putting up decorations, going to parties, and planning our Christmas meals, we are also involved in our church Christmas programs, and some of us have multiple school programs as well! As much as I love Christmas, when I turn the calendar to January 1, I love the fresh start that the new year brings!

Here we are not even one month into a brand new year, and if you looked at my calendar, you would see that it already has several dates blocked off for one activity or another. I'm sure yours looks the same! But I think we need to ask ourselves this question: Does God approve of our busyness? Psalm 39:6 says "We are merely moving shadows, and all our busy rushing ends in nothing". Busy rushing that ends in nothing. That struck a chord with me. The last thing I want is for most of my life to be pointless in the scope of eternity, but the truth is that much of my busy rushing is pretty pointless.

How many times have you caught yourself saying "There just aren't enough hours in a day"? Sometimes life feels like we're running on a treadmill while someone keeps pushing the button to increase the speed faster and faster. Twenty-four hours never feels like enough. If only we had more time! A couple extra hours a day would make all the difference! Or maybe an extra week to be able to catch up, right?

The truth is that God will accomplish through us what He needs to accomplish in the time available. After all, God is the one who came up with 24-hour days. So if God thinks that's good enough, it is. We shouldn't underestimate God's role in our busyness. When we start feeling overwhelmed, we can call upon the One who holds time in His hands! As this new year begins, let's ask God for guidance as to how to move forward, for His wisdom in setting our priorities, and for His help in keeping our motivation in check! I'm thankful we serve a God whose love doesn't depend on what's on our calendars! We can enjoy peace and rest in that truth!

If the links are not working  
for you, please contact  
Melissa Overstreet  
moverstreet@absc.org

## Torn Open

Ken Holland  
Men's Chorus President



I won't ask you to raise your hand if your pastor (or you) preached the first sermon of the year on something like "2020 Vision." I'll admit – low hanging fruit like that is a little hard to resist.

But, like many other worship leaders, I DID open up with songs about vision and being open to God – in this new year and new decade, being willing to see, hear, and experience what is His will. Like some of you, I'm sure, we opened one of our services with "Open Up the Heavens." In the past, I have generally referenced the lines from the bridge that echo the request from Moses in Exodus 33:18, when he asked of God, "Show us Your glory." But this time I was drawn back to the opening anchor line for the song, "Open up the heavens" and it suddenly registered with me that I'd just come across that in a study in the book of Mark and his account of Jesus' baptism.

"At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." (Mark 1:9-11)

The "You are my Son" spoken by the voice from heaven was drawn from Psalm 2:7 and is a reference to the installation of a King. But not only is Jesus' royalty referenced - so is his role as the Suffering Servant. The latter part of that quote ("in whom I am well pleased") comes right out of Isaiah 42:1 and what is known as one of the "Servant Songs."

But in his telling of Jesus' baptism, Mark uses stronger language than any of the other Gospels. Whereas Matthew and Luke refer to the heavens being "opened," Mark says that Jesus "saw heaven being TORN open." When something is "opened" it might be closed again. According to Mark, this wasn't a peek through some momentary gap. This was more than a quick connection between two worlds. When something is torn open, that's it. Things are never the same again. Much like in Mark 15:38, following the moment on the cross when "Jesus breathed his last" - "The curtain of the temple was TORN in two from top to bottom." Torn open by God Himself. That's it. Things are never the same again.

Returning to Isaiah, we find the pleading of the prophet, "Oh, that you would TEAR OPEN the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you!" (Isaiah 64:1)

*Your presence in this place  
Your glory on our face  
We're looking to the sky  
You're standing with us now  
Lord, unveil our eyes*

*Open up the heavens  
We want to see You  
Open up the floodgates  
A mighty river  
Flowing from Your heart  
Filling every part of our praise*

Well, Isaiah, it happened at last. And nothing will ever be the same again. And my prayer for 2020 is that we have the vision to see what has already been torn open for us.

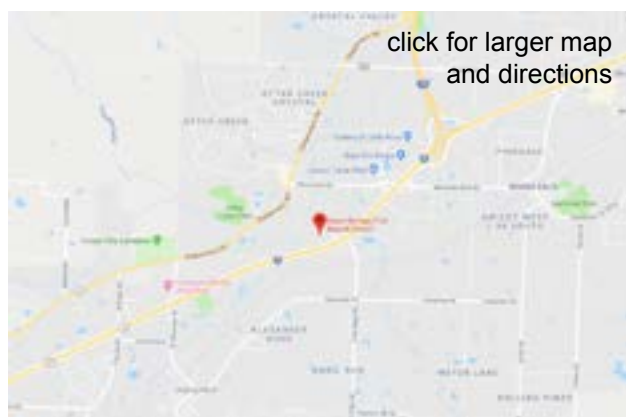


# ABSC E-CONFERENCE: GSFBC

## Schedule for the Day

- 2:00 pm     Choir - Choir Room  
Instrumentalists - TBA  
We will sing/play two songs as Master'Singers and 2 selections with the team from Cross Church that is leading worship (instrumentalists will not play on those selections). We will then conclude the night by singing/playing a 3rd song. We will use vocalists AND instrumentalists this year. Instrumentalists have wanted to play each year, but the platform didn't allow it. Geyer's orchestra set up will stay in place, so it should be easy for us to fit.
- 4:30 pm     Sound Check in Worship Center
- 5:30 pm     Dinner (provided) in Playroom A
- 6:50 pm     Convene in Choir Room to line up
- 7:10 pm     Enter Loft
- 7:35 pm     Sing 2 Master'Singers selections and selections with Cross Church Team and remain in the loft till the conclusion
- 8:50 pm     We sing/play to conclude the evening session

## Directions



Click HERE for  
Concert of Worship Publicity

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ucrchqeqjv943u/AADLomOnP2k3\\_RvvlME3LcFga?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ucrchqeqjv943u/AADLomOnP2k3_RvvlME3LcFga?dl=0)

## Tentative Order for the Concert of Worship

- Psalm 34* - Brooklyn Tabernacle Music Arrangement/Bradley Knight  
*I Then Shall Live* - Prestonwood Choir Arrangement/Bradley Neale  
*Psalm 24* - Prestonwood Choir Arrangement/Michael Neale

Worship songs we will sing with Cross Church TBA

Instrumental Music Link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/q7ue8hufsr792lj/AAB-3j4kVS6sYg1anbo1uRXela?dl=0>

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Worship Leader Luncheon  
at Evangelism Conference  
Tuesday, January 28 at Noon  
Geyer Springs Baptist Church  
Guest Speaker: John Bolin  
Minister of Worship & Arts

John has created an atmosphere for healthy and effective intergenerational worship at FBC Houston. He has arranged music for multigenerational choirs for the church. John will share great insights with worship pastors. Join us!

Register for the luncheon here:

<https://www.absc.org/events/econ-2020/2020-01-27+12%3A00%3A00>

# 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.



Recording session for the CD Giveaway will occur during the afternoon and evening of the February Concert of Worship in Conway.

Arkansas Master'Singers  
Mission Ukraine

April 20 - May 1, 2020

# Master Singers

## 2019-2020 Remaining Events

**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