

VOLUME 7 - ISSUE 1

AUGUST 2023

praiSING Him

A Newsletter for the Arkansas Master'Singers

ARKANSAS

MasterSingers

2023 - 2024 SEASON

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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

from
Jim Daniel



We are on the brink of kicking off a new season with our final concert for the 2023 season on the same week as our 2023-2024 Master'Singers retreat. Thank you for your response to the Monday, September 11th event at the White County Fair. As we began the 2022-2023 season we joined together in prayer, asking the Lord to give us "unique ministry opportunities." Singing at the fair will definitely be unique, and we are excited to see how the Lord uses this resource as we share the Gospel in song.

In Matthew 25:14-30 we find where Jesus teaches the parable of the talents. We apply this parable to our personal lives as we offer back to God the talent, or resource, He has entrusted to us. He gives us this talent and expects us to use it for His Kingdom and for His glory. As we evaluate our lives and our investment of our personal talents, our hearts should always be longing to hear our Lord say, "Well done, good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:21). This has also been our prayer as we evaluate the talent we have been given in the form of Master'Singers.

We have been praying for the Lord to continue to give us ministry opportunities where we can use the talent of Master'Singers in a faithful way as we carry the Gospel. We are constantly praying and evaluating the invitations that are extended as we realize our time is limited. We want to be good stewards. We as Master'Singers want to hear our Lord say, well done, you have invested this resource wisely.

As we prepare to end one season and begin the next, please continue to join your hearts with ours as we search for creative and effective ways to invest this ministry. We have been given a powerful tool to use for the Lord's Kingdom. We all want to be good stewards and I am looking forward to standing shoulder to shoulder with each of you one day and hear the sweet words of Jesus as He says, "Well done, you good and faithful servants." Until that day, let's press on together in faithful service to our King, making wise investments of this resource for His Glory!

Click [HERE](#) to
Enroll for 2023-24 &
Register for the Retreat

<https://app.easytiithe.com/App/Form/214c6c1c-07de-49ae-8e6d-c1fe16c80303>

Please click or double click on the link to Enroll for the 2023-2024 year. You can also register for the Retreat using this link. If you do not receive an email confirmation, you have not completed the registration process.

PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS



A Beautiful Voice

Cheri Cloud

Women's Chorus President

I love music – beautiful music, especially about the love and mercy of my Savior. I love to listen to beautiful voices singing His story. I love to sing songs that glorify Him. **“I will sing of steadfast love and justice to you, O Lord, I will make music.”** (Psalm 101:1) I have at times found myself envious of those whose voices are crystal clear and perfectly hit all the right notes, all the time. Perfection. But is that the reason I sing – to be perfect? Is this really what God expects of me? I think we can all remember a time during rehearsal when it was an absolute train wreck! How in the world are we going to pull this together for the concert? But somehow, Jim and Angela work their magic with us and it all comes together. We transform from musicians trying to get it right during rehearsal to a collective group of witnesses praising Him with all our hearts, hoping to reach just one for His kingdom. **It becomes perfection in His eyes.** Our Savior not only hears the music, but much more important to Him, our hearts. This is perfection - His perfection. Although the blessing is ours, we see it in the faces of those who have come to listen not only with their ears, but experience with their hearts. God is clearly in our midst!

As we begin this concert season, I pray that we will always strive for His perfection, knowing that it comes only from Him. **“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”** (1 Corinthians 10:31) **TO HIM BE ALL THE GLORY!**

Nininger Keathly Award Nominations Sought

It is also time to make your nominations for the Ruth Nininger/Ervin Keathley Award which will be presented at the retreat in September. Nominations are due by August 31st and you can email your nominations to lgunter@absc.org.



Preparing for Worship

Taylor Keenan

Men's Chorus President

I recently came across an article written several years ago by Devon Kauflin and posted on the website, Desiring God. The article is, “Sunday Worship Begins on Saturday”. ([Read the full article here.](#)) It encourages and instructs us on how we should prepare ourselves leading up to corporate worship opportunities. However, I believe we can be challenged and encouraged in the same ways as we are on the brink of brand new opportunities in our next concert season.

Kauflin writes, “Every journey requires preparation. Where are you going? What will you need? And what should you leave behind? If you’re going to the grocery store, you need money and fuel. If you’re going to the beach, you need a towel, sunblock, and a beach chair.” As we approach a new Master’Singers concert season, it will be easy to just cruise along and go through the motions with little to no thought about preparing ourselves for the “journey” we are about to embark on. Here are a few thoughts from Devon Kauflin’s article.

Know Your Destination

“The journey begins by knowing where we’re going.”

“How we approach God in worship reveals what we think of the God that we worship.”

Prepare to Love Others

“When we gather with the people of God, we should prepare in order to contribute, to encourage, and to build up others.”

Leave Your Burdens Behind

“We prepare our hearts for worship by leaving behind worldly distractions and sin (Hebrews 12:1). Sadly, this is rarely a deliberate consideration for many Christians.”

Kauflin concludes with, “Thoughtful preparation for corporate worship sets the right trajectory for our journey together...for God’s glory and our good.” So may we prepare ourselves for what lies before us this season to that end, for His glory and for our good!

Calling All Master’Singers Men!

The Master’Singers men have been asked to participate in the ABSC One Day Mission to Monticello. They will be conducting a block party inside the men’s prison. We will take the first 45 guys to register at this [LINK](#).

<https://www.absc.org/2023-mastersingers-prison-ministry-at-dermott>

CONCERT OF WORSHIP: WHITE CO FAIR



Taylor Keenen
Co-Host

Information for our Ministry Opportunity at the White County Fair in Searcy - **September 11, 2023.**



Randy Cross
Co-Host

We are so excited about the prospect of being a witness out in the community. Since the beginning of last year, we, as Master'Singers, have been praying for opportunities just like this one. We have been invited to sing at the White County Fair, and there have been no restrictions placed on what we can do. So we will sing, share,

and preach Jesus and the power he has to transform lives. Please make sure that you have responded to the PCO invite for this concert. If you didn't receive an email (or if it is lost in your inbox) use the link at the bottom of the next column to log in to your PCO account and either Accept or Decline the invitation to this Concert.

We will meet for rehearsal and our evening meal at Trinity Baptist Church in Searcy:

1601 East Moore, Searcy

Directions:

Take the Race Street exit and turn West onto Race Street. Continue until you come to the light at Moss Street. Turn right and you should see the church.

Randy and Taylor recommend either the Hampton Inn or Holiday Inn Express out by Highway 167 if you need overnight accommodations.

Directions - Trinity Baptist Church - Searcy



Schedule for the Day-MONDAY, September 11

1:00 pm	Check-in and Fellowship-Trinity Baptist (1601 East Moore St., Searcy)
1:30 pm	Rehearsal
3:00 pm	Break and Refreshments
3:45 pm	Rehearsal
5:00 pm	Dinner
6:00 pm	Transfer to the Fair Grounds
7:00 pm	Concert of Worship

Concert Attire for the Fair

GUYS: Jeans/Khakis and solid Polo/button down Shirt

LADIES: Jeans/Khaki (pants/skirt) and solid top

Tentative Order for the Concert

Oh Give Thanks

At the Name of Jesus (SATB)

Psalm 46 (Lord of Hosts)

103 (Bless the Lord)

It Is Well With My Soul

Breath and Clay (Only Jesus)

I Speak Jesus

Thank You Jesus for the Blood

Hymn of Heaven

All the Praise

Concert Publicity
Coming Soon!

Click [HERE](#) to
go to PCO to
Accept/Decline your invite

ANNUAL RETREAT: IMMANUEL BAPTIST LR

Arkansas Master'Singers Retreat September 14-15, 2023 Immanuel Baptist Church Little Rock

Tentative Schedule for Thursday, September 14

- 10:00 am Leadership Team Meeting & Lunch
- 12:15 pm Check-In/Registration & Photos
- 1:00 pm Opening Session - Choir Room
- 1:30 pm Instrumental Ensemble Rehearsal - G101
- 3:00 pm Fellowship Break - Horne Hall
- 4:00 pm Separate Rehearsals
 - Ladies - Choir Room
 - Men - Chapel
- 5:45 pm Dinner and Fellowship - Horne Halle
- 7:00 pm Combined Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 8:30 pm Rehearsal Ends

Tentative Schedule for Friday, September 15

- 8:30 am Worship, Devotions, & Rehearsal
 - Ladies - Choir Room
 - Men - Chapel
- 9:45 am Fellowship Break - Horne Halle
- 10:30 am Business Meeting - Choir Room
- 11:00 am Combined Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 12:30 pm Retreat Concludes

Tentative Music List for Retreat and 2023-2024 Season

The music for the retreat and the new 2023-2024 season will be uploaded to PlanningCenterOnline soon. Keep checking PCO to see the music when it hits!

Don't forget that you can use a tablet (iPad, Amazon Fire, etc.) to access the music all year long. Using the PCO Music Stand App allows you to just open the app and have the music ready to go and in order. You can also mark your music and it will be there every time you open the scores. If you have questions, contact either Lamona (lgunter@absc.org) or David (dtatum@fbcsherwood.org) for help.

Click [HERE](#) to
Enroll for 2023-24 &
Register for the Retreat

<https://app.easytiithe.com/App/Form/214c6c1c-07de-49ae-8e6d-c1fe16c80303>

NEW ANNUAL ENROLLMENT AND RETREAT REGISTRATION PROCESS

We have a new registration form for the new year. The new form requires a card payment for completion. We ask you to please utilize this form to help us improve our processes and eliminate the need for collecting payments onsite. (Please contact Lamona at lgunter@absc.org, if for some reason you are not able to utilize the online form.)

Please note that EVERYONE needs to complete a new registration form each year--even if you will not be attending the retreat.

We will base the Planning Center Invitations to the Concerts of Worship on your registration. Click the button below to register!

Retreat Registration Deadline August 21st.

Click [HERE](#) to
Enroll for 2023-24 &
Register for the Retreat

<https://app.easytiithe.com/App/Form/214c6c1c-07de-49ae-8e6d-c1fe16c80303>

Concert Publicity
is coming soon!

Directions



NEWS YOU NEED TO KNOW...



Welcome to Planning Center Online



We are so excited to introduce Planning Center Online (PCO) to you this year. We will utilize PCO for all of our concert scheduling and registrations as well as storing and sharing all our music charts and recordings for the year. PCO is an incredibly powerful tool that will enable us to share information more readily.

Registering for Concerts of Worship and other Events

For each event, everyone will receive a scheduling request via email. At the bottom of that email are two links, one to “Accept” and one to “Decline” the request from PCO. If you plan on attending the concert/event, please accept the request, and if you cannot attend, please decline the request. When you “Accept,” you are counted for two very important reasons: the Meal before the concert and to let us know how many are coming in each section and the orchestra. By doing so, the host church can best prepare for our arrival. The deadline for being included in the meal count is by NOON on the Monday BEFORE the event. Please help us help our hosts by replying promptly.

Scheduling emails are sent out from PCO two weeks prior to the concert. If you are NOT receiving these email requests, please do the following: 1) check your junk/spam folder as these emails may end up there, 2) log in to PCO and ensure that you are checking the right email account, 3) if neither of the two previous options help, contact Lamona Gunter at the ABSC for assistance. lgunter@absc.org

Acquiring Music Files

Music charts and recordings will no longer be available on the Master’Singers website. All of these tasks will now be included in your PCO account. To view the files, you must go to the “SERVICE” (concert) in which you are scheduled to sing/play.

Once you accept your invitation, if you are viewing the service on your computer (not your smart phone or tablet), select the service in the “PLANS” tab at the top. On the right hand side of each song in the order of service, select the gray box with the number in it to access each song’s files.

Music Stand App

If you have a tablet you can use PCO’s Music stand App. It is available for free in the App Stores for free for both Apple and Android devices. To access the music for each concert/service, simply log in to Music Stand with your PCO credentials (see below). You can then navigate to the particular Service (concert) and your music will be in order and ready for you to view. This works with both singers and instrumentalists.

Forgot Your Login?

If you have forgotten your PCO login, simply click the “Need a password?” link on the PCO login page. Enter the email address that you use to log in, and PCO will send you a password reset email.

Updating Your Information

Be sure to take some time to update your contact information in PCO so that our database is correct.

1. Log in to PCO and click your name in the upper right portion of the screen and select “Profile”
2. Once you are in the profile section, click “Edit” next to your name and enter any updated info.
3. Click “Save”
4. If you do not have a profile picture, click on the silhouette next to your name and upload one.



2023 - 2024 Events

September 11, 2023

Concert of Worship,
White County Fair, Searcy

September 14-15, 2023

Annual Master'Singers Retreat
Immanuel Baptist, LR

October 7, 2023

One Day Mission Trip, Monticello
Men to the Men's Prison

October 24, 2023

ABSC Annual Meeting,
Walnut St, Jonesboro

January 22, 2024

E-Con, GSFBC, Little Rock

February 22, 2024

Concert of Worship
First Baptist, Sherwood

March 14, 2024

Split Concerts of Worship - TBA

April 18, 2024

Concert of Worship
Williams Baptist University
Walnut Ridge

May 2, 2024

Ministry Opportunity - TBA



2023-2024 Leadership Team



Jim Daniel
Director



Taylor Keenen
President



Jeremy Raines
1st Vice President



Greg Childress
2nd Vice President



Matthew Jones
Ten 1 Host



Don Nichols
Ten 2 Host



Danny Fagala
Baritone Host



Robert Inzer
Bass Host



Randy Cross
Chaplain



Eric Jones
Accompanist



Darrell Spigner
Past President



Tim Gunter
Inst. Ens. Dir.



David Tatum
Communications



Angela White
Director



Cheri Cloud
President



Lynda Martin
1st Vice President



Katie Stauber
2nd Vice President



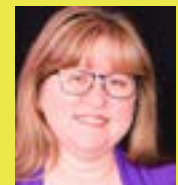
Christina Stanley
Sop 1 Host



Bobbie Debusk
Sop 2 Host



Kayleen Ferguson
Alto 1 Host



Tammy Albrecht
Alto 2 Host



Janet Gathright
Chaplain



Peggy Pearson
Accompanist



Alice Startup
Past President



Sharon Sanders
Outfit Coordinator