

# praiSING Him

A Newsletter for the Arkansas Master'Singers

## Such As I Have

ABSC Annual Meeting



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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



What a refreshing time we had together at the Master'Singers retreat in September. It is always good to see everyone enjoying one another's fellowship as we worship and prepare together. Thank you again, Stephen Curry and Immanuel Baptist Church, for being such gracious hosts. I was reminded of the privilege we have to serve together as I prepared to speak to the leadership team at the retreat. The Lord used several passages of scripture to speak to me and remind me of the blessing we have as we pour ourselves out in ministry to Him.

Psalm 100:2 says, "Serve the Lord with gladness..." There are times as we serve in ministry to the Lord when it becomes difficult to consistently serve with gladness. There are seasons in ministry that are just hard. And yet, this verse is not written as a suggestion. It is an imperative that we are to follow. Paul writes in Romans 12:1 that we are to "present our bodies as a living sacrifice, acceptable to God..." Paul goes on to tell Timothy in 2 Timothy 4:6 that he was "being poured out as a drink offering," and that the time of his departure had come. All of these passages remind us that ministry is not an easy task or an easy life. And yet, I see each of you serving the Lord with gladness through the ministry of Master'Singers and the churches you represent and I am encouraged.

I am encouraged with the privilege of joining forces with each of you as we use this ministry tool to encourage the church and to further the Gospel. We have seen the Lord give us opportunities of ministry where His name was proclaimed and where lives were impacted. Thank you for joining me in prayer as we ask Him to continue to use us. I am also encouraged through the words of Paul to Timothy, "In the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only me, but to all who have loved His appearing" (2 Tim 4:8).

Let's enter into this new season of Master'Singers with prayerful expectation. Let's guard our hearts from sin and offer to God usable vessels. Let's serve together with gladness, encouraging and lifting one another up in our prayers and fellowship. Let's serve the Lord with gladness, even through tough times as we pour ourselves out in service. May He continue to use us as ambassadors of this great message of Hope to a lost and hurting world until He awards us the crown of righteousness. I look forward to serving with you in this coming season!

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

<https://services.planningcenteronline.com/schedule>

# PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS



## Joy

Cheri Cloud

Women's Chorus President

What is joy? The dictionary says joy is the emotion of great delight or happiness caused by something exceptionally good or satisfying; a deep feeling or condition of happiness or contentment; an outward show of pleasure or delight. My joy is different! My joy is from God!

Happiness and joy may seem to be very similar, but are actually very different. Happiness is related to the superficial and is an outward expression of the circumstances around us. Joy is a supernatural gift from God granting us peace and contentment even in the most difficult of circumstances.

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.*  
Romans 15:13

*When we are in the presence of God, we experience joy!  
You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there  
is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*  
Psalm 16:11

When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we experience joy!

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,  
goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control . . . Galatians 5:22*  
When we study the Word, we experience joy!

*Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to  
me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name,  
O Lord, God of hosts. Jeremiah 15:16*

When we sing His praises, we experience joy!

*My lips will shout for joy when I sing praises to you; my soul also,  
which you have redeemed. Psalm 71:23*

It is my prayer that we, as Master'Singers, will always seek, experience and shine His light with pure, God given joy as we sing His praises and worship Him!



## Master'Singers

Taylor Keenan

Men's Chorus President

The name of our group is one of the most important, although misleading at times, identifiers of who we are as a group and why we do what we do. Without the explanation of the apostrophe and shared letter, people hear that we are "master singers". Which can communicate the exact opposite of our identity. "Master Singers" are eager to show off of who they are and what they can do. We, of course as the Master'Singers, are looking to show off our Master and what He can do.

Mark 10 tells the story of James and John looking for that glory. They were outright asking Jesus to sit at His right and left hand in glory. Jesus then teaches them that to receive "glory" one must first become a servant. He says in vs. 45, "For even the Son of man came not to be served, but to serve." The gospel of Mark then pairs this story in verses 35-45, with the story of blind Bartimaeus in verses 46-52. Notice the difference in how James/John and Bartimaeus petition Jesus. James/John seeking glory and Bartimaeus crying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!". Author Scotty Ward Smith writes, "James and John were physically seeing were spiritually blind—as revealed by their quest for greatness. Bartimaeus was physically blind, but spiritually seeing—as revealed by his cry for mercy."

May we approach this concert with a sense of humility and servanthood, like Bartimaeus, rather than the self-seeking desires of James and John. Smith further writes, "Glory isn't gained through ruling but through serving—by taking the lowest place, not the highest." We are our Master's singers. May we use the opportunities this concert season will give us to disappear in the shadow of our Master!

Come & celebrate the dedicated ministry of

# Will & Janie Thompson

Sunday, October 1, 2023 | First Baptist Church Arkadelphia

Worship Celebration

10:30 am | Sanctuary

Recognition Reception

2:00 pm | Fellowship Hall

# MINISTRY DAY: DERMOTT UNIT

Information from Bob Fielding regarding details for our ministry day at the Dermott Unit.

1. Meet at the unit (address below) and be ready to go through security by 9:00 am. Expect to pass through a metal detector. You will need to empty your pockets and remove your belt and shoes to go through the xray much like you would at the airport.

2. You may not wear a smart watch or bring in your cell phone or iPad. This is a paper music only event. If you normally use an iPad and need paper music, please contact Lamona ([lgunter@absc.org](mailto:lgunter@absc.org)).

3. We suggest you leave your wallet in the car, but you must bring your photo ID with you. You may bring your key/key fob in--please lock your car!

4. You will be given a OneDay T-shirt that morning to wear. You must also wear either nice jeans or dress pants. Jeans with holes, shorts, or cammo are not permitted inside the unit.

5. Headgear (e.g., caps or hats) are also not permitted, so make sure you put on sunscreen *before* entering the unit.

Thank you for making this day of ministry possible. We will be able to touch many, many lives with the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ!

## Directions - Delta Regional Unit (Dermott)

The address is 880 E Gaines St., Dermott, AR



## Schedule for the Day

- |         |                                    |
|---------|------------------------------------|
| 8:30 am | Meet at the Dermott Unit           |
| 9:00 am | Go through Security and enter Unit |
| 2:00 pm | Ministry Event Concludes           |

## Concert Attire for the Ministry Day

**One Day T-Shirt (provided the morning of the event)**  
**Nice Jeans or dress pants (no holey jeans, shorts, or cammo)**  
**No headgear (e.g., caps or hats)**

## Tentative Order for the Concert

*Victory in Jesus*

*Soon and Very Soon Medley*

*Higher Ground*

*The Old Rugged Cross*

Gospel Presentation

*At the Name of Jesus (TTBB)*

Concert Publicity  
Coming Soon!

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



# ANNUAL MEETING: WALNUT ST JONESBORO

## Tentative Schedule for October 24, 2023

- 2:00 pm Check in at FBC Jonesboro
- 2:30 pm Rehearsal at FBC Jonesboro
- 4:15 pm Snack Supper at FBC Jonesboro
- 5:30 pm Sound Check at Walnut Street Baptist
- 6:10 pm Line Up in Choir Room
- 6:30 pm Lead Evening Worship Service

## Directions

### REHEARSAL - FIRST BAPTIST



## Tentative Music List for the Concert

Will be added to PCO Soon!  
Check there for Information

Concert Publicity  
is coming soon!

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

### CONCERT - WALNUT ST BAPTIST



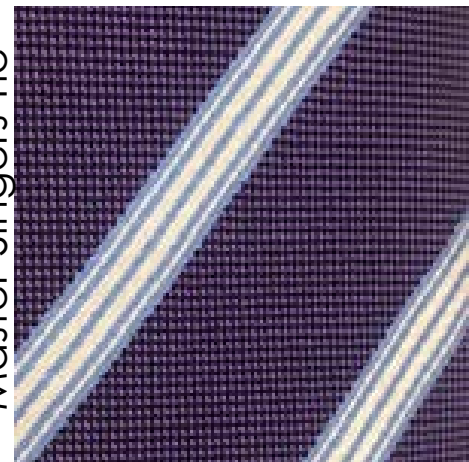
## CONCERT DRESS

We will wear our normal concert attire for the ABSC Annual Meeting in Jonesboro.

Ladies: Concert Outfit

Men: Mid-gray Slacks, Black Blazer, M'S Tie (see pic),  
Black shoes.

Master'singers Tie



# PEOPLE TO KNOW...



## Meet Jonathan McEndree

Master'Singers 2023 Scholarship Recipient

Jonathan McEndree, a native of Fort Worth, Texas is the latest recipient of the Master'Singers Scholarship. Jonathan is in his second year as a Worship Studies student at Ouachita Baptist University. About his studies, Jonathan states, "I have already grown so much not only in my call to ministry, but also in my walk with Christ."

Jonathan was chosen to serve as a Intern for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention this past summer. In this role, he was able to participate in many events including Super Summer and PraiseWorks/JoyWorks. Regarding his experience at PraiseWorks, Jonathan says, "I got to experience ministry first hand at its most basic element: serving. Simply serving others to ensure things ran as smoothly as they could blessed me immensely. Not only this but also seeing

God raise up another generation of faithful ministers of the Gospel was inspiring."

Continue to pray for Jonathan and the other students in Arkansas who are preparing to serve in music and worship leadership roles in the coming years. And thank you Master'Singers, for helping to make this work possible!

The Master'Singers Scholarship is awarded each year to a deserving student pursuing a path toward vocational ministry in worship leadership. The scholarship is worth \$1,000 per year and can be renewed for up to a total of four years. The offerings from Master'Singers Concerts of Worship fund the scholarship. For more information about the scholarship or to apply, please visit <https://abf.org/scholarships>. The application for the 2024-2025 school year will open in November 2023.

## Congratulations

to the 2023 Recipients of the Nininger/Keathley Awards  
Lamona Gunter & Robert Ramsey



# SAVE THE DATE....

[click for more information](#)



2024  
**PRAIZFEST**  
STUDENT  
WORSHIP  
WEEKEND

Worship Clinician  
Cliff Duren

January 26 - 27, 2024  
First Baptist, Benton

The poster features a blue background with a pattern of small white dots. In the foreground, there are black silhouettes of people with their arms raised in worship. The text '2024 PRAIZFEST' is in large, bold, white letters, and 'STUDENT WORSHIP WEEKEND' is in smaller, white letters to the right.



praiseworks

July 8 - 12, 2024  
Ouachita Baptist University

The image shows a crowd of people at a worship event, with their arms raised. The 'praiseworks' logo is centered, featuring a stylized 'p' in black and a 'w' in orange. Below the logo, the text 'praiseworks' is written in a sans-serif font, with 'praise' in black and 'works' in orange.



joyworks

The image shows a crowd of people at a worship event, with their arms raised. The 'joyworks' logo is centered, featuring a stylized 'j' in black and a 'w' in blue. Below the logo, the text 'joyworks' is written in a sans-serif font, with 'joy' in black and 'works' in blue.



# 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](mailto: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 Dermott Prison Unit

**October 24, 2023**

ABSC Annual Meeting,  
Walnut St Baptist, Jonesboro

**January 22, 2024**

ABSC 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.



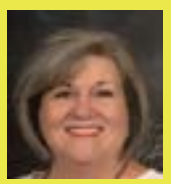
**David Tatum**  
Communications



**Angela White**  
Director



**Cheri Cloud**  
President



**Lynda Chapman**  
1st Vice President



**Katie Stauber**  
2nd Vice President



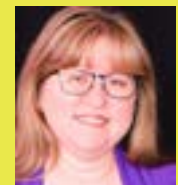
**Christina Stanley**  
Sop 1 Host



**Bobbie Debusk**  
Sop 2 Host



**Kayleen Ferguson**  
Alto 1 Host



**Tammy Albrecht**  
Alto 2 Host



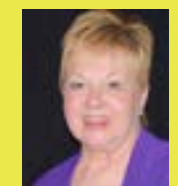
**Janet Gathright**  
Chaplain



**Peggy Pearson**  
Accompanist



**Alice Startup**  
Past President



**Sharon Sanders**  
Outfit Coordinator