

praiSING Him

A Newsletter for the ARKANSAS

Master Singers



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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



It is sometimes difficult to encourage enthusiasm in our choirs and worship teams as we prepare them to lead our congregations in worship. There are days when we just don't feel very enthusiastic. We can often become so focused on the correct pitch, vowel production, or rhythm that we find ourselves not very excited about what we are doing. In those moments we need to take a step back and consider not the "what" we are doing but be reminded of the "why" we are doing it.

I was recently reminded of a phrase John Bolin, worship pastor and writer/arranger with Semsen Music, used at a recent worship leader's luncheon as he addressed this very topic. He discussed the balance needed between precision and passion. He stated that as musicians, we can become so consumed with musical precision that we lose our worshipful passion. There needs to be a healthy balance between the two so that neither suffers. We want the passion of the "why" to be evident through the precision of the "what."

In Luke 7:36-50, Luke writes of a beautiful picture of worship as a woman enters a dinner banquet and washes Jesus' feet with her tears and wipes them with her hair. She then anoints Jesus' feet with ointment. The woman was driven by passion in response to Jesus' presence. The pharisee however, was driven by the precision of the law and his duties as a religious leader. He welcomed Jesus into his home out of duty, not passion. He gave Jesus no greeting. He did not offer to wash Jesus' feet and he offered Jesus no oil as an ointment. His response to Jesus' presence was precise, but with no passion.

As worship leaders, let's once again be reminded of why we sing and let that why fuel our passion. We sing because the love of Jesus has penetrated our hearts and has given us life in Him. We gather as Master'Singers to fellowship with one another in rehearsal as we offer our hearts to God with passion and precision. When our enthusiasm wanes, let us remind one another of the grace that reconciled us to God and let our worship and our worship leading be in response to this glorious truth.

Click [HERE](https://services.planningcenteronline.com/schedule) to
go to PCO
to Accept/Decline Invitations

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

PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS



Winter Peace

Cheri Cloud

Women's Chorus President

As I gaze out my kitchen window and see the beautiful, new fallen snow, I can't help but feel a special kind of peace. There is just a different kind of quiet with snow. I know that not everyone likes snow as much as I do but I sure do love it! When I walk out on my front porch to see the snow falling, there is a quiet like no other. I close my eyes and listen to the very soft sound of the snow falling from the sky. There is a peace that I just can't explain. What a gift from God!

Peace for a non-believer is hard to come by, but we know Him and He promises peace to those who believe. *"Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have **peace** with God through our Lord Jesus Christ"* (Romans 5:1).

The world we live in is a dark place; a scary place. Studies say that anxiety levels for Americans are higher than they've ever been, but Jesus said, *"**Peace** I leave with you; my **peace** I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid"* (John 14:27). We know the final victory is ours – Jesus has already won! *"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have **peace**. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world"* (John 16:33). Satan would love to sneak in and rob us of the peace we have through Jesus Christ, and sometimes he actually does, but in those times, we have to actively seek God's peace. Through prayer and time spent with Him, even when we don't understand how He does it, He can and does grant peace. *"And the **peace** of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 4:7). As this new year takes off, I pray for you, my friends that you may experience the peace that only He can give. *"Now may the Lord of **peace** himself give you **peace** at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all"* (II Thessalonians 3:16).

All for the Glory of God

Taylor Keenen

Men's Chorus President



"Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to Your name be the glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!."

— Psalm 115:1 (ESV)

This verse has been my "life verse" in regards to ministry for many years now. It has been what I have strived to accomplish in my leadership and to instill in the hearts of my teams. No matter how talented we are, how hard we practice, or how well we sing or play on Sundays, if we're doing it for our own glory or recognition, we have gravely missed the point of our calling.

Charles Spurgeon once said, "May we in the very gentlest whisper beg you to think very much of God, much of the singing, and extremely little of yourself. The best sermon is that in which the theme absorbs the preacher and hearers, and leaves no one either time or desire to think about the speaker; so in the best congregational singing, the leader is forgotten because he is too successful in his leadership to be noticed as a solitary person. The head leads the body, but it is not parted from it, nor is it spoken of separately; the best leadership stands in the same position. If your voice becomes too noticeable, rest assured that you are but a beginner in your art."

May this challenge us in our leadership during our remaining concerts of worship. As Spurgeon said, "May we...think very much of God, much of the singing, and... little of (ourselves)."

All for the glory of His name!

Click [HERE](#) to
for all the Publicity
for Upcoming Concerts

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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH: SHERWOOD



David Tatum
Associate Pastor
of Music/Worship/
Finance

First Baptist Sherwood is very excited to host the Master'Singers in February. We have been praying and looking forward to this day for so long, and our church is ready to worship with all of you!

As many of you already know, parking is at a premium at FBCS. So we have made arrangements for off-site parking for all of the Master'Singers. The old lot we used to be able to use is no longer an option as they have moved in food trucks and made it an entertainment district. However, Sherwood Elementary School is just a few blocks away and they have agreed to let us use their parking. It will not be available until after school closes for the day. That means that during the dinner break, we will ask as many of you as possible to move your vehicles to the school parking lot. We will have shuttle buses running at that time and at the conclusion of the Concert of Worship. Thank you in advance for helping make room for all those who would attend the concert.

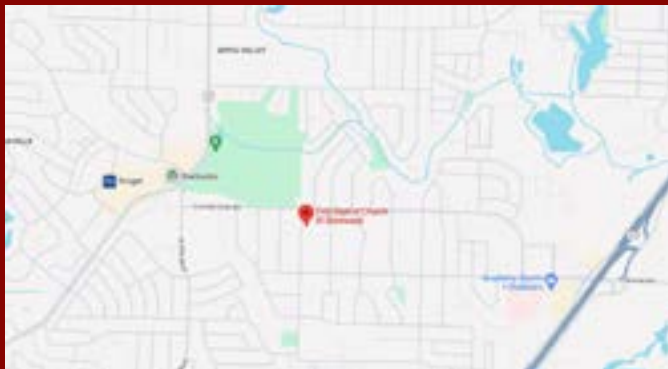
There are many great places to stay and eat around the church. It seems as if new hotels and restaurants are springing up daily! We will be eating Whole Hog Barbecue for our evening meal if that helps you to decide about lunch!

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

Directions

FIRST BAPTIST SHERWOOD



Schedule for February 15, 2024

10:30 am	Leadership Team Meeting- Student Room
12:30 pm	Check-in and Fellowship - Foyer
1:00 pm	Separate Rehearsals
	Women - Worship Center
	Men - Choir Room
	Orchestra - Student Room
2:15 pm	Break and Refreshments - Fellowship Hall
3:00 pm	Combined Rehearsal - Worship Center
5:30 pm	Dinner and Dress for Concert
6:45 pm	Line-Up and Prayer
7:00 pm	Concert of Worship

Music List for the Concert

I Will Rejoice
In the Beginning
This is God
Psalm 46 (Lord of Hosts)
Holy (Psalm 29)
Then Sings My Soul (Women)
My Jesus, I Love Thee (Women)
Higher Ground (Men)
Total Praise (Men)
My King is Known by Love
I Speak Jesus
Beauty of the Cross
We Sing Worthy
Endless Praise

CONCERT DRESS

For the Sherwood Concert of Worship we will be wearing our normal concert attire:

Men: gray slacks, white shirt, black jacket, and Master'Singers tie.

Ladies: Your purple and black outfits.

Master'Singers Tie



SAVE THE DATE....

Master'Singers Casual Shirts



If you ordered one of the new Master'Singers shirts and were unable to pick it up at E-Con, it will be available for pickup at the Sherwood Concert of Worship.



We will start a new order for shirts in the March newsletter.

click on the graphics below for more information



July 8 - 12, 2024
Ouachita Baptist University
Registration opens March 1



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 Dermott Prison Unit

October 24, 2023

ABSC Annual Meeting,
Walnut St Baptist, Jonesboro

January 22, 2024

ABSC E-Con, New Life BC, Alexander

February 15, 2024

Concert of Worship
First Baptist, Sherwood

March 14, 2024

Split Concerts of Worship
FBC Greenwood & FBC Hamburg

April 18, 2024

Concert of Worship
Williams Baptist University
Walnut Ridge

May 2, 2024

Concert of Worship
First Baptist, Benton



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.



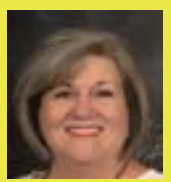
David Tatum
Communications



Angela White
Director



Cheri Cloud
President



Lynda Chapman
1st Vice President



Katie Stauber
2nd Vice President



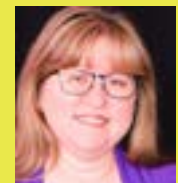
Christina Stanley
Sop 1 Host



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