

praiSING Him

A Newsletter for the ARKANSAS

Master Singers



Split
Concerts
of Worship
- Details p. 4-5

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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 time for us to divide and conquer! Usually, when we discuss division in a ministry setting, it is not a positive discussion. However, I am very excited to have the opportunity to divide our ministry and lead at two different locations on March 14th. With the size of our group, it is difficult to minister consistently in all of our Arkansas Baptist Churches. However, by dividing into two ministry teams, we will have the opportunity to double our efforts and lead in settings which might not be possible any other way. Join me in prayer as we look ahead to what the Lord is going to do at each location.

Colossians 3:15 and 16 says, "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which you were called in one body, and be thankful. Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God." This has been my life verse since God called me to ministry, but He is continually teaching me new things as I study this passage. Below are a couple of thoughts from the passage as we prepare to lead once again:

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts..." We are told to "allow" (let) the peace of Christ rule. Fear and anxiety do not come from our Lord. He wants us to experience His peace, and for us to allow His peace to rule our hearts. We are to serve together as "one body." A body serves best when all the members of that body function as they are supposed to function, and in unity with one another.

We are to "Let the word of Christ dwell" within us. His Word and the principles of His Word are to take up residence (dwell) in us to the point that everything we do or say is controlled by His indwelling Word. Then, from that Word we find wisdom, useful for "teaching and admonishing one another." We teach, admonish, and encourage one another with the words of Christ, not our best advice or opinions. And then...we have the opportunity to use the powerful medium of music, "Psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs" to complete the task.

What a beautiful outline of power, service and leadership, and what a powerful medium we have been given. I am praying each of us will come ready musically to offer the Lord our very best as we handle and proclaim the Gospel on March 14th. But I am also praying, and even more so, that the Spirit of God will grant us the peace of God to rule our hearts, and that the Word of Christ would dwell within us, empowering the message we sing. Join me as we pray, practice, and prepare to lead at both locations. May the Lord use us as powerful instruments for His glory.

PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS



My Guide

Cheri Cloud

Women's Chorus President

Have you ever had so much to do that it seems like there's no way to get it all done? You get up in the morning and feel like you need to rush into the day in order to get it all completed - so focused; so headstrong; so determined. "I can do this," you tell yourself! "I will conquer this mountain!" In your zeal to conquer, you've forgotten the most important thing. You've left God out. How many times have we done this, in the moment, without even realizing that we are doing it? It is so easy to just take off on our own, thinking "I've got this." And maybe we do, but in the end, when all is said and done, have we accomplished God's will? The Bible says "do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." (Philippians 4:6). We are to pray about everything - not just the big things. We're to pray about even the little things that seem inconsequential to us, for instance - a long list of things to do! 1 Corinthians 10:31 says, "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." How are we to know the will of God, if we don't communicate with Him, even about the little things. Our list of things-to-do may be long, but He cares about each one. Even in the little things, we can glorify Him. You may have had a million things to do in order to be able to break away to spend your afternoon and evening with the Master'Singers, but through prayer, He will guide us to know His will, to magnify Him, to give Him the ultimate praise! He will help us get it done - HIS way.

*"Seek the LORD and his strength;
seek his presence continually!"
(1 Chronicles 16:11)*

Every Sunday is Special

Taylor Keenen

Men's Chorus President



As we all know and have been working toward, Easter Sunday is this month. Easter is a special Sunday and we should make it special. But we should also remember that in reality, for believers, every Sunday is Easter Sunday. More than that, each and every day is Easter. We have a risen Savior who is alive and with us each and every day. Remember the hymn lyrics, "He lives! He Lives! Christ Jesus lives TODAY!"? Not just on Easter Sunday. The first verse of that hymn says, "I serve a risen Savior, He's in the world TODAY." It wasn't a one time thing that we just mark the anniversary of with a holiday. It's a holiday to remind us that He is still risen, still alive today "salvation to impart!"

Matt Boswell writes, "Easter is not the Super Bowl of the church." He writes that to say that every Sunday is an opportunity to celebrate our risen Savior. How different our churches might look if we approached each opportunity to gather as if it were Easter. Even as we, as Master'Singers, gather this month in Greenwood and Hamburg, may we gather celebrating the good news that Jesus is alive today!

So while each of our churches continue in our preparations for the special Sunday that Easter absolutely is, let's keep that same mindset of celebrating our risen Savior each Sunday leading up to Easter, the Sundays following Easter, and each and every day in between.

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

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

SPLIT CONCERTS OF WORSHIP



Jacob Ray
Worship Pastor
First Baptist
Greenwood

We are so excited to have you at Greenwood First Baptist! Our church has never had the privilege of hosting the Master'Singers, so this is an exciting event for us. Greenwood is just South of Fort Smith and is a town known for its schools and its family-friendly environment. People have even referred to it as a modern-day "Mayberry." I know that this is a long drive and out of the way for many of you, but your sacrifice to be here will be a blessing to our church and our community.

Our church is located at 19 N. Adair St. with a campus that is spread out with several different buildings. Our worship center will be our main hub when you all are here. Some of you can park in our "Cross Parking" located right off Hwy 10, which runs through the middle of town, or you can turn into the church campus on Adair St., where you will find several areas to park. Check-in will be inside the foyer of the Worship Center.

If you arrive early for lunch, there are a few different places to eat in Greenwood. There are some fast-food places (McDonald's, Taco Bell, Geno's Pizza, Sonic, etc.) and a few dine-in restaurants. The Dari is a local favorite, and some of the best BBQ around is at Reid's Hometown Barbecue, about 30 minutes East of Greenwood in Booneville, AR.

If you plan to stay overnight, there are a few Airbnb options in Greenwood, but the best option for a hotel is to stay in Fort Smith, where there are several different places to choose from.

If I can help in any way, please do not hesitate to call the church at (479) 996-2166 or my cell at (479) 719-1023. We are looking forward to serving you and worshipping with you all!

Directions - First Baptist - Greenwood



Will Richey
Music Minister
First Baptist
Hamburg

Hello Master'Singers! FBC Hamburg is so excited to be hosting this incredible group once again! Well, most of you. We're also praying for God to move in a mighty way at FBC Greenwood on the 14th.

Our church is located at 311 E Parker Street in Hamburg. It's in the middle of town so you shouldn't miss it, but in case you need it, the address is there.

Please park between the sanctuary and our Recreation Outreach Center (ROC). It would probably be best if you could try to park near the ROC so we'll have spots available for those attending the concert.

Sadly, there aren't many great places to eat in Hamburg, but there will be a few food trucks set up on the town square as well as a few lunch spots (Fiesta Linda and Boujee Boards & More). However for those coming from central Arkansas, there are spots to eat in Monticello (about 30 minutes away) so you may want to grab food there before coming into town.

Overnight stays would be best spent at the Tru by Hilton in Crossett (20 minutes from Hamburg) or at one of the hotels in Monticello (Hampton Inn, Holiday Inn Express, Quality Inn & Suites, Comfort Inn & Suites, etc.)

If you need any assistance for your time in southeast Arkansas, please don't hesitate to contact me at 501-840-1554. We're praying for God to move in a big way on the evening of March 14th. See you soon!

In Him,
Will Richey
FBC Hamburg

Directions - First Baptist - Hamburg



SPLIT CONCERTS OF WORSHIP

Schedule for the Day

12:30 pm	Check-in and Fellowship
1:00 pm	Separate Rehearsals: Women & Men
2:15 pm	Break and Refreshments
3:00 pm	Combined Rehearsal
5:30 pm	Dinner and Dress for Concert
6:45 pm	Line-up and Prayer
7:00 pm	Concert of Worship

Ruth Nininger / Ervin Keathley Award Nominations

This award was established in 2009 to honor a male and female Master'Singer who have made an outstanding contribution to music ministry in Arkansas. The Award will be presented at the Annual Master'Singers Retreat. Please feel free to nominate living or deceased male and female members. All nominations must be submitted by email to lgunter@absc.org by May 1st. A final opportunity by paper nomination will be available at the May 2nd Concert of Worship. Non-eligible members: **Current directors (Jim Daniel, Angela White, or Tim Gunter), current presidents (Cheri Cloud and Taylor Keenen) or past recipients:**

2009 – Jean Pilcher and Tim Blann
2010 – Retha Kilmer and J. Paul Williams
2011 – Janie Thompson and John Dresbach
2012 – Peggy Pearson and Will Thompson
2013 – Donna Crenshaw and Glen Ennes
2014 – Donna Teague and Richard Wade
2015 – Glenda Riddle and Sam Wakefield
2016 – Mary Winters and Bob Endel
2017 – Elizabeth Barnett and Louis Criswell
2018 – Missy Hines and David Tatum
2019 – Vicki Bedford and Lee Barnett
2020 – Carrie Taylor and Doug Moore
2021 – Shelia Moore and Larry Grayson
2022 – Sharon Sanders and Jerry Miller
2023 – Lamona Gunter and Robert Ramsey

All Master'Singers are eligible to make nominations. Information and requests for nominations will be found in the March and April newsletters annually. Nominations will be submitted to the Selection Committee (president's council) for a vote during the summer. Recipients will be announced and awards presented at the Annual Fall Retreat.

Order for the Concert

I Will Rejoice
This Is God
Psalm 46 (Lord of Hosts)
Holy (Psalm 29)
At the Name of Jesus (SATB)
Then Sings My Soul (SSAA)
My Jesus I Love Thee (SSAA)
Higher Ground (TTBB)
Total Praise (TTBB)
My King is Known by Love
I Speak Jesus
Beauty of the Cross
We Sing Worthy
Endless Praise

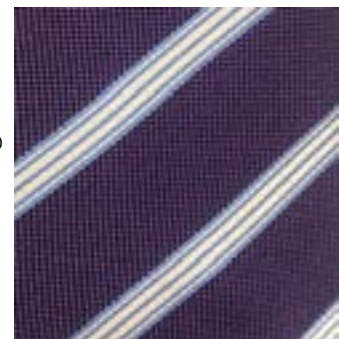
CONCERT DRESS

For the Split Concerts of Worship we will be wearing our normal concert attire:

Ladies: Your purple and black outfits.

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

Master'Singers Tie



Please remember that you will receive TWO PCO invitations for our March Split concerts. Please ACCEPT THE ONE you wish to attend and DECLINE the other.

SAVE THE DATE....

Master'Singers Casual Shirts



If you need to order a Master'Singers Casual shirt, please click one of the buttons below.

LADIES
Shirt Order Form

MENS
Shirt Order Form



Order deadline is March 31st for delivery at the May 2nd Concert of Worship. Shirts may be picked up at the Benton Concert or at the Fall Retreat. Orders will open again in the fall.

click on the graphics below for more information



July 8 - 12, 2024
Ouachita Baptist University
Registration is now Open!



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



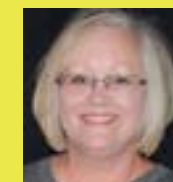
Darrell Spigner
Past President



Tim Gunter
Inst. Ens. Dir.



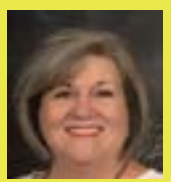
David Tatum
Communications



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