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APRIL/MAY 2024

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



I am looking forward to gathering again on the campus of Williams Baptist University on Thursday, April 18 and then again at First Baptist Church Benton on Thursday, May 2. This will be a great way to end our 2023/2024 season.

Our time on the campus of WBU will be an exciting time of worship and equipping. We have the opportunity to not only lead those who gather with us in a time of worship, we will also have the opportunity to lead and equip the students who gather and participate with us. I am praying this investment in the college students will bear fruit for years to come. I have seen the Lord bless these efforts in the past.

Several years back, Master'Singers led a concert on the WBU campus where a young, aspiring worship leader was in attendance. That young man joined Master'Singers as soon as he graduated with his Church Music degree. It was through Master'Singers that this young man and I were acquainted, and the Lord allowed us to serve together on staff at an Arkansas Baptist church for close to 10 years. This young man was Josh Junyor, and he became our Master'Singers accompanist, giving me the opportunity to continue serving with Josh until he left Arkansas to attend Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, pursuing a Master of Music degree in Church Music.

What other students will be in attendance at our April 18th or our May 2nd concerts who the Lord may call into service as they worship with us? What other investment of your time and talent could be more important than leading a gathering in worship and seeing the Lord draw men and women to Himself? I hope you see the great opportunity we have and the potential fruit as a result of our labors. Join me as we pray for the Lord to do something astonishing as we serve Him and as we sing His praise. May the Lord continue to pour out His blessing and power as we obediently offer ourselves to Him. I will see you soon!

PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS



New Again

Cheri Cloud

Women's Chorus President

Spring is here! Sunshine, daffodils, green grass, blooming dogwoods! It's all new for the season and it makes me so happy after a long, cold winter. Springtime brings joy (with the exception of all the yellow powder all over the place!) and new beginnings. So many of us love to get out in the yard and plant vegetable and flower gardens. My flowers didn't do so well last year, but I'm eager to try again! But first, I have to clean out the dirt beds, get rid of the old weeds, and root balls left from last year's plantings. I have to prepare my soil – make it "new."

I could say the same about my heart. It needs "weeding" on a regular basis. This world is so dark. Satan has sown so many lies that I must guard my heart and ask God to carefully weed out all the untruth so that His Word will flourish in my soul. "Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!" Psalm 139:23-24. There is only one truth and that is GOD'S TRUTH. "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me." Psalm 51:7-10. We need a clean, new heart, not just at the beginning of each new season, but daily. We need it again and again and again. As we come to the end of this concert season and look forward to the next, let us be mindful to guard our hearts and to seek God to make it new and clean each and every day.



A Common Link

Taylor Keenen

Men's Chorus President

We all admit music is a powerful thing. But did you know or do realize that music can link and identify a group of people to a common interest? Think about our national anthem or the fight song of your favorite sports team. Every time those songs are played, it is easy to identify the people that are connected to each other through the common tie of nationality or sports.

We as the church however, have a common link to each other that is far greater than patriotism or fandom—the saving grace of Jesus! When we gather and sing words like, "My king is known by mercy. My King is known by grace, for the hope in His name, and the power that saves.", we are showing and telling those around us about that abundant grace of Christ. We are uniting ourselves with each other around the centrality of the gospel. We are bringing together generations to admonish one another. We are linking ourselves with the church of past ages and connecting with the worship of future ages. We are identifying ourselves as the Master's singers! So, in our last two opportunities to worship together this concert season in Walnut Ridge and Benton, may we "Shout Jesus from the mountains and Jesus in the streets, Jesus in the darkness over every enemy! May our lives, day in and day out, be identified by the saving grace of Christ and may His gospel message be obvious to those around us.

Master'Singers Casual Shirts previously ordered will be available for pickup at the April and May Concerts. Orders for new shirts will take place during fall 2024 registration.



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

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

Worship Leaders

Sign up for one of the remaining Worship Leaders' Roundtables

[HERE](#)



WILLIAMS BAPTIST UNIVERSITY: WALNUT RIDGE



Trent Broussard
Chair, Dept of Fine Arts, Professor of Music

We are excited to welcome you to the campus of Williams Baptist University. I have been anticipating this concert all year. I am including a map to help you navigate the campus. The concert will be in Manley Chapel (building 13), which is also where you will check in that day. Parking is available in the lot just to the north of Manley Chapel and in the lot on Moore Street.

As you look for lunch, there are several nice restaurants (Mexican, Steakhouse, Sandwich) in Walnut Ridge or in Pocahontas, plus many fast food options. Depending upon where you are coming from, you may want to stop in Searcy or Jonesboro for a greater selection. If you are looking for a place to stay, the Hotel Rhea in downtown Walnut Ridge is absolutely charming. There is a Days Inn & Suites in Pocahontas, which is also okay. Jonesboro has numerous excellent options, which are only 30 minutes away.

I cannot wait to meet you all and to hear you sing. If you need anything specifically, do not hesitate to contact me.

In Christ,
Trent Broussard
tbroussard@williamsbu.edu 616.403.2710

Schedule for April 18, 2024

10:30 am	Leadership Team Meeting
12:30 pm	Check-in and Fellowship
1:00 pm	Separate Rehearsals
	Women
	Men
	Orchestra
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

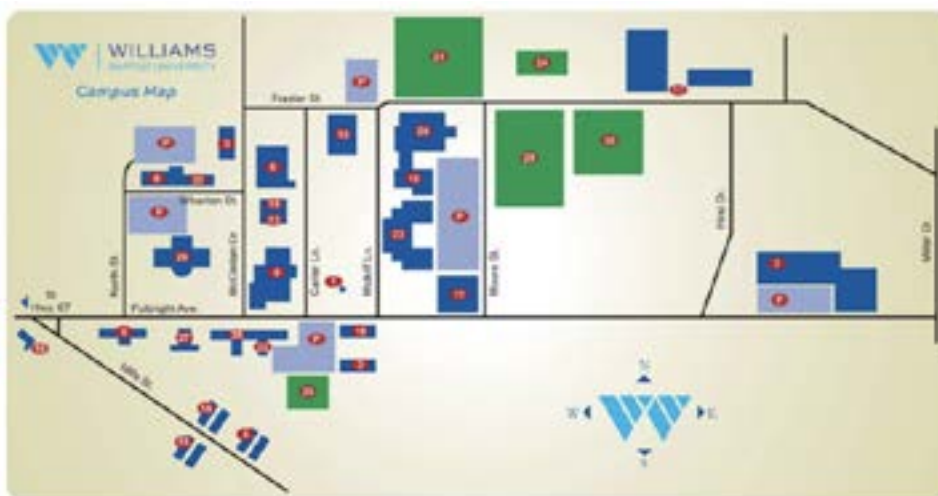
Music List for the Concert

I Will Rejoice
In the Beginning
Psalm 46 (Lord of Hosts)
Holy (Psalm 29)
I Speak Jesus
Hymn of Heaven
Then Sings My Soul

My Jesus I Love Thee
Higher Ground
Total Praise
My King is Known by Love
Beauty of the Cross
We Sing Worthy
Endless Praise

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

Directions



Williams Baptist University



Click the button below
if you would like to
schedule a guided tour
of the WBU Campus.

Sign Up here
for a
WBU Campus Tour

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH: BENTON



Joel Winters
Worship Pastor

First Baptist Church in Benton cannot wait to host the Arkansas Master'Singers in May! We look forward to this wonderful night of worship. This is the first time that I've had the opportunity to host the group since coming on staff at FBC and I can't wait. We have a lot of local restaurants within walking distance of our church, you can use our parking lot to get to many of them. My favorites are:

Burger Shack
Revival
Baja Grill
Rock n Roll Sushi

We have a Loblolly ice cream shop and a coffee shop within walking distance as well.

The famous Sling Blade from the movie known by the same name is still in operation and has pretty good food (not walking distance but near downtown).

We also have all the normal chain restaurants within a short drive. If you are needing lodging there is a Fairfield, Hampton, Home2, and Holiday Inn Express nearby. If you have friends or family in the Central Arkansas area I hope you'll invite them to join us the evening of the concert. Our church and choir are praying for this night of worship as I know you all are too!

Directions

FIRST BAPTIST BENTON



Schedule for May 2, 2024

To Be Determined.

Check PCO to see the schedule soon.

Invites for the May Concert will also go out through PCO following the April Concert.

Music List for the Concert

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

CONCERT DRESS

For the WBU & Benton Concerts of Worship we will be wearing our normal attire:

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

Ladies: Your purple and black outfits.

Master'Singers Tie



ITEMS OF NOTE....

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.

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 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

September 12-13, 2024

Annual Master'Singers Retreat
Immanuel Baptist, LR



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



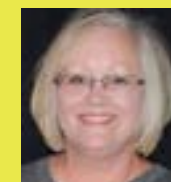
Darrell Spigner
Past President



Tim Gunter
Inst. Ens. Dir.



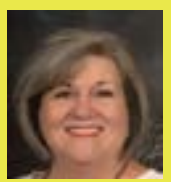
David Tatum
Communications



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