**VOLUME 8 - ISSUE 5 APRIL 2025** 

# praising Him A Newsletter for the ARKHUSHS Master Singers



Find information inside about our April 22<sup>nd</sup> Concert of Worship at **Ouachita Baptist University** 

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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

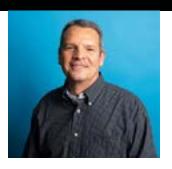


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# **DIRECTIONS**

from Jim Daniel

It is amazing to look back through the season and see the significant ways the Lord has answered our prayers as He has ministered to so many through this ministry. We should never take that work of the Lord for granted. For



eternal impact to be made, it must be a work of the Spirit of God. We asked Him to do a powerful work through us and I have heard testimonies of Him doing just that.

As we look forward to our final concert and prepare for our short break, I would like for us to be reminded of a few things and to "ponder" on these things. First, we discuss this often, but let's be reminded of our purpose. As skilled musicians, it would be very easy for us to love the music and the opportunity to perform beautiful music together. But as biblical musicians, our purpose is greater. We exist to glorify God with our whole lives, including our musical talents. We worship Him individually with our surrendered lives and then we encourage other believers to do the same. The author of Hebrews writes, "and let us consider how to spur one another on to love and good works, not neglecting the gathering together of the saints, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another — and all the more, as we see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:24-25).

We also have the responsibility to use our talent to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus. It has been so encouraging to think back to the opportunities we have been given throughout this past season to sing and speak the Gospel. We are encouraged through the parable of the talents to "invest" our talents in service to our Master. That is exactly what I see when I look back on our season. I see talented servants investing their lives in the work of the Kingdom. It has been a pleasure to co-labor with you throughout this past season in that effort.

So, as we prepare for this last concert of our 2024-2025 season, will you join me in prayer? Pray with me, asking God to allow us to finish well as we celebrate the Gospel with one another and proclaim the Gospel to the lost. Practice alongside me as we strive to offer the Lord our very best. Dream with me as we ask the Lord to show us how He would want us to invest in the coming season.

I look forward to our time together on the campus of Ouachita Baptist University. May our words be true as we join our voices with the college students and sing, "Not to us O Lord, not to us, but to You be the honor and the glory, forever! Amen."

Click HERE to go to PCO to Accept/Decline your invite

## PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS



**Hello Spring!**Lynda Chapman
Women's Chorus President

I love Spring. I love working in the dirt. I love the flowers and vegetables that come from the dirt. There is just something so satisfying about planting seeds or seedlings and watching the plant grow and thrive. It takes work, diligence, patience and tenacity to make a garden thrive or flower bed to bloom. We began raised bed gardening last year. It was so easy to keep the weeds out, but it required lots more water. Those tomatoes were red ripe and tasty, the jalapenos were just the right hot and spicy. The cucumbers made a great salad.

Those beautiful plants and flowers remind me of the new life that Spring offers. New Life. Just as seeds can grow new plants, how much more do we receive New Life because of Christ's resurrection. That tomb is EMPTY and as believers that is the most incredible reason to SHOUT!

Before that tomb was empty Jesus had to take our sins upon himself and die for us on that cross. Who am I to benefit from Christ's suffering? Who am I to even say Christ's name? I am so unworthy, but the fact is that he died for me. He died for you. He died for all of us. The words to the beautiful selection that we sing come to mind as we reflect on what Christ's resurrections means to us as Christians. **Endless Praise!** It will take an eternity of praise to thank Him for his sacrifice!

What can we give you but endless praise?
The Heavens roar as we shout
Your Name is Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, You are LORD
Worthy, Worthy, Worthy, Lord, another glimpse of glory
We sing once more
Worthy, Worthy, Worthy, Lord, forever! Forever!

As this concert year draws to a close, I hope to see you all at Ouachita in April for our final concert. It has truly been a privilege to serve this year as your president of the Women's Chorus. There is something special about the bond we have as we share Christ through worship. Thank you for being a part of that with me. I look forward to singing endless praises with you.

You Are A Leader!

Jeremy Raines
Men's Chorus President



Greetings Master'Singers fam,

One of the blessings I have as a worship leader is to be an encourager to my choir. Part of the job of an encourager is to remind my choir (worship team) that what they do matters. They aren't just singing on Sunday, but they are preparing hearts and minds for the message that God has in store for the congregation.

2 Chronicles 20:21 is a great verse when we struggle with our role as leaders.

"Jehoshaphat appointed singers to lead the army in praise, saying "Give thanks to the Lord, for his mercy endureth forever".

Instead of using military strength he used a choir to demonstrate God's power and by their faith, they were able to overcome their enemies.

Never forget just how vital you are as a worship leader in Master'Singers and more importantly as a worship leader in your local church. Also, help support your worship pastor whose job can sometimes seem as daunting as Jehoshaphat's.

As the '24-25 season winds down, I want to thank Jim Daniel for having faith in me as president, and allowing me to direct the split-choir. Larry Grayson for having faith in me to be a leader in Master'Singers. And for the Master'Singers team, thank you for supporting me whether in leadership, or in solo opportunities, you are my extended family and I love you all!

Click HERE to go to PCO to Accept/Decline your invite

## CONCERT OF WORSHIP: OUACHITA BAPTIST



Larry Grayson
Director of Worship Studies
Ouachita Baptist University

On behalf of my president, Dr. Ben Sells, my dean, Dr. Caroline Taylor, my Worship Studies Colleague, Dr. David Tatum, and myself, I am thrilled to welcome you to Ouachita. I am so grateful for the ministry that you will bring in your Concert of Worship as well as with your presence on our campus for the day. It is such an honor to host you. Your ministry is known throughout our state! I am personally so grateful to Jim Daniel

and Tim Gunter who lead so well!

Since parking is not plentiful, we are asking for your help by parking at First Baptist, Arkadelphia. (623 Pine Street). We will have two vans running shuttle to check-in which will be in the multi-purpose room of the new Worship Studies Suite. All vocal rehearsals will be in Mabee School of Performing Arts. The Instrumental Ensemble will rehearse in JPAC. The Tiger Tram will be available to shuttle you there.

Places to eat in Arkadelphia: Flying Burger, Cracker Barrel, Los Agaves all in Caddo Valley. Chicken Express, Wendy's, Taco Bell, Allen's BBQ, Chicken Express and Ambar Mexican Restaurant (west of I-30 Pine Street). Hamburger Barn, Golden Wok, Subway (east of I-30 on Pine Street. Near campus close to First Baptist is El Parian. There is a Chick-Fil-A and a Tacos 4 Life in the student center.

If you are looking for lodging, I would recommend Hampton Inn and a Holiday Inn Express at the Caddo Valley Exit and a relatively new Fairfield Inn & Suites at the Pine Street Exit.

I can't wait for our students to sing with you and for you to meet our new Director of Choral Activities, Dr. Alex Favazza who also serves First Baptist Arkadelphia as their Worship Pastor.

If we can be of any help to you please reach out to us! Larry Grayson 501.680.6164 (mobile) David Tatum 501.766.3158 (mobile) Music Office 870.2455129

# **Ouachita Baptist University**



#### Schedule for April 22, 2025

10:30 am Leadership Team (Alumni Room)12:30 pm Check-In & Fellowship (Worship Lab-MFA)

1:00 pm Separate Rehearsals

Women - Recital Hall (MFA)

Men - Worship Lab (MFA)

2:00 pm Break (Walker Conference Center)

2:30 pm Combined Rehearsal - Choir Room (MFA)

Orchestra - JPAC

4:15 pm Sound Check - JPAC

5:15 pm Evening Meal - Walker Conference Center

6:30 pm Line up in Hallway of JPAC

7:00 pm Concert

#### **Program for the Concert of Worship**

#### Orchestra Prelude

Who You Say I Am

Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me

In Christ Alone

Power in the Blood

#### Welcome and Prayer

#### **Combined Chorus**

In the Beginning

Psalm 46 (Lord of Hosts)

Psalm 24

Holy (Psalm 29)

The Majesty and Glory of Your Name

Welcome from Women's Chorus

Because of Jesus

Then Sings My Soul (How Great Thou Art)

Prayer- Men's Chorus

At the Cross

Psalm 23 (Surely Goodness, Surely Mercy)

**Combined Chorus** 

Beauty of the Cross

**Endless Praise** 

My King is Known by Love

Combined with OBU Choirs

Total Praise

Not to Us

# **NEWS YOU NEED**

Click to expand the campus map.



#### 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 <u>and</u> female members. All nominations must be submitted by email to <u>lgunter@absc.org</u> by May 1st. Non-eligible members: Current directors (Jim Daniel, Angela White, or Tim Gunter), current presidents (Lynda Chapman and Jeremy Raines) 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

2024 - Bobbie Debusk and Darrell Spigner

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

#### **Master'Singers**

2025 Scholarship Recipient

# Trevor Greene



Hello! My name is Trevor Greene. I'm a junior Worship Studies ma-

jor at Ouachita, originally from Norman, Oklahoma.

I felt called to full-time ministry the summer before my senior year of high school and chose to attend Ouachita to receive deeper musical and theological training in order to pursue God's call on my life.

Over the past few years at OBU, God has placed on my heart not only a desire to lead the church in congregational singing, but also a passion to help remind the church what congregational worship is and why we do it. I want to be someone who shepherds the church I serve by discipling young worship leaders and students—teaching them what it truly means to live a life of worship.

Currently, I serve as the music associate at Second Baptist Church in Arkadelphia, and I also lead a chapel worship team for Ouachita Worship. In my free time, I enjoy going on hikes with my wife and hanging out with friends. I'm incredibly thankful for the generosity you've shown in awarding me this scholarship. It is a true blessing, and

I know it will ease the financial burden of my senior year.

I'm so grateful.

### **CONCERT DRESS**

For the OBU 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.





# THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

#### LARRY GRAYSON WORSHIP STUDIES LAB

on the campus of
OUACHITA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY
Mabee Fine Arts Center



THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2025 | 10 a.m.

Join us for a dedication ceremony in Mabee, followed by refreshments and guided tours of the Worship Studies Lab

Please RSVP to the Office of Development by Monday, April 14, at robersonc@obu.edu or 870.245.5169





#### 2024 - 2025 Events

September 9, 2024 Concert of Worship White County Fair, Searcy

September 12-13, 2024 **Annual Retreat** Immanuel Baptist, LR

October 22, 2024 **ABSC Annual Meeting** Geyer Springs FBC, LR

November 14, 2024 Concert of Worship West Baptist Church, Batesville

January 27, 2025 **ABSC ECON** Geyer Springs FBC, LR

February 13, 2025 Concert of Worship Woodland Heights Baptist, Conway

March 13, 2025 **Split Concerts** FBC, Dover & Immanuel BC, Warren

April 22, 2025 Concert of Worship **Ouachita Baptist University** 





Jim Daniel Director



**Jeremy Raines** President



**Greg Childress** 1st Vice President



**Matt Jones** 2nd Vice President



John Cole Ten 1 Host



**keitn Ciutts** Ten 2 Host



**Kevin Taylor Baritone Host** 



Jerry Miller **Bass Host** 



Jacob Ray Chaplain



**Greg Childress** Accompanist



Taylor Keenen Past President



Tim Gunter Inst. Ens. Dir.



**David Tatum** 

2024-2025 Leadership Team



Communications



Lynda Chapman President



Katie Stauber 1st Vice President



**Christina Stanley** 2nd Vice President



**Karla Tarkington** Sop 1 Host



**Diane Rodtnick** Sop 2 Host



**Michelle Smith** Alto 1 Host



Kayleen Ferguson Chaplain



**Peggy Pearson** Accompanist



**Cheri Cloud** Past President



**Sharon Sanders Outfit Coordinator**