

Sons of Lafayette Male Choir

The Sons of Lafayette Male Choir was founded in January 2001 by Loren Pinkerman. Gerald Becham, the choir's accompanist, was instrumental in convincing Mr. Pinkerman to form a community men's chorus in LaGrange. There were about 20 men who gathered at First Presbyterian Church for the very first meeting. Today the choir numbers between 40-50 active male singers from many different walks of life. The youngest member is a sophomore in high school and the oldest is in his 80's.

Much of the success of the Sons of Lafayette may be attributed to the choir's versatility. A wide range of male chorus literature is sung including American & European folksongs, opera choruses, classical, Broadway, barbershop, cowboy songs, sacred, spirituals, and classic Rock & Roll of the 50's and 60's.

Since 2001 the choir has performed in Thomaston, GA; Newnan, GA; Columbus, GA; Greenville, SC; and at Callaway Gardens.

In the fall of 2006 the Sons of Lafayette hosted the Portadown Male Voice Choir from Craigavon, Northern Ireland. There was "standing room only" at the concert. Members of the Sons of Lafayette are eagerly anticipating traveling to Northern Ireland in 2009 where they will be hosted by and sing with the Portadown Male Voice Choir. The Sons of Lafayette will perform several other concerts on their Ireland tour.

March 1, 2008 will see the Auburn University Men's Chorus joining the Sons of Lafayette for a concert at Callaway Auditorium. That will be followed with the annual Spring Concert on Saturday evening, May 17th, also at Callaway Auditorium.

The Sons of Lafayette Male Choir appreciates your support of our concerts. The choir meets its expenses primarily from the sale of tickets. We hope to be able to raise sufficient funds to enable every member to travel with the choir to Ireland in 2009.



Loren L. Pinkerman, Conductor

Loren Pinkerman is the founder and conductor of the Sons of Lafayette Male Choir. He earned a bachelor's degree in music at Westmar College and a master's degree in choral music at Colorado State University. As a graduate student at Colorado State he conducted the CSU Men's Chorus and taught applied voice. He studied choral literature with professor Edward D. Anderson, and applied voice with Dr. Larry Day. He sang the role of Rocco in Beethoven's *Fidelio* and prepared the chorus for Beethoven's 9th Symphony. More recent study has included conducting workshops with Madame Helene Guy, Boris Tevlin, and Rene Claussen.

Mr. Pinkerman is the Director of the LaGrange College Library where he is presently very busy preparing for a new library on campus. Loren also serves as Director of Music at First Presbyterian Church where he plays euphonium in the FPC Brass Quartet.

Growing up on a ranch in Nebraska, Loren credits his high school band director, John Bowen, for steering him to the Midwestern Music & Art Camp at the University of Kansas where he sang in the choir & chamber choir under Clayton Krehbiel. This six week camp was the formative event that caused him to pursue music as a career. He was a visiting instructor of music at Evangel College and he was head of the vocal music departments at West Point High School in West Point, Nebraska, and at Grand Island Senior High School in Grand Island, Nebraska. While at Grand Island Senior High he conducted the Mid-America Choir on two European tours.

Loren is married to the former Patricia Anderson. He and Pat have four children and four grandchildren.

Gerald Becham, Accompanist

Gerald Becham is a native of Thomaston, Georgia. He is a graduate of LaGrange College where he majored in piano performance. Gerald has accompanied the Sons of Lafayette since the very first rehearsal in 2001.

The conductor and the accompanist of the Sons of Lafayette share something other than music in common – they are both librarians. Gerald was formerly the director of the LaGrange Memorial Library. He volunteers at Hills and Dales and he frequently substitutes as organist at the First Presbyterian Church in LaGrange.

It was at the urging of Gerald Becham that Loren Pinkerman organized the Sons of Lafayette Male Choir.

Choir Members

Loren L. Pinkerman, Founder & Conductor

Tenor I

Caleb Atkins
Ed Biggs
Tim Frazier
Jay Giesler
LeGree McCamey
Charles Spradlin
Mike Utley

Tenor II

Marc Acree
Mickey Burdette
Sim Crisler
Steve Earles
Don Eisenbarth
Jerry Garrett
Ray Leverett
J.M. Rawlinson
Harold Tarpley
Sidney Tate
H.J. Thomas

Bass I

Charles Boswell
Bill Bowling
Mike Moncus
Tom Pirkle
Jeff Sargent
Richard Villamor
David Whitley
Dee Woodward
John Yoder

Gerald Becham, Accompanist

Bass II

Alan Barrett
Andrew Barrett
Joe Cooper
John Haigler
Otto Korth
Louis Lester
Mac McGowan
Don McWhorter
Dave Martin
Brandon Mays
George Petruff
Jimmy Pilkington
Jim Short

Inactive this concert

Quillian Baldwin
Ed Barganier
Lawrence Blakely
Steve Butts

Bob Clausing
Genna Grushovenko
Dave Miller
Randy Ogle

James Rimmer
Ed Sellers
Bill Stump
Jeff Todd