

Ben Speer's
STAMPS-BAXTER
School of Music



Second Week in July

Middle Tennessee State University
Murfreesboro, TN (Nashville area)
www.StampsBaxterSchool.com



MISSION STATEMENT

This school is dedicated to the furtherance of Southern Gospel Music, and to raising the standard of musical excellence in our art form. We believe the way to do this is to offer a well-rounded course of study.

We want our students to be able to read it, write it, sing it and perform it. With a comprehensive understanding of music theory, both live and recorded performances will improve.

ADDRESS

Ben Speer's Stamps-Baxter School of Music

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www.StampsBaxterSchool.com



www.StampsBaxterSchool.com/register

ABOUT US

Ben Speer's Stamps-Baxter School of Music is an eight days-long Southern Gospel music school carrying on a 90-year tradition begun by J. R. Baxter Jr. and V.O. Stamps in the mid 1920s. And when we say "tradition," we mean it! We sing Southern Gospel and convention music, and we proudly teach shape notes.

Our school offers:

- Training in music theory
- Free electives in special topics like songwriting, conducting and performance training
- The opportunity to perform in front of the other students and receive feedback from professionals like **Joyce Martin Sanders of The Martins**
- Private lessons in voice, piano, songwriting, and instruments
- Twice-daily group singing
- Free concerts by Southern Gospel artists. Past artists have included **The Martins, The Blackwood Brothers, The Nelons, Ivan Parker, The Perrys,** and **Ernie Haas & Signature Sound.**

Many folks have God-given talent. But turning talent into success requires training, and we have decades of experience providing that training to artists such as **Morgan Easter of Jeff & Sheri Easter, Jason Clarke of The Nelons, John Rulapaugh of The Freedom Quartet,** and **Gene MacDonald of The Florida Boys** and the **Gaither Homecoming Tour**, just to name a few.

***Are you ready to take your career, your ministry, your talent to the next level?
No matter where you're starting from, we can help you get where you want to go.***

TYPICAL DAILY SCHEDULE

7:00 - 8:30	Breakfast/Free Time
8:30 - 9:00	Devotions
9:00 - 10:30	Theory
10:30 - 12:00	Group Singing
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch/Free Time
1:00 - 3:00	Theory
3:00 - 4:30	Elective
4:30 - 6:00	Supper/Free Time
6:00 - 7:30	Group Singing
7:30 - 8:30	Concert
8:30 - 10:00	Open Mic/Free Time

CURRICULUM

The heart of our school has always been the daily group singing, ear-training, sight-reading, and theory classes where students are divided into several different levels according to their individual ability and interest.





SHAPE NOTES

We are proud to teach traditional shape note convention-style music, doing our part to keep this traditional art form alive in the 21st century.

Music written with shape notes uses different symbols for the notes depending on which tone the note is in the scale. *(To the left you can see Freddie Edwards's theory class holding up the symbols for each tone.)*

The purpose of using shape notes is to help make sight-singing quicker to learn, and our students can testify to the fact that it works. Plus, it's very cool to hear an entire verse sung just in shape notes!

GROUP SINGING

During twice-daily group singing you'll join with all your fellow students to practice singing and harmonizing in a larger group. We use convention-style music, a perennial favorite for its unique blend of emotion and rhythm, and for how incredibly fun it is to sing in a group!



ELECTIVES

We offer concentrated single-session workshops that provide students with the opportunity to get in-depth instruction from experts on specialized topics. Each workshop is offered on multiple days, so students usually get the opportunity to take all three during the course of the school.

Our songwriting workshop, which features discussions led by some of Christian Music's most successful songwriters like **Dave Clark** (shown at right), is extremely popular. We also typically offer an instrumentalist's workshop where students can learn the famed "Nashville Number System" from **Jack Clark**, and a conducting workshop for students interested in leading choirs.



PRIVATE LESSONS

We offer private lessons in voice, piano, songwriting, guitar and bass with talented instructors.

CLOSING PROGRAM

A highlight of the school is the Closing Program, which takes place on the final night. Our students perform as a choir, with chances for soloists to be featured singing verses. Students can also audition to perform either individually or as part of a group. We have soloists, quartets, instrumentalists, mixed groups - almost every combination of singing and playing you can imagine. It's a great opportunity to sing together one last time as a student body and show what you've learned to friends and family!



TESTIMONIAL

When I got [to the school], I found out that there were people my age who like the same music I do. It was a new and wonderful experience for me. I learned a lot about music, made good friends, and heard some great singing. It changed my life! To this day I'm thankful to God that He has given me this opportunity to sing, learn more about music, and make new friends. And with God's help I plan to keep going to Stamps and to keep singing.

Anthony Belcher

FACULTY

Our faculty is the best of its kind, able to teach everyone from absolute beginners to full-time professionals. Below, meet just a few of our expert instructors.

Derek Meler *School Conductor, Private Voice Lessons*

Derek is an MTSU vocal music grad with a long history in convention music who has taught at this kind of school in seven different states. Professionally, he has made several appearances with the Nashville Opera. He is now obtaining a Master's in Conducting at Mississippi State University.

Dave Clark *Private Songwriting Lessons*

Dave Clark is a multiple Dove Award-winning songwriter who has had #1 songs in four consecutive decades. He is the author of more than 50 Christmas and Easter musicals and has had songs recorded by Rascal Flatts, Sandi Patty, 4HIM, Glen Campbell, Donny Osmond, CeCe Winans, Michael Crawford, The Martins, and many, many others. He was awarded ASCAP's Living Legacy Award in 2009 in honor of 25 #1 songs on the Christian Music Charts.

Jack Clark *Lecturer, Instrumentalists' Workshop*

Jack Clark is a songwriter, arranger, and quartet pianist who accompanied his first quartet at 12 years old. He's been hooked ever since on Gospel Music, and has spent decades teaching others the basics of the music he loves.

Tracey Phillips: *Theory Teacher, Private Piano Lessons*

Dove Award winner for "Instrumental Album of the Year" who plays convention-style piano with a matchless style. She's played for the

Gaither Homecoming videos, for artists such as **Ernie Haase & Signature Sound**, and has even recorded with the **Prague Philharmonic**.



Derek Meler



Freddie Edwards



Dave Clark



Jack Clark



Tracey Phillips



Sue Duffield

CONCERTS

Students get the chance to hear free concerts performed by talented professionals who support the school's mission. Artists frequently tell us that they love to perform for us, because our students make a great audience since they understand the hard work that goes into the craft.

We've been blessed to host to some of Southern Gospel's greatest artists throughout our history. Past artists have included **The Martins, The LeFevre Quartet, The Nelons, Ernie Haase & Signature Sound, Buddy Greene, The Chuck Wagon Gang, Ivan Parker, Greater Vision, Gordon Mote, The Blackwood Brothers, The Perrys, The Bowlings** and more!



PERFORMANCE TRAINING AND OPEN MIC

Daily **Performance Training** offers the chance to be critiqued by experts such as **Joyce Martin Sanders** of **The Martins**.

Nightly **Open Mic** sessions are a critique-free way to just practice getting up and singing in front of a crowd.



TESTIMONIAL

I came to **Ben Speer's Stamps-Baxter School of Music** with a lifelong dream of doing exactly what I'm doing now. This school gave me the necessary foundation that enabled me to get noticed by the industry professionals and now, 20-plus years later, I still utilize the skills I was taught at this wonderful learning institution every single day. I'm so grateful for my experience with **Ben Speer's Stamps-Baxter School of Music**.

Jason Clark of The Velons

HOUSING

Students have the option to live on campus in a shared dorm room. All students are housed in Monohan Hall in double-occupancy rooms. The cost is just \$195 for all eight nights – that's less than \$25 per night!

If you prefer, you may also find your own lodging off campus at your own expense.



MEALS

The MTSU cafeteria serves three meals a day, and students can pay per meal. MTSU also has two food courts with outlets like Subway, Panda Express, Starbucks, and Bento Sushi. *(Please note, however, that not all food court restaurants may be open during the school.)*

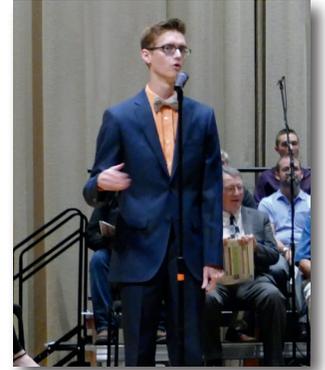


TESTIMONIALS

My experience at **Ben Speer's Stamps-Baxter School of Music** was very rewarding. I learned a great deal of music theory and concept. Voice lessons with **Derek Meler** and piano lessons with **Tracey Phillips** were superb. I learned so much during my time at the school!

One of the greatest things about the school is the Christian fellowship and that everyone has a heart for singing praise to Christ. I would definitely recommend the school to anyone wanting to learn more about singing better.

Jacob Daugherty



I have attended the **Ben Speer's Stamps-Baxter School of Music** for the past few years. The training and music knowledge I have gained through the music theory classes and performance training have really helped advance my music career. The private voice lessons helped me to develop and fine tune my voice, to learn how to sing properly and enhance my range.

Coming to **Ben Speer's Stamps-Baxter School of Music** was one of the best decisions of my life. I look forward every year to attending and learning more.

Cody Green

REGISTRATION AND COSTS

REGISTRATION

Register online. Simply go to:
StampsBaxterSchool.com/register



COSTS

Tuition: \$380 *includes classwork and supplies (notebook, staff paper, pencils, etc.)*

Individual Private Lessons: \$125 for five 25-minute lessons

Group Private Lessons: \$275 for five 55-minute sessions

Housing: \$195 (less than \$25 a night!)
for a shared, double-occupancy dorm room

NEED-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS

We feel strongly about the value of our school, and we don't want money to be the thing that stops anyone from attending. We have been so blessed to have donors who step up year after year to make it possible for students to attend via scholarships. If you'd like to come to the school but have a financial need that would prevent you, we encourage you to apply for one of these scholarships.

Applying is easy – during registration, just check the box indicating you'd like to apply for a need-based scholarship and fill out the requested information. If you've already registered, you can easily go back to your registration by going to StampsBaxterSchool.com/register and click on the **Already Registered?** link.

MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year during our closing program, we award two memorial scholarships to current students to enable them to attend the next year's session.



The **Anthony Burger Scholarship** is awarded each year to the piano student who shows incredible promise and has made great strides of improvement during the school. At left, **Ron Lopez** receives the 2017 award.

The **Brock Speer Scholarship** is awarded to the student who has gone above and beyond the standard level of dedication to learning during the school. At right, **Jacob Daughtery** receives the 2017 award.



REFERRAL PROGRAM

Refer your friends and, if they attend, you'll receive a discount on your fees!

For each first-time student you refer, you'll get a **\$100 credit on your account** - use it for tuition, private lessons, housing – it's your choice!

For complete details, please visit our website at www.StampsBaxterSchool.com/referrals



TESTIMONIAL

Because of this school, I got to be a member of **The Florida Boys** and part of the **Gaither Homecoming Tours**. It all started with a scholarship I received to **Ben Speer's Stamps-Baxter School of Music**.

*Gene McDonald
of the Gaither Homecoming Tour*

Ben Speer's
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**You'll sing better.
You'll play better.
We promise!***

*If, at the end of this school, you don't think you sing better or play better, we'll refund your entire tuition. We promise! Go to our website at StampsBaxterSchool.com and view a seven-minute video of what we offer to help you become better.

Come be with us this summer!

**The school lasts just a few days in July,
but the effect of the school lasts forever.**



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