



Barbara Wesley Baker, internationally noted conductor and educator, conducted the Chamber, Women's, Men's, Concert and Gospel Choirs at Eleanor Roosevelt High School for 30 years before retiring in 2008.. Her choirs won numerous first place trophies and superior ratings at state, national and international festivals. Her Chamber Choir won first place, best choir, and best soloist at the Chicago, Illinois Heritage Music Festival in March 2007. Dr. Baker recently conducted a masterclass on Black Gospel Music for the City of Mondovi, Italy sponsored by the performing group, Cantus Firmus. She also co-guest conducted with Dr. Joseph Flummerfelt, the "Lift Every Voice and Sing, An American Masterpieces Choral Festival" sponsored by the Houston Chamber Choir in Houston, Texas in 2008.. Dr. Baker frequently presents sessions at division and national conventions of the American Choral Directors Association, and the Music Educators National Conference. She will be a choral music headliner for the Texas Music Educators Association's convention in February, 2009. Dr. Baker conducted master classes at the Toronto International Music Festival and the Choral Music Experience/British Choral Institute, Hertfordshire, England for Dr. Doreen Rao. Dr. Baker conducted the 2000 ACDA Eastern Division High School Honor Choir, and her Chamber Choir performed with Dave Brubeck at the 2000 MENC National Convention in Washington, D.C.

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Dr. Baker taught and conducted secondary school students in Limerick and Dublin, Ireland for the Royal Dublin Society. Dr. Baker taught at the Hartt School of Music, McDaniel College (formerly Western Maryland College) and at the Brightleaf Music Workshop at Duke University. From 2001-2003, Dr. Baker co-music directed The Choral Arts Society of Washington's (DC) Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Choral Tribute at the John F. Kennedy Center. Her Women's Choir performed on the 2003 program as a featured choir. For the past 28 years, Dr. Baker has been the director of the Colesville United Methodist Church Gospel Choir.

Dr. Baker earned her Bachelor of Music Degree from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro; the M.A. degree from Teachers College, Columbia University, NY, NY; and the Ph.D. degree from the University of Maryland. While completing her doctorate, she was selected as an American Association of University Women Research Fellow. She has published articles in scholarly journals, including The College Music Society, and contributed material to several textbooks including MENC's "Teacher to Teacher; A Music Educator's Survival Guide(2004) and Music! Its Role and Importance in Our Lives" (1994, 2000, and 2006). She is married and has one son.