

# CLOTHING SUGGESTIONS FOR TIMELESS FAMILY PORTRAITS

## *Begin with a neutral theme*

For a classic look start with solid fabrics. Add a little pattern and splashes of color with the children's outfits and accessories on the adults (scarf, shawl, cardigan, hat, etc).

*Do not mix dark and light* tops and bottoms. Especially in larger groups. Mixing darks and lights creates a busy look. Keeping the entire group in darker tones or all in lighter tones simplifies and draws attention to the faces.

## *To slenderize*

Dark clothing tends to slenderize, especially against darker backdrops. Long sleeves and dark stockings also slenderize and simplify.

## *For a Natural Look*

Sweaters and other long-sleeved knits help you look relaxed. Layered tops add depth and dimension. Jeans are great because they allow us to sit people on the ground. For outdoor portraits, autumn colors, or jewel tones work better than pastels.

## *For a Formal Group*

For a stunning formal portrait, start with a blend of rich, understated colors, not too "matchy". Add a little dark-on dark pattern in accessories. Don't be afraid to spice it up with a color splash, over-the-top fabrics, necklines and jewelry. Darker tones work well to simplify the overall look.

*Try this:* Lay out everyone's clothing together in the room where your portrait will live. Replace outfits and add accessories until you achieve a fresh and exciting look for that room.