



CELEBRATING THE
500TH BIRTHDAY
OF THE RENAISSANCE MASTER



PALESTRINA

FEBRUARY 22-23



presents



PALESTRINA

February 22, 2025 | 7:30 pm
Visitation Catholic Church
Kansas City, MO

February 23, 2025 | 3:00 pm
Grace Episcopal Cathedral
Topeka, KS

While you wait for the concert to begin, or during intermission, please use this QR code to take a short survey so we can better understand who is in the audience today. Thank you for your time!



All are invited to join us for a complimentary reception following each performance as we celebrate Te Deum's seventeenth season.

A Note from the Artistic Director

In 2025, the world celebrates the 500th birthday of Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, one of the most influential composers in the history of Western sacred music. Palestrina's name has become nearly synonymous with Renaissance polyphony, and his music—exquisite in its clarity, balance, and spiritual depth—has shaped the course of choral composition for centuries. To honor his legacy, *Te Deum* has crafted a program that not only showcases his brilliance but also places him within a broader lineage of sacred choral music, from his immediate students to contemporary composers who continue to be shaped by his influence.

At the heart of tonight's concert is *Missa Ut re mi fa sol la*, a remarkable example of Palestrina's compositional craftsmanship. Built upon the six-note Renaissance hexachord (ut-re-mi-fa-sol-la), the mass is an intellectual marvel—both a technical tour de force and a deeply expressive setting of the sacred text. The hexachord, a fundamental teaching tool of the time, provided a structured yet flexible framework for composition. In Palestrina's hands, it becomes more than a mere exercise in counterpoint; it is transformed into soaring, radiant music of devotion and transcendence.

To further explore Palestrina's impact, we turn to the music of his student, Giovanni Francesco Anerio. Anerio, like his teacher, was devoted to sacred composition but lived at a time when musical styles were shifting toward a more dramatic, expressive aesthetic. His *Te Deum* represent a bridge between Palestrina's purity of line and the emerging Baroque style, demonstrating the evolution of choral writing while still reflecting the discipline and clarity instilled by his master.

This concert also centers on Pentecost texts, particularly in Palestrina's *Loquebantur Variis Linguis* and MacMillan's *Factus est Repente*, which recount the moment the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles, granting them the ability to speak in many tongues. The image of divine inspiration flowing through human voices resonates deeply when considering Palestrina's own legacy. His sacred works have, in a way, carried the voice of faith across centuries, passed down through manuscripts, performances, and the ongoing tradition of choral singing.

In addition to honoring Palestrina's direct influence, we also turn to two contemporary composers whose works embody the same reverence for sacred choral writing: James MacMillan and Arvo Pärt. MacMillan, a Scottish composer of deep Catholic faith, infuses his music with the same spiritual intensity that underlies Palestrina's polyphony. His work often combines Renaissance clarity with modern harmonic colors, drawing a direct connection between past and present. Arvo Pärt, renowned for his mystical tintinnabuli style, approaches composition with an almost monastic devotion, creating music of striking simplicity and depth. Both composers share Palestrina's commitment to sacred sound as a vehicle for contemplation, worship, and transcendence.

In celebrating Palestrina's 500th birthday, we are not only performing his music but also exploring his enduring presence in the choral tradition. Through the works of his students, the echoes of his influence in contemporary composers, and the sacred texts that inspired him, we aim to illuminate the rich connections between past and present—between a Renaissance master and the living choral art of today.

— **Dr. Matthew Christopher Shepard**

Palestrina

A 500th Birthday Celebration

Loquebantur Variis Linguis

Palestrina (1525-1594)

Missa Ut Re Mi Fa So La

Palestrina

Factus Est Repente

James MacMillan (b. 1959)

Te Deum

Giovanni Francesco Anerio (1569-1630)

The Deer's Cry

Arvo Pärt (b. 1935)

Loquebantur Variis Linguis
Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525-1594)

<i>Loquebantur variis linguis apostoli magnalia Dei, prout Spiritus Sanctus dabat eloqui illis, alleluia.</i>	They spoke in tongues of many lands, the apostles told of God's great deeds, as the Holy Spirit gave them speech, alleluia.
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<i>Repleti sunt omnes Spiritu Sancto, et coeperunt loqui, prout Spiritus Sanctus dabat eloqui illis, alleluia.</i>	They were filled with the Holy Spirit, and they began to speak, as the Holy Spirit gave them speech, alleluia.
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Missa Ut Re Mi Fa So La

Introit

<i>Adorate Deum, omnes Angeli ejus: audívit, et lætáta est Sion: et exsultavérunt filiaè Judæ.</i>	Adore God, all you His angels: Sion hears and is glad, and the cities of Juda rejoice.
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<i>Dóminus regnávít, exsúltet terra: læténtur ínsulæ multæ. Glória Patri, et Fílio, et Spirítui Sancto. Sicut erat in princípío, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen.</i>	The Lord is King; let the earth rejoice; let the many isles be glad. Glory be to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
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<i>Adorate Deum, omnes Angeli ejus: audívit, et lætáta est Sion: et exsultavérunt filiaè Judæ.</i>	Adore God, all you His angels: Sion hears and is glad, and the cities of Juda rejoice.
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Kyrie

<i>Kyrie eleison.</i>	Lord have mercy.
<i>Christe eleison.</i>	Christ have mercy.
<i>Kyrie eleison.</i>	Lord have mercy.

Gloria

<i>Glória in excélsis Deo. Et in terra pax homínibus bonæ voluntátis. Laudámus te. Benedícimus te. Adorámus te. Glorificámus te. Grátias ágimus tibi propter magnam glóriam tuam.</i>	Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace to men of good will. We praise Thee. We bless Thee. We adore Thee. We glorify Thee. We give Thee thanks for Thy great glory.
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<i>Dómine Deus, Rex cæléstis, Deus Pater omnípotens. Dómine Fili unigénite, Jesu Christe. Dómine Deus, Agnus Dei, Fílius Patris.</i>	O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father almighty. Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son. Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father.
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<p><i>Qui tollis peccáta mundi, miserére nobis.</i></p> <p><i>Qui tollis peccáta mundi, súscipe deprecatióem nostram.</i></p> <p><i>Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserére nobis.</i></p> <p><i>Quóniam tu solus Sanctus. Tu solus Dóminus. Tu solus Altíssimus, Jesu Christe. Cum Sancto Spírítu in glória Dei Patris. Amen.</i></p>	<p>Who takest away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.</p> <p>Who takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.</p> <p>Who sittest at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.</p> <p>For Thou only art holy. Thou only art the Lord. Thou only art most high, O Jesus Christ. Together with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen.</p>
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Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia. | Alleluia, alleluia!

Credo

<p><i>Credo in unum Deum, Patrem omnipoténtem, factórem cæli et terræ, visibílium ómnium et invisibílium.</i></p> <p><i>Et in unum Dóminum Jesum Christum, Fílium Dei unigénitum.</i></p> <p><i>Et ex Patre natum ante ómnia sécula. Deum de Deo, lumen de lúmíne, Deum verum de Deo vero.</i></p> <p><i>Génitum, non factum, consubstantiálem Patri: per quem ómnia facta sunt.</i></p> <p><i>Qui propter nos hómines et propter nostram salútem descéndit de cælis.</i></p> <p><i>Et incarnátus est de Spírítu Sancto ex María Vírgine: Et homo factus est.</i></p> <p><i>Crucifíxus étiam pro nobis: sub Póntio Piláto passus, et sepúlтус est. Et resurréxit tértia die, secúndum Scriptúras. Et ascéndit in cælum: sedet ad dexteram Patris.</i></p> <p><i>Et íterum ventúrus est cum glória judicáre vivos et mórtuos: cujus regni non erit finis.</i></p>	<p>I believe in one God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things, visible and invisible.</p> <p>And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God. And born of the Father, before all ages. God of God: Light of Light: true God of true God.</p> <p>Begotten, not made, one in being with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who, for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven.</p> <p>And became incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary: and was made man.</p> <p>He was crucified also for us, suffered under Pontius Pilate, and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures. And ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of the Father. And He shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, of whose kingdom there shall be no end.</p>
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<i>Et in Spírítum Sanctum, Dóminum et vivificántem: qui ex Patre Filióque procedít. Qui cum Patre et Fílio simul adorátur et conglorificátur: qui locútus est per Prophétas. Et unam sanctam cathólicam et apostólicam Ecclésiám. Confíteor unum baptísma in remissionem peccatórum. Et exspécto resurrectionem mortuórum. Et vitam ventúri sæculi. Amen.</i>	And in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life, proceeding from the Father and the Son. Who with the Father and the Son, is adored and glorified: who spoke by the prophets. And in one, holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the resurrection of the dead. And the life of the world to come. Amen.
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Offertory

<i>Déxtera Dómini fecit virtutem, déxtera Dómini exaltávit me: non móriar, sed vivam, et narrábo ópera Dómini.</i>	The right hand of the Lord has struck with power: the right hand of the Lord has exalted me; I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.
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Sanctus

<i>Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus Dóminus, Deus Sábaoth. Pleni sunt cæli et terra glória tua. Hosánna in excélsis.</i>	Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth! Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory! Ho- sanna in the highest!
<i>Benedíctus, qui venit in nómine Dómini. Hosánna in excélsis.</i>	Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!

Agnus Dei

<i>Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccáta mundi: miserére nobis.</i>	Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
<i>Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccáta mundi: miserére nobis.</i>	Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
<i>Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccáta mundi: dona nobis pacem.</i>	Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Factus Est Repente

James MacMillan (b. 1959)

Factus est repente de coelo sonus,
tamquam advenientis spiritus vehementis
ubi erant sedentes, alleluia;

et repleti sunt omnes Spiritu Sancto,
loquentes magnalia Dei,
alleluia, alleluia.

Suddenly there came a sound from heaven,
as of a mighty wind coming
where they were sitting, alleluia;

and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit,
speaking the wonderful works of God,
alleluia, alleluia.

Te Deum

Giovanni Francesco Anerio (1569-1630)

Te Deum laudamus,
te Dominum confitemur.
Te aeternum patrem,
omnis terra veneratur.

Tibi omnes Angeli
tibi caeli et universae potestates.
Tibi cherubim et seraphim,
incessabili voce proclamant:

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth
Pleni sunt caeli et terra maiestatis gloriae tuae."

Te gloriosus Apostolorum chorus,
Te Prophetarum laudabilis numerus,
Te Martyrum candidatus laudat exercitus.
Te per orbem terrarum
sancta confitetur Ecclesia;
Patrem immensae maiestatis;
Venerandum tuum verum et unicum Filium;
Sanctum quoque Paraclitum Spiritum.

Tu rex gloriae, Christe.
Tu Patris sempiternus es Filius.
Tu, ad liberandum suscepturus hominem,
non horruisti Virginis uterum.
Tu, devicto mortis aculeo,
aperuisti credentibus regna caelorum.
Tu ad dexteram Dei sedes,
in gloria Patris.
Iudex crederis esse venturus.

Te ergo quaesumus, tuis famulis subveni,
quos pretioso sanguine redemisti.
Aeterna fac cum sanctis tuis in gloria numerari.

We praise thee, O God,
we acknowledge thee to be the Lord.
All the earth doth worship thee,
the Father everlasting.

To thee all Angels cry aloud,
the Heavens, and all the Powers therein.
To thee Cherubim and Seraphim:
continually do cry:

Holy, Holy, Holy: Lord God of Sabaoth;
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.

The glorious company of the Apostles praise thee.
The fellowship of the Prophets praise thee.
The noble army of Martyrs praise thee.
The holy Church throughout all the world
doth acknowledge thee;
The Father of an infinite Majesty;
Thine honorable, true, and only Son;
Also the Holy Ghost: the Comforter.

Thou art the King of Glory: O Christ.
Thou art the everlasting Son of the Father.
When thou tookest upon thee to deliver man,
thou didst not abhor the Virgin's womb.
When thou had overcome the sharpness of death,
thou opened the Kingdom of Heaven to all.
Thou sittest at the right hand of God,
in the glory of the Father.
We believe that thou shalt come to be our Judge.

We therefore pray thee, help thy servants,
whom thou redeemed with thy precious blood.
Number them with thy Saints in everlasting glory.

Salvum fac populum tuum, Domine, et benedic hereditati tuae. Et rege eos, et extolle illos usque in aeternum. Per singulos dies benedicimus te, et laudamus nomen tuum in saeculum, et in saeculum saeculi.	O Lord, save thy people, and bless thine heritage. Govern them, and lift them up for ever. Day by day we magnify thee; and we worship thy Name, ever world without end.
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Dignare, Domine, die isto sine peccato nos custodire. Miserere nostri, Domine, miserere nostri. Fiat misericordia tua, Domine, super nos, quemadmodum speravimus in te. In te, Domine, speravi; non confundar in aeternum.	Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin. O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us. O Lord, let thy mercy lighten upon us, as our trust is in thee. O Lord, in thee have I trusted; let me never be confounded.
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The Deer's Cry
Arvo Pärt (b. 1935)

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down,
Christ in me, Christ when I arise,
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of every man who speaks of me,
Christ in the eye that sees me,
Christ in the ear that hears me,
Christ with me.

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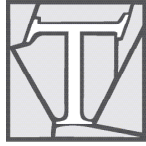
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Dr. Matthew Christopher Shepard has forged a unique and dynamic career that spans concert halls, academic institutions, and faith communities. As a professional conductor of both orchestras and choirs, he has become a sought-after musical leader, known for his intellectual curiosity, fearless programming, and magnetic leadership. His career also includes guest conducting and lecturing in musicology and church music in both collegiate and secondary school settings, as well as leading worship services in Christian and Jewish communities.

Dr. Shepard is the founder and conductor of Te Deum, recognized as one of the premier choral ensembles in the Midwest. He is a passionate advocate for new choral music, having premiered dozens of pieces by both emerging and established composers. His expertise in early music has garnered national attention, and his work has been featured twice in *Early Music America*. He frequently presents lectures on historical chant performance, music history, and Renaissance performance practice. With Te Deum, he has delivered period performances of monumental Baroque works, including Buxtehude's *Membra Jesu Nostri*, J.S. Bach's *St. John Passion*, and Bach's *B-Minor Mass*.

As an orchestral conductor, Dr. Shepard recently served as the Interim Director of Orchestras at Illinois State University and has led notable ensembles such as The Philharmonia of Greater Kansas City, the Kansas City Civic Orchestra, and the Kansas City Baroque. He has previously served as orchestra director at Benedictine College and conductor of the University of Illinois Philharmonia Orchestra.

Dr. Shepard's musical journey began in woodwinds and voice. He holds an undergraduate degree from William Jewell College, two master's degrees in both choral and orchestral conducting from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance, and a doctorate from the University of Illinois, where he held teaching assistantships for both choral and orchestral ensembles. His additional conducting studies include fellowships at the Conductors Institute at Bard College Conservatory under Maestro Leon Botstein and the Oregon Bach Festival Composers Institute.



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