



Te  
Deum



BACH ARIA SOLOISTS



**Salve  
Mundi  
Salutare**

**February 17, 2024**

**Please use this QR code to take a six-question survey so we can better understand who is in the audience today. Your feedback on tonight's concert is invaluable.**



**Thank you for your time!**



TeDeum

present



# Salve Mundi Salutare

**February 17, 2024 | 7:30 pm**

Village Presbyterian Church

Prairie Village, KS

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

# program

## ***Festival Te Deum***

Benjamin Britten (1913–1976)

**Te Deum** • **Elisa Williams Bickers**, *organ* • **Clare Bryan**, *soprano*

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 Cherubin and Seraphin continually do cry:  
Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth.  
Heaven and earth are full of the Majesty of thy glory.  
The glorious company of the Apostles,  
the goodly fellowship of the Prophets,  
the noble army of Martyrs praise thee;  
the holy Church throughout all the world  
doth acknowledge thee the Father of infinite Majesty,  
venerating thine honourable, 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 hadst overcome the sharpness of death,  
thou didst open the Kingdom of Heaven to all believers.  
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 hast redeemed with thy precious blood.  
Make them to be numbered with thy Saints in glory everlasting.

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 forever, world without end.  
Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.  
Have mercy upon us, O Lord, 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.

Selections from

**Meine Herze swimmt in blut, BWV 199**

J.S. Bach (1685–1750)

Bach Aria Soloists

**4. Aria: Tief gebückt und voller Reue**

*Tief gebückt und voller Reue  
Lieg ich, liebster Gott, vor dir.  
Ich bekenne meine Schuld,  
Aber habe doch Geduld,  
Habe doch Geduld mit mir!*

Deeply bowed and full of remorse  
I lie, dearest God, before you.  
I acknowledge my guilt,  
but still have patience,  
still have patience with me!

**5. Recitativo: Auf diese Schmerzensreu**

*Auf diese Schmerzensreu  
Fällt mir alsdenn dies Trostwort bei:*

Amidst these pains of remorse  
this word of comfort comes to me.

**6. Chorale: Ich, dein betrübtes Kind**

*Ich, dein betrübtes Kind,  
Werf alle meine Sünd,  
So viel ihr in mir stecken  
Und mich so heftig schrecken,  
In deine tiefen Wunden,  
Da ich stets Heil gefunden.*

I, your troubled child  
cast all my sins,  
that are fixed so many within me  
and frighten me so fiercely,  
into your deep wounds  
where I have always found salvation.

**7. Recitativo: Ich lege mich in diese Wunden**

*Ich lege mich in diese Wunden  
Als in den rechten Felsenstein;  
Die sollen meine Ruhstatt sein.  
In diese will ich  
mich im Glauben schwingen  
Und drauf vergnügt und fröhlich singen:*

I lay myself in these wounds  
as upon the true solid rock:  
they should be my place of rest.  
In these I want  
to soar in faith  
and content and happy to sing:

**8. Aria: Wie freudig ist mein Herz**

*Wie freudig ist mein Herz,  
Da Gott versöhnet ist  
Und mir auf Reu und Leid  
Nicht mehr die Seligkeit  
Noch auch sein Herz verschließt.*

How joyful is my heart  
since God is reconciled  
and through my remorse and sorrow  
no longer from salvation  
or from his heart shuts me away.

We will take a brief pause before continuing with *Membra Jesu Nostri*.

**Bach Aria Soloists and Te Deum**

with soloists **Sarah Tannehill Anderson**, *soprano I* • **Sarah Powers**, *soprano II*  
**Zachary Cope**, *alto* • **Lawrence Abernathy**, *tenor* • **Josh Markely**, *bass*

**I. *Ad pedes* (To the Feet)**

**1. Sonata**

**2. Concerto**

*Ecce super montes  
pedes evangelizantis  
et annunciantis pacem.*

Behold, upon the mountains  
the feet of one bringing good news  
and proclaiming peace.

**3. Aria**

*Salve mundi salutare,  
salve Jesu care!  
Cruci tuae me aptare  
vellem vere, tu scis quare,  
da mihi tui copiam.*

Hail, salvation of the world,  
Hail, hail, dear Jesus!  
On Your cross would I hang;  
Truly, You know why.  
Give me Your strength.

**4. Aria**

*Clavos pedum, plagas duras,  
et tam graves impressuras  
circumplector cum affectu,  
tuo pavens in aspectu,  
tuorum memor vulnerum.*

The nails in Your feet, the hard blows  
and so grievous marks  
I embrace with love,  
Fearful at the sight of You,  
Mindful of Your wounds.

**5. Aria**

*Dulcis Jesu, pie Deus,  
Ad te clamo licet reus,  
praebe mihi te benignum,  
ne repellas me indignum  
de tuis sanctis pedibus.*

Sweet Jesus, merciful God,  
I cry to You, in my guilt;  
Show me Your grace,  
Turn me not unworthy away  
From Your sacred feet.

**6. Concerto (*da capo*\*: *Ecce super montes*)**

**7. Concerto**

*Salve mundi salutare,  
salve Jesu care!  
Cruci tuae me aptare  
vellem vere, tu scis quare,  
da mihi tui copiam.*

Hail, salvation of the world,  
Hail, hail, dear Jesus!  
On Your cross would I hang;  
Truly, You know why.  
Give me Your strength.

\**da capo*: Italian, "to the top;" a direction for performers to return to the beginning of the current piece or movement. Here, Buxtehude indicates a repeat of the concerto, *Ecce super montes*.

## II. *Ad genua* (To the Knees)

### 1. Sonata

### 2. Concerto

*Ad ubera portabimini,  
et super genua blandientur vobis.*

You will be brought to nurse  
and dandled on the knees.

### 3. Aria

*Salve Jesu, rex sanctorum,  
spes votiva peccatorum,  
crucis ligno tanquam reus,  
pendens homo verus Deus,  
caducis nutans genibus.*

Hail Jesus, King of Saints  
Hope of sinners' prayers,  
like an offender on the wood of the cross,  
a man hanging, true God,  
Bending on failing knees!

### 4. Aria

*Quid sum tibi responsurus,  
actu vilis corde durus?  
Quid rependam amatori,  
qui elegit pro me mori,  
ne dupla morte morerer?*

What answer shall I give You,  
Vile as I am in deed, hard in my heart?  
How shall I repay Your love,  
Who chose to die for me,  
Unless I die a second death?

### 5. Aria

*Ut te quaeram mente pura,  
sit haec mea prima cura,  
non est labor et gravabor,  
sed sanabor et mundabor,  
cum te complexus fuero.*

That I may seek You with pure heart,  
Be my first care;  
It is no labour, nor shall I be loaded down:  
But I shall be cleansed,  
When I embrace You.

### 6. Concerto (*da capo: Ad ubera portabimini*)

## III. *Ad manus* (To the Hands)

### 1. Sonata

### 2. Concerto

*Quid sunt plagae istae  
in medio manuum tuarum?*

What are those wounds  
in the midst of Your hands?

### 3. Aria

*Salve Jesu, pastor bone,  
fatigatus in agone,  
qui per lignum es distractus  
et ad lignum es compactus  
expansis sanctis manibus.*

Hail, Jesus, good shepherd,  
wearied in agony,  
tormented on the cross,  
nailed to the cross,  
Your sacred hands stretched out.

#### 4. Aria

*Manus sanctae, vos amplector,  
et gemendo condelector,  
grates ago plagis tantis,  
clavis duris guttis sanctis  
dans lacrymas cum osculis.*

Holy hands, I embrace you,  
and, lamenting, I delight in you,  
I give thanks for the terrible wounds,  
the hard nails, the holy drops,  
shedding tears with kisses.

#### 5. Aria

*In cruore tuo lotum  
me commendo tibi totum,  
tuae sanctae manus istae  
me defendant, Jesu Christe,  
extremis in periculis.*

Washed in Your blood  
I wholly entrust myself to You;  
may these holy hands of Yours  
defend me, Jesus Christ,  
in the final dangers.

#### 6. Concerto (*da capo: Quid sunt plagae istae*)

### IV. *Ad latus* (To the Sides)

#### 1. Sonata

#### 2. Concerto

*Surge, amica mea,  
speciosa mea, et veni,  
columba mea in foraminibus petrae,  
in caverna maceriae.*

Arise, my love,  
my beautiful one, and come,  
my dove in the clefts of the rock,  
in the hollow of the cliff.

#### 3. Aria

*Salve latus salvatoris,  
in quo latet mel dulcoris,*

*in quo patet vis amoris,  
ex quo scatet fons cruoris,  
qui corda lavat sordida.*

Hail, side of the Saviour,  
in which the honey of sweetness  
is hidden,  
in which the power of love is exposed,  
from which gushes the spring of blood  
that cleans the soiled hearts.

#### 4. Aria

*Ecce tibi appropinquo,  
parce, Jesu, si delinquo,  
verecunda quidem fronte,  
ad te tamen veni sponte  
scrutari tua vulnera.*

Lo, I approach You,  
Pardon, Jesus, if I sin,  
With reverent countenance  
freely I come to You  
to behold Your wounds.



## 5. Aria

*Hora mortis meus flatus  
intret Jesu, tuum latus,  
hinc expirans in te vadat,  
ne hunc leo trux invadat,  
sed apud te permaneat.*

In the hour of death, may my soul  
Enter, Jesus, Your side  
Hence dying may it go into You,  
Lest the cruel lion seize it,  
But let it dwell with You.

## 6. Concerto (*da capo: Surge amica mea*)

# VII. Ad faciem (To the Face)

## 1. Sonata

## 2. Concerto

*Illustra faciem tuam super servum tuum,  
salvum me fac in misericordia tua.*

Let Your face shine upon Your servant;  
save me in Your mercy.

## 3. Aria

*Salve, caput cruentatum,  
totum spinis coronatum,  
conquassatum, vulneratum,  
arundine verberatum,  
facie sputis illita.*

Hail, bloodied head,  
all crowned with thorns,  
beaten, wounded,  
struck with a cane,  
the face soiled with spittle.

## 4. Aria

*Dum me mori est necesse,  
noli mihi tunc deesse,  
in tremenda mortis hora  
veni, Jesu, absque mora,  
tuere me et libera.*

When I must die,  
do not then be away from me,  
in the anxious hour of death  
come, Jesus, without delay,  
protect me and set me free!

## 5. Aria

*Cum me jubes emigrare,  
Jesu care, tunc appare,  
o amator amplexende,  
temet ipsum tunc ostende  
in cruce salutifera.*

When You command me to depart,  
dear Jesus, then appear,  
O lover to be embraced,  
then show Yourself  
on the cross that brings salvation.

## 6. Concerto: Amen



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## BACH ARIA SOLOISTS

Hailed for producing “the most surprising and brilliantly innovative collaborations in Kansas City,” Bach Aria Soloists curates and delivers their critically-acclaimed concert series presenting the genius and relevance of Johann Sebastian Bach, his contemporaries, and those he inspired to today for our community, through exhilarating, multi-genre collaborations and BAS’ BachReach education in the schools and for seniors. The ensemble’s repertoire is adventurous and broad, including chamber music from Renaissance to Contemporary, vocal arias, Tango and new living composer commissions. Their signature arrangements can be heard in every concert bringing ancient and modern music to new life.

In 2022 and 2016, Bach Aria Soloists was awarded the USArtists International grant from the Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts and the Mellon Foundation. They were selected as a Finalist in the U.S. State Department’s Cultural and Educational 2022 American Music Abroad program and named The Arts Organization of 2020 by the Missouri Arts Council.

Bach Aria Soloists’ new recording *Le Dolce Sirene* has received five-star, glowing reviews from national and international media:

“Five Stars: A brilliant and captivating recording.” —Ken Meltzer

“a magical tour de force” —*Gramophone*

“The recording is excellent...refreshing as spring water and performed and recorded to the highest standards, this disc goes straight to my Want List shortlist.” —Colin Clarke, *Fanfare Magazine*

Bach Aria Soloists have been invited to perform with trumpeter Rodney Marsalis at the Cayman Arts Festival in 2024. BAS was invited as Artist-in-Residence at the 2022 Thailand International Composition Festival. They presented the world premiere of Narong Prangcharoen’s *Reticence* for Soprano, Violin, Cello and Harpsichord composed for BAS Founder Elizabeth Suh Lane; led a master class with composition students, and performed two concerts of diverse repertoire from Bach to Prangcharoen.

Collaboration is integral to Bach Aria Soloists’ mission. Artistic partners have included internationally renowned musicians, dancers, scholars, actors, artists, including Dr. Christoph Wolff; trumpeter Rodney Marsalis; Grammy®-winning bandonéonist Héctor Del Curto and pianist Gustavo Casenave; Bobby Watson; the Grammy®-winning Kansas City Chorale; Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts; Heart of America Shakespeare Festival; contemporary dance ensembles Wylliams/Henry Contemporary Dance, Elizabeth Koeppen of Parsons Dance, the Owen/Cox Dance Group, and many more!

BachReach is BAS’ innovative education program that has served tens of thousands of students presenting interactive music and multi-disciplinary showcases for urban and suburban schools; Artistic Director Elizabeth Suh Lane conducts Orchestral/Chamber music clinics and masterclasses for the top high school programs in the region. BachReach is *free* to our school partners and senior centers, thanks to our benevolent BachReach sponsors. Contact us below if your students would like to experience BachReach at your school or senior center.

## **Elizabeth Suh Lane** Founder · Artistic Director · Violin

Elizabeth Suh Lane has been described as a “phenomenal musician” by the violin pedagogue Max Rostal; and “among the finest chamber musicians in America today” by Michael Tilson Thomas. She has performed across the globe as a chamber and orchestral musician in the world’s great concert halls: Carnegie, Suntory, Salzburg Festspielhaus, Berlin’s Philharmonie, Theatre des Champs Elysée, Helzberg Hall. She was a first violinist with the London Symphony Orchestra under music directors Sir Colin Davis, Michael Tilson Thomas, Mstislav Rostropovich and many others. She toured the world with the Chamber Orchestra of Europe under Claudio Abbado, Nikolaus Harnoncourt, Gidon Kremer; and with the Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields under Sir Neville Marriner. She has performed with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and has been invited to numerous international festivals: Tanglewood; Britten-Pears in England; Germany’s Schleswig-Holstein; Japan’s Pacific Music; and Carmel Bach Festival. She has served on the faculties of the Snowpond Chamber Music Seminar in Maine and the Brian Lewis Young Artists’ Program instructing advanced violin students.

Elizabeth is Founder-Executive-Artistic Director and Violinist of the critically acclaimed Bach Aria Soloists, in Concert Season 24. Her leadership has brought world-class collaborations to Kansas City to partner with BAS, including: the world’s preeminent scholar of Bach Dr. Christoph Wolff; Associate Director of Parsons Dance Elizabeth Koeppen; Guggenheim Award-winning composer Narong Prangcharoen. BAS gave the world premiere of his most recent work, *Reticence* for Soprano, Violin, Cello and Harpsichord in Thailand in 2022 which he composed for Bach Aria Soloists.

Collaboration is integral to Elizabeth’s artistic direction of Bach Aria Soloists. Her extensive chamber music career has been blessed working with her BAS colleagues and musicians Matt Haimovitz, Andy Simionescu; Nokuthula Ngwenyama; Anna Lim; the Satterlee Piano Trio with Robert Satterlee. Elizabeth toured South America as first violinist of the Barbican String Quartet and she was selected to perform in the orchestra at Leonard Bernstein’s Memorial Concert at St. John the Divine.

Elizabeth was a member of the London Symphony Orchestra Education team training teachers and students in schools across Great Britain. She conducts Strings Clinics for thousands of students throughout the metropolitan region via Bach Aria Soloists’ BachReach offering free, innovative, interactive education to schools. Elizabeth was a Teaching Assistant at the Yale School of Music for Baroque violinist Jaap Schröder and continues her love of teaching today, mentoring a studio of young violinists who have received scholarships to major universities across the country. Elizabeth was the recipient of the 2023 Outstanding Music Educator Award and the Asian American Chamber of Commerce honored her with the Professional Leader of the Year Award for her success and significant contribution to music and education in the community. She received her Masters of Music from the Yale School of Music as a Phi Kappa Phi Scholar and Broadus Erle Memorial Scholar and was a Chancellor’s Scholar at UMKC.

## **Sarah Tannehill Anderson** Soprano

Sarah Tannehill Anderson is an extremely versatile musician who excels at opera, oratorio, choral music, contemporary works, and art song. In addition to being soprano of Bach Aria Soloists, she has performed with the Opera Company of Philadelphia, Boston Lyric, Opera Omaha, Fort Worth Opera, and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

In Kansas City, Sarah is a member of the Lyric Arts Trio and former soprano of the Kansas City Chorale with whom she recorded five albums. Sarah has won two Grammy® Awards for

her work with the Kansas City Chorale. She is a featured soloist on the Chorale's recording, *Life & Breath – Choral Works by René Clausen*, which won the Grammy® Award in 2013 for Best Choral Performance. In 2016, *Rachmaninoff: All-Night Vigil* won the Grammy® for Best Choral Performance. Sarah and husband Sam Anderson sing with the Saint Tikhon Choir on their 2022 Grammy®-nominated recording of Benedict Sheehan's *Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom*.

Sarah has performed as soloist with many other regional ensembles including the Kansas City Symphony, the Kansas City Chamber Orchestra, the New Ear Ensemble, the Kansas City Ballet and the Heartland Men's Chorus.

She is the founder of Raise Your Voice, a digital hub for vocal training, and resides in the Union Hill neighborhood with her husband, baritone and music educator Sam Anderson.

## **Elisa Williams Bickers** Harpsichord · Organ · Piano

Dr. Elisa Williams Bickers, FAGO, is the harpsichordist, organist, and pianist for the Bach Aria Soloists. She is the Associate Director of Music and Principal Organist at Village Presbyterian Church in Prairie Village, Kansas. She performs regularly in recital as a solo organist, harpsichordist, and accompanist, including with the Kansas City Symphony, Te Deum Chamber Choir and the Grammy-winning Kansas City Chorale. She has served on the faculties of the UMKC Conservatory and Washburn University as instructor of organ.

A native of Clinton, Maryland, Dr. Bickers began her organ studies with the Potomac Organ Institute. She has degrees in church music and organ performance from Texas Christian University and the University of Kansas. Her teachers have included Dale Krider, Joseph Butler and Michael Bauer. She was awarded the 2009 Carlin Award for excellence in teaching, the highest honor possible for graduate students at KU. She has competed and won prizes in the William Hall Competition, NYACOP and the International Buxtehude Competition. Most recently, she was awarded the Fellow certificate of the American Guild of Organists, the Guild's most prestigious certification. Dr. Bickers guided the installation of Richards, Fowkes & Co. (Opus 22) pipe organ at Village, which is a landmark instrument in this city. She was also the chair for New Music for the 2018 American Guild of Organists National Convention.

## **Hannah Collins** Cello

Cellist Hannah Collins is a dynamic performer who uses diverse forms of musical expression and artistic collaboration to build community. Winner of the Presser Music Award and De Linkprijs for contemporary interpretation, she takes an active role in expanding the repertoire for the cello by commissioning new works and co-creating interdisciplinary projects— most recently working with visual artist Antonia Contro and violinist Clara Lyon on *Correspondence*, a multimedia installation exhibited at the Carrie Secrist Gallery in Chicago. *Resonance Lines*, her solo debut album on the Sono Luminus label, is an "adventurous, impressive collection of contemporary solo cello music," negotiated "with panache" (*The Strad*), pairing music by Benjamin Britten and Kaija Saariaho with commissioned works by Caroline Shaw and Thomas Kotcheff.

Over the past decade, New Morse Code, her "remarkably inventive and resourceful duo" (*Gramophone*) with percussionist Michael Compitello, has developed projects responding to our society's most pressing issues, including *The Emigrants*, a documentary chamber work by George Lam, *dwb (driving while black)*, a chamber opera by Roberta Gumbel and Susan Kander, and *The Language of Landscapes*, a multimedia work by Christopher Stark addressing the urgency of the climate crisis. They were named the winners of the 2020 Ariel

Avant Impact Performance Prize which supports the development of new works addressing sustainability and scientific innovation.

Solo and chamber music performances have taken Hannah to festivals such as Orford Centre d'arts, Kneisel Hall, Aldeburgh Festival, and Musique de Chambre à Giverny. She is a member of the Bach Aria Soloists, Cantata Profana, Grossman Ensemble, and A Far Cry. Praised for her "incisive, vibrant continuo" playing (*S. Florida Classical Review*), Hannah also appears regularly as a Baroque cellist with the Sebastians, Quodlibet Ensemble, and Trinity Baroque Orchestra.

Hannah earned a B.S. in biomedical engineering from Yale College and holds degrees in music from the Yale School of Music, the Royal Conservatory of The Hague, and City University of New York. She is an alumna of Ensemble Connect, a fellowship program of Carnegie Hall, The Juilliard School, and Weill Music Institute, and is currently Associate Professor of Cello at KU. [www.hannahcollinscello.com](http://www.hannahcollinscello.com)

## **Can Balcik-Moretti** Turkish-Uruguayan violinist

Can Balcik-Moretti is an avid solo, chamber, and orchestral musician as well as a passionate teacher. He currently serves as violin and viola faculty at William Jewell College and Teaching Artist and String Quartet Coach at Harmony Project KC.

During his early education, he served as principal second of the Dogus Cocuk Symphony and the Turkish National Youth Philharmonic Orchestra, touring all over Turkey and numerous countries in Europe. He was also actively involved in the chamber music residency program, through which he worked with leading quartets such as Brentano, the JACK, Ying, Lark, and many others. He served as the first violinist of the Terra Quartet, performing a wide range of works spanning from Baroque to new music. Together with its members, Can performed throughout the Midwest and premiered multiple compositions at the New Music Festival in Michigan. He has performed orchestral and chamber works in venues such as Beethovenfest in Bonn, Bozar in Brussels, Hagia Irene in Istanbul, and Enescu Festival in Bucharest. As a solo performer, Can has made live appearances in Turkish, Belgian, and Kansas City Radios, performing solo Bach and Turkish compositions.

Can completed his undergraduate studies at Dokuz Eylul University Conservatory under Jerrold Rubenstein and Joshua Epstein. He then moved to the U.S. to pursue a Master's Degree in violin performance at the University of Iowa, where he was awarded the Henry and Parker Pelzer Fellowship Award and served as concertmaster for the University Symphony. Can is currently working on his Doctoral Degree at UMKC, under the tutelage of Prof. Joseph Genualdi. During his time there, he performed for world class musicians such as Michael Stern and Ralph Evans, and had the opportunity to work with composer Aaron J. Kernis. He was also awarded the Concertmaster Assistantship for three years, serving as the concertmaster of the UMKC Symphony, Chamber, and Opera Orchestras.

In addition to his active performing and teaching career, Can has been working on many passion projects. In recent years, he has been experimenting with the performance practices of the Baroque Era and performed J. S. Bach's *Solo Sonatas and Partitas* in numerous events with a Baroque violin and bow. Can is currently in the process of recording new compositions by Chinese-American contemporary composers. He is also writing a method book of violin exercises which he has been testing among his teaching studio of more than thirty students.

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 Lydia Butler and Art Kent  
 Paul Hatton  
 Jennifer Owen and Brad Cox  
 Kathy Peters  
 Leanne DeShong



TeDeum

the  
**2023**  
**2024**  
season

## Soprano

Clare Bryan  
Lucy Conklin  
Paige Flenniken  
Abby Helt  
Lindsey Lauterwasser  
Sarah Powers

## Alto

Zachary Cope  
Connor Davis  
Rupal Gupta  
Cassandra Leon  
Julia Kasten Sharp

## Tenor

Lawrence Abernathy  
Tom Assel  
Matthew Bobela  
Tim Gorski  
Raphael Rodriguez

## Bass

Jeff Jasperson  
Josh Markley  
Benny Martinson  
John Ross  
Ben Wheeler

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EXECUTIVE AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Shannon Solis  
OPERATIONS MANAGER

Roslinde Rivera  
AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST

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### Te Deum is planning for the future!

Are you interested in getting involved in the growth of Te Deum? Contact Operations Manager Shannon Solis at [shannon@te-deum.org](mailto:shannon@te-deum.org) for more information.

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## Te Deum Inc.

3501 Campbell St., Kansas City, MO 64109  
[www.te-deum.org](http://www.te-deum.org)



## Artistic Director

**Matthew Christopher Shepard's** unique career path has led him to concert halls conducting both professional orchestras and choirs, to collegiate and secondary school classrooms to guest conduct and lecture in musicology and church music, and to communities of faith to lead both Christian and Jewish worship services. His intellectual curiosity, fearless programming, and magnetic leadership have made him one of the most sought-after conductors in the region.

Mr. Shepard is founder and conductor of Te Deum, which has established itself as one of the premier choral ensembles in the midwest. He is frequently engaged as a conducting clinician, most recently with the American Choral Directors Association Kansas State Convention Honor Choir in 2021. With his growing reputation in the Early Music field, Mr. Shepard's work and contributions to the field have twice been featured in the publication *Early Music America*, and has presented lectures on historical chant performance, music history and performance practice. With Te Deum he has given period performances of great pillars of baroque music including Buxtehude's *Membra Jesu Nostri*, J.S. Bach's *St. John Passion*, and Bach's *B-Minor Mass*.

As an orchestral conductor, Mr. Shepard has conducted several ensembles in the area, including The Philharmonia of Greater Kansas City, the Kansas City Civic Orchestra, and the Kansas City Baroque. He has also served as orchestra director at Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas. In the summer of 2018 he was invited to conduct the closing orchestral concert of the American Guild of Organists National Convention in Helzberg Hall at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts.

Beginning his musical studies in woodwinds and voice, Mr. Shepard holds an undergraduate degree from William Jewell College, two master's degrees, studying both choral and orchestral conducting at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance, and is pursuing Doctoral studies at the University of Illinois where he concurrently holds a teaching assistantship. Mr. Shepard has had additional conducting study as a fellow at the Conductors Institute at Bard College Conservatory under Maestro Leon Botstein and at the Oregon Bach Festival Composers Institute.

## Singers

**Lawrence Abernathy** is a choral artist based in Lawrence, Kansas, where he is in demand as a conductor, clinician and tenor. He is currently the Director of Choirs at Washburn University where he leads the Washburn University Chorale and VoxAura, and teaches courses in conducting, rehearsal techniques, music appreciation and diction. Lawrence enjoys an active schedule as a tenor and has performed as a soloist and ensemble member with leading organizations such as Spire Chamber Ensemble, the Bloomington Bach Cantata Project, Bloomington Early Music Festival, Ars Longa Ensemble, and The Cecilia Ensemble. Lawrence is a candidate for the Doctor of Music in Choral Conducting at Indiana University, was the winner of the 2023 Dale Warland Prize in Choral Conducting presented by The American Prize, and holds a Masters of Music in Choral Conducting from the University of South Carolina.

**Tom Assel** studied vocal technique with Dr. Stephen Weber at Amarillo College, Texas. Tom earned a Bachelor of Science in electrical and computer engineering and a master's degree in electrical engineering from the School of Computing and Engineering at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. While there, he sang in the Conservatory Concert Choir under the direction of Dr. Charles Robinson, and University Singers under the direction of Dr. Ryan Board. He and his wife Julie own and operate Assel Grant Services, a grant consulting firm specializing in grant research and proposal writing in a variety of fields. Tom has been singing with Te Deum since fall 2010.

**Matthew Bobela** is honored to join Te Deum for its 2023-2024 season! Matthew is the Director of Sacred Music and Liturgy and the Elementary Music and Spanish Teacher at St. Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Church and School in Kansas City, Missouri. A St. Joseph, Missouri native, he is currently pursuing a Master of Music Education from Missouri State University. Matthew holds a Bachelor of Music Education with a Vocal Concentration from Missouri Western State University where he graduated *summa cum laude* and served as commencement speaker in May 2022. Matthew greatly enjoys sharing music throughout the Midwest in his parish ministry and in an active sacred and secular performance schedule. In addition to his involvement in vocal and choral music, Matthew serves as the Vice President of the St. Joseph Symphony Board of Directors where he is an active member of their Education and Strategic Planning committees.

**Clare Bryan** is a soprano and music educator currently teaching in Auburn, Kansas at the elementary level. She received her Bachelor's degree in music education from Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas, where she studied voice with Dr. Ann Marie Snook, and is currently pursuing her master's in music education at the University of Kansas. She has taught music at elementary, middle, and high school levels, as well as Latin. An avid choral singer, Clare has sung with Topeka Festival Singers, the Oratorio Society (Syracuse, New York), and Schola Cantorum of Syracuse. In her free time, Clare enjoys spending time with family and friends, reading, walks, and planning musical projects with friends.

**Lucy Conklin** is pleased to once again be singing with Te Deum this season! She holds a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from the University of Kansas. As a lifelong chorister, Lucy participated in numerous choral ensembles at KU, including Chamber Singers under the direction of Dr. Paul Tucker. Additionally, Lucy sings with KC VITAs Chamber Choir and is a founding member of Ignea Strata, an all-female vocal quartet specializing in genres spanning from medieval to modern. Lucy enjoys bringing sparkle to the lives of KC residents as sales manager at Toner Jewelers in Leawood. She lives in Brookside with her husband, Dave Kaleba, and two wonderful (if a little tubby) cats.

**Zachary Cope** is overjoyed to join Te Deum for the 2023-24 season. Zachary is a countertenor from Topeka, KS. He currently serves as the Associate Choirmaster at Grace Episcopal Cathedral in Topeka, where he leads the Chorister program and assists with the Cathedral Choir as a director and singer. He is a recent graduate of the University of Kansas, under the tutelage of Dr. Genaro Méndez, with a master's degree in vocal performance. At KU, Zachary performed as Oberon (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*) and Tolomeo (*Giulio Cesare*). Zachary is also an avid violinist and served as concertmaster of the symphony and as a violinist in the honors string quartet during his undergraduate studies. Outside of singing, Zachary enjoys late-night horror movie binges, craft beer, all things Lana Del Rey, and a good ol' Kansas thunderstorm.

**Connor Davis** is excited to join Te Deum for her first season. She received her bachelor's degree in vocal music education from Missouri State University in the fall of 2021. During her time at Missouri State, she was a member of numerous choral ensembles, featured on three commercially released choral albums, and was selected to sing in the 2020 World Youth Choir. She will begin teaching at Discovery Middle School in Liberty, Missouri, this year, and was previously the choir director at Carl B. Bruce Middle School in Kansas City, Kansas. Outside of teaching middle school, Connor also teaches piano. She enjoys cooking, hiking, spending time with family/friends, and long walks with her fiancé, Ethan, and dog, Freya.

**Paige Flenniken** is thrilled to start her second season with Te Deum! She received her Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance at Oklahoma State University where she performed the roles of Susanna (*Le Nozze di Figaro*), Gilda (*Rigoletto*), Susannah (*Il Segretto di Susannah*), Nella (*Gianni Schicchi*), Isabelle/Madeline (*Face on the Barroom Floor*) and Aldonza (*Man of La Mancha*). Paige enjoys the competition circuit and has won multiple awards from the National Association of Teachers of Singing. She is active in the choral world as a soprano soloist for *Messiah* at OSU for 3 concurrent years, soprano soloist for Haydn's *Lord Nelson's Mass*, performed twice at Carnegie Hall with the OSU University Singers and soprano soloist for Bach's *Mass in B Minor* with the Midland-Odesa Symphonic Chorale. She moved recently from Texas with her husband, Joe, and is excited to be involved in the thriving KC music scene.

**Tim Gorski** is excited to join Te Deum for the 2023-24 season. He holds a Bachelor of Music in Music Education from Millikin University and a Master of Music Education from the University of Kansas. Tim has been teaching high school choir for five years and is in his second year as the choir director at William Chrisman High School in Independence. Tim and his wife, Christina, relocated to the KC area from Northeast Illinois in the summer of 2022, so they enjoy exploring different parts of the city and completing DIY projects on their house. They live in Grain Valley with their adorable bully, Bishop.

**Rupal Gupta**, now in her fifth season with Te Deum, initially cultivated her love of choral music with the Harvard-Radcliffe Collegium Musicum and Chamber Singers. Sacred music compels her in its capacity to connect humanity to the divine. She earned her undergraduate degree in History and Science at Harvard and her medical degree at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. A board-certified pediatrician, Rupal was previously Interim Division Director of General Academic Pediatrics at Children's Mercy Hospital and Medical Director of Operation Breakthrough Clinic. Currently, she is a Clinical Services Director with Kyruus, Inc., a Boston-based Health IT company that aims to connect patients to the right care. She loves baking, yoga, and reading, and maintains pediatric ties through the American Academy of Pediatrics. She lives in Leawood, KS with her husband and her favorite and most rapidly growing creative endeavors: their two children.

**Abby Helt** is excited to sing with Te Deum again this year. Abby currently teaches third grade at St. Ann Catholic School. She graduated from Kansas State University with a Bachelor of Music Education degree. At KSU, she studied voice under Professor Cheryl Richt and sang in multiple choirs, serving as a section leader, under Dr. Julie Yu and Dr. Joshua Oppenheim. Abby performed as a soloist with K-State's Concert Choir at the 2018 Southwest American Choral Director's Association conference, Grand Chorus Rhapsody 2019, and Collegium Musicum. Abby has also worked with the Flint Hills Children's Choir in Manhattan, KS. In addition to singing, Abby enjoys road-tripping, painting, and hanging with her family and friends.

**Jeff Jasperson** is excited to sing with Te Deum for a fifth season. Jeff graduated from the University of Kansas in 2013 with a Bachelor of Arts in Music, voice emphasis. At KU, he performed with numerous choirs and was a four-year member of the KU Marching Jayhawks as a trumpet player. From 2017-2019, Jeff was a director of the choral variety show *Encore!* at Free State High School in Lawrence. Jeff serves as the tenor section leader of the Trinity Lutheran Church Choir in Mission, KS, and works as a paraeducator at Shawnee Mission North High School. He has recently sung the national anthem for the Royals, Sporting KC, and KC Current. Jeff and his golden retriever Berkeley live in south KC. In his spare time, Jeff enjoys taking Berkeley on walks, distance running, cooking, cheering on the Chiefs, Jayhawks, Royals, Sporting KC, and KC Current, and attempting to win his fantasy football league.

**Lindsey Lauterwasser** is so excited to be singing with Te Deum in her second season. She graduated from Benedictine College with a Bachelor of Music Education and is in her second year as the choir teacher at Lakewood Middle School in Overland Park, KS. She also enjoys teaching piano lessons, and music classes for young children. Lindsey has always loved to sing, especially in a choir, most recently participating in various choirs at Benedictine, as well as leading the a cappella group. Outside of singing, she loves to read, go for walks, play board games, spend time with family and friends, and cheer on the Chiefs with her husband, Kyle.

**Cassandra Leon** is a mezzo-soprano residing in Kansas City, Missouri. She is a graduate of Northwest Missouri State University and while there attained a Bachelor of Arts in Vocal Music Performance. Some of her most notable solo performances were *Lilacs* by George Walker for voice and orchestra and Moses Hogan's *Deep River* Collection. While Cassandra has a deep love for solo performance, she truly cherishes ensemble work. She has always had a deep passion for the choral arts. Being part of such a world-class ensemble, such as Te Deum, is a dream come true for her.

**Josh Markley** is thrilled to return to Te Deum. He holds a Doctorate of Musical Arts in voice and has been recognized for his research on the development of the baritone voice in the 17th and 18th centuries, lauded as an "excellent resource" by the Metropolitan Opera Guild. On the opera stage, he has performed Marcello in Puccini's *La Boheme*; Tarquinius in Britten's *Lucretia*; Il Conte in Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro*; Don Alfonso in Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, among others. His concert soloist experiences include Mendelssohn's *Elijah*; Mahler's *Symphony of a Thousand*; Haydn's *Creation*; Orff's *Carmina Burana*; Bernstein's *Arias and Barcarolles*; Vaughn Williams' *Sea Symphony*; Handel's *Messiah*; and the *Requiems* of Mozart, Verdi, and Faure. Currently, he is the Director of Music for the Barstow School—Upper and Middle Divisions. He and his wonderfully talented wife Diane are the proud parents of two amazing girls, Nora and Samantha.

**Benny Martinson** is excited to join Te Deum this year. Benny previously sang with Khorikos in New York City, and in many choirs prior. He holds a Master of Music in Composition from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, and a Bachelor of Music in Composition from Butler University. Benny grew up in Eagle River, Alaska, and moved to Kansas City last year with his wife, his daughter, and his cat, Henry Purrcell.

**Sarah Powers** is so excited to make beautiful music with Te Deum again! She received a Bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance from William Jewell College (2015) and has been singing in and around Kansas City ever since. During her time at Jewell, she was a Choral Scholar and sang in the Concert Choir and Schola Cantorum. She has appeared as a soloist with the Liberty Symphony Orchestra, Kansas City Chamber Orchestra, Midwest Chamber Ensemble and Musica Vocale. She currently sings with Cardinalis and has held a soprano section leader position at St. Mary's Episcopal Church since 2015. When she is not singing, Sarah works as an Assistant Property Manager in Olathe, KS, where she lives with her husband and son, and their family dog.

**Rafael Rodriguez** has been a chorister since he was a little boy and brings a strong background and passion for early and sacred music. Rafael attended Saint Mary's College in Kansas and sang under the direction of Dr. Andrew Childs for over 8 years. Rafael also sang several seasons with Collegium Musicum at Kansas State University led by Dr. David Wood, and the Masterworks Chorale led by Dr. Jeffrey Ward. Rafael and his family moved to Kansas City in the summer of 2020 where he has become a valuable member of the Kansas City choral community, performing with Te Deum, Songflower Chorale, as well as the St. Vincent de Paul Church community where he directs Gregorian chant, sings in the choir, and teaches music. Rafael has sung with Te Deum since the winter of 2021.

**John Ross** is a bass with many years of experience singing in ensemble, choral, and opera settings in Kansas City and beyond. Some of the organizations John has performed with include Te Deum, KC Symphony Chorus, Johnson County Chorus, KC Singers, Cathedral Schola at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, BMACC/Black Musical Artists Community Chorus, Musica Sacra, Madrigalia Bar Nonne, Carolers of Note, KC Metro Opera, Lawrence Opera Theatre, Landlocked Opera and Sweet Accordes. His singing has taken him all over the KC Metro as well as New York, Austria, and Germany.

**Julia Kasten Sharp** is excited to be starting her fourth season with Te Deum! A graduate of UMKC Conservatory, Julia holds a Bachelor of Music in both Vocal Performance and Music Theory. She can be found around KC singing with different choral groups such as Tallgrass Chamber Choir, Kantorei KC, and Cardinalis. Outside of music, her favorite hobbies include cuddling with her cat, Charlie, and road-tripping across the country with her husband, Jake.

**Ben Wheeler** joined Te Deum in 2021. He learned to love music as a Suzuki-trained violinist under Alice Joy Lewis in Ottawa, KS from age four through eighteen. He has a Bachelor of Music in Music Theater from Oklahoma City University, where he studied with vocal teacher Larry Keller. He sang for two seasons with Light Opera Oklahoma in Tulsa and has performed in many musicals and operas in school and community theaters in Kansas and Oklahoma. He had a blast singing with the Central Standard Barbershop Chorus in KC from 2017-2019. He enjoys volleyball, skiing, live music, and racking up wins with his crew of fully grown adults on *Call of Duty*.



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