



TeDeum

Matthew Christopher Shepard
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



DECEMBER 19-20, 2022

te-deum.org

While you wait for the concert to begin, or during intermission, please use this QR code to take a two-minute survey so we can better learn about everyone in the audience today.



To thank you for your time, you will receive a coupon code for \$5 off the January 21st "A Glimpse of Heaven" Antiqua concert.

Thank you!





TeDeum

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ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

P R E S E N T S



MAGNUM MYSTERIUM

DECEMBER 19, 2022 | 7:00 PM

Village Presbyterian Church
Prairie Village, KS

DECEMBER 20, 2022 | 7:00 PM

St. Mary's Episcopal Church
Kansas City, MO

All are invited to join us for a complimentary reception
after this performance as we celebrate the holiday season.

O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM

ET ADMIRABILE SACRAMENTUM,
UT ANIMALIA VIDERENT
DOMINUM NATUM,
JACENTEM IN PRAESEPIO.

BEATA VIRGO
CUJUS VISCERA MERUERUNT
PORTARE DOMINUM CHRISTUM.

A L L E L U I A

O GREAT MYSTERY

AND WONDROUS SACRAMENT,
THAT ANIMALS SHOULD SEE
THE NEWBORN LORD
LYING IN THEIR MANGER.

BLESSED IS THE VIRGIN
WHOSE WOMB WAS WORTHY
TO BEAR THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

A L L E L U I A

ANTIPHON FOR CHRISTMAS DAY



I. O GREAT MYSTERY, AND WONDERFUL SACRAMENT

O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM

TOMAS LUÍS DE VICTORIA, 1572

WHO IS THIS BOY

FAHAD SIADAT, 2014

Who is this boy?
Perhaps an angel of The Lord?
Perhaps a prophet?
Perhaps the messiah?

Such tiny shoulders,
So little blood
For the sins of all mankind.
Such small, slight shoulders!
He sees me weeping.

Hush now, let him sleep.
Let him sleep and dream
Of Kingdom come.

FAHAD SIADAT

LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS

JESSICA FRENCH, 2019

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love Divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and Angels gave the sign?

Worship we the Godhead,
Love Incarnate, Love Divine;
Worship we our Jesus:
But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,
Love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and all men,
Love for plea and gift and sign.

CHRISTINA ROSSETTI

II. THAT ANIMALS SHOULD SEE THE NEWBORN LORD, LYING IN A MANGER!

O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM

GEOFF WILCKEN, 2008

THE THREE KINGS

HEALEY WILLAN, 1928

"Who knocks tonight so late?"
the weary porter said.
Three kings stood at the gate,
each with a crown on head.

The serving man bowed down,
the Inn was full, he knew.
Said he, "In all this town
is no fit place for you."

A light in the manger lit;
there lay the Mother meek.
Said they, "This place is fit.
Here is the rest we seek!"

Come, come. They loosed their latchet strings,
so stood they all unshod
"Come in, come in, ye kings,
and kiss the feet of God."

LAURENCE HOUSMAN

WORLD PREMIERE

COLD, CLEAR VOICE OF FALLING SNOW

JAMES EAKIN III · TE DEUM COMPOSER IN RESIDENCE

VERSE 1

Once again we trim the trees
with twinkling lights and tinsel;
Once again we deck the halls
and hear the mummers mum;
'Tis the season of peace on earth
and carols by the fire;
But not for some.

CHORUS

I fix my eyes on the gentle light
of a single, shimmering star,
Shining in the darkest night
so far away, so far...
I choose the light of that distant joy
to fill up all my shadow;
It calls to me in the cold, clear voice
of the falling snow, the snow...

VERSE 2

For some this is a darker time
of triggers past and present,
Of private pain and loneliness,
of memory and regret.
Far too easily we can fall
into the tinsel trap;
And yet, and yet...

VERSE 3

An act of kindness or of love
given or received;
A moment claimed of quiet...
of calm amid the din:
These are ornaments we hang
upon our spirit tree
As we let joy enter in...

CHARLES ANTHONY SILVESTRI

SEE DAT BABE

ARR. STACEY V. GIBBS, 2005

III. BLESSED IS THE VIRGIN WHOSE WOMB WAS WORTHY TO BEAR THE LORD, JESUS CHRIST.

O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM

FRANCIS POULENC, 1952

THERE IS NO ROSE OF SUCH VIRTUE

IAN COLEMAN, 2002

There is no rose of such virtue
As is the rose that bare Jesu:
Alleluia.

For in this rose contained was
Heaven and earth in little space.
Gaudeamus. (Let us rejoice)
Resmiranda. (a wonderful thing)

By that same rose we may well see
There be one God in persons three.
Paresforma. (of the same form)
Transeamus. (let us go)

Then leave we all this worldly mirth
And follow we this joyous birth.
Gaudeamus. (Let us rejoice)

15TH CENTURY MIDDLE ENGLISH CAROL

ADORAVIT

MICHAEL BUSSEWITZ-QUARM, 2019

*Senex puerum portabat,
Puer autem senem regebat.
Quem virgo peperit,
Et post partum virgo permansit.
Ipsum quem genuit, adoravit.*

An ancient held up an infant,
But the infant upheld the ancient.
A child he was that the virgin bore,
And kept her as virgin evermore.
The one whom she brought forth
she did adore.

ANTIPHON FOR THE FEAST OF THE PURIFICATION
OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

TOTUS TUUS

HENRYCK GORECKI, 1987

*Totus tuus sum Maria,
Mater nostri Redemptoris.
Virgo Dei, virgo pia
Mater mundi Salvatoris.
Totus tuus sum, Maria!*

MARIA BOGUSLAWSKA

I am completely yours, Mary,
Mother of our Redeemer.
Virgin Mother of God, loving virgin,
Mother of the Saviour of the world.
I am completely yours, Mary!

IV. ALLELUIA!

O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM

GIOVANNI GABRIELI, 1587

SING WE NOW OF CHRISTMAS

FRED PRENTICE, 1982

A BOY WAS BORN

BENJAMIN BRITTEN, 1934, REV. 1955

GLORY HALLELUJAH TO THE NEWBORN KING

ARR. MARK BUTLER, 2004





SOPRANO

Lucy Conklin
Paige Flenniken
Lindsey Hart
Abby Helt
Kristen Ellis Johnson
Sarah Schulte
Bailey C. Wilkerson

ALTO

Sarah Baxter
Connor Ewens
Rupal Gupta
Julia Kasten
Nanette Kraus
Nicole Murray

TENOR

Tom Assel
Jonathan Doram
Charles Everson
Jeff Jasperson
Scott Kinworthy
Colin Riley

BASS

Kyle Chamberlin
Jon Duncan
Nick Gillock
Hans Bridger Heruth
Ryan Layton
Ben Wheeler

*Learn more about the singers
of Te Deum at*
www.te-deum.org/about/singers

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ASSISTANT REHEARSAL DIRECTOR

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www.te-deum.org

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MATTHEW CHRISTOPHER SHEPARD

EXECUTIVE AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Matthew Christopher Shepard is a professional conductor, church musician, and guest lecturer based in Kansas City. His 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 performance practice, and to communities of faith to lead both Christian and Jewish worship services. His intellectual curiosity, fearless programming, and magnetic leadership has made him a leading conductor in the region.

Mr. Shepard is founder and conductor of Te Deum, and its early music ensemble, Te Deum Antiqua. Now in its fifteenth season, Te Deum has established itself has one of the premier choral ensembles in the Midwest region. Mr. Shepard is frequently engaged as a conducting clinician, most recently with the University of Kansas and Mid America Nazarene University, and directed the Kansas State Honor Choir at the 2021 American Choral Directors Association State Convention. With his growing reputation in the Early Music field, Mr. Shepard's work and contributions to the field were featured in *Early Music America*, both in a highlight article in their electronic publication, and in a featured article in their monthly magazine. He has also guest lectured in music history and performance practice at William Jewell College and Baker University and has presented workshops on Gregorian Chant performance. 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 directed several ensembles in the Midwest, including The Philharmonia of Greater Kansas City, the Kansas City Civic Orchestra, and the Kansas City Baroque. He also served as orchestra director for six years at Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas. In the summer of 2018 he conducted the closing orchestral concert of the American Guild of Organists National Convention in Helzberg Hall at the Kauffman Center for the Performance Arts, a performance rebroadcast in 2021 on the nationally syndicated radio program *Pipe Dreams*.

Mr. Shepard also serves as a Teaching Assistant at the University of Illinois, where in 2021–2022 he assistant conducted the UI Chamber Choir, including conducting them on a tour to Sweden and Estonia, and the Oratorio Society, leading rehearsals on the Poulenc *Gloria* and the Brahms *Requiem*. For the 2022–2023 season he will be the assistant chorus director of the Carmel Bach Festival. Beginning his musical studies in woodwinds and voice, Mr. Shepard holds an undergraduate degree from William Jewell College and two master's degrees, studying both choral and orchestral conducting at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance. He has also studied as an orchestral conducting fellow at the Conductors Institute at Bard College Conservatory and at the Oregon Bach Festival Composers Institute.

JAMES EAKIN III

COMPOSER IN RESIDENCE

James was born and raised in Shreveport, Louisiana. From an early age, he was drawn to his native blues and jazz as well as classical and film music, playing everything he heard by ear on the piano and experimenting with his own compositions. It wasn't until years later that he began formal music studies.

He earned a Bachelor of Music from Centenary College (2000), a Master of Music from Southern Methodist University (2003), and in 2007, received a Doctor of Musical Arts in Music Composition at the Conservatory of Music, University of Missouri-Kansas City. James has had the privilege of studying with some of music's most prominent composers: John Corigliano, Jeff Rona, Jack Smalley, George Tsontakis, Bruce Broughton, Zhou Long, and Chen Yi.

Eakin's music catalog is prolific and spans genres from Concert Hall to Pop/Rock. He has composed works for Maya Angelou's 80th Birthday celebration, the President's Christmas Gala at the White House, and the Aspen Music Festival to name a few. James' music is regularly performed at Carnegie Hall including his hour-long "Flowers over the Graves of War" for Chorus, Soloists, and Orchestra which premiered to a sold-out audience. Most recently, his "#twitterlieder: 15 tweets in 3 acts," premiered by the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus at Davies Symphony Hall, was the subject of a nationally aired PBS documentary and was awarded the American Prize in Composition.

JON DUNCAN

ASSISTANT REHEARSAL DIRECTOR

Jon Duncan is in his 2nd season serving as Te Deum's Assistant Rehearsal Director, in addition to having sung with Te Deum in the bass section for 10 seasons. Jon has been the director of choirs at Shawnee Mission South HS in Overland Park, KS since 2015. The choirs at SMS are regularly invited to perform alongside other high school, collegiate, and professional choirs in the midwest, and in 2018 the SMS Heritage Singers performed at the KMEA In-Service Workshop. Prior to SMS, Jon taught at Indian Woods Middle School and Hocker Grove Middle School in Shawnee Mission. Jon received his BME and MME both from the UMKC Conservatory. His teachers have included Charles Robinson, Ryan Board, Aidan Soder, Raymond Feener, Joseph Parisi, Dwayne Dunn, Elise Peterson, Erin Smith, Kathy Bhat, and Karen Flaschar.

Jon served as the East Central KMEA HS choir chair from 2019-2022, and as the Northeast KMEA Middle Level choir chair from 2013-2015. In 2014, Jon was awarded the KCDA Prelude Award, which recognizes an outstanding young educator in their first 3-5 years of teaching. Outside of choral music, Jon enjoys taking care of his houseplants, raising Pokémon, completing puzzles of all genres, working out, and enjoying the KC foodie scene with his partner Luke.

OUR SINGERS

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.

Kyle Chamberlin has been singing with Te Deum since spring of 2014 and is thankful to be singing with them for another season. Kyle teaches music in the Shawnee Mission School District. He graduated from Emporia State University with a dual degree in vocal and instrumental music education. He received his Master of Science in Education Administration at ESU in 2019. While at ESU, Kyle appeared in many musicals and operas and presented solo recitals in South Korea and Mexico City. In the past twenty years, he has performed in numerous productions at Great Plains Theatre, a regional theatre in Abilene, Kansas as well as Shawnee Mission Theatre in the Park. Locally, Kyle has sung with Spire, The Ancora Chorale, and Te Deum Antiqua.

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 Kansas City 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.

Jonathan Doram is thrilled to join Te Deum for its fifteenth season! He currently works as an artist model at the Kansas City Art Institute and as accompanist at Blue Valley High School. He is also a member of the Heartland Men's Chorus and Madrigalia Bar Nonne choir in the Kansas City metro. He recently served as the choral director at Lincoln College Preparatory Academy and Middle School in Kansas City, Missouri, and previously at Forest Heights STEM Academy in Little Rock, Arkansas. In his free time, he enjoys writing, reading, and playing tennis. You may find out more at his website: www.jonathandoram.com.

Charles Everson joined Te Deum in 2021. A lifelong chorister, Charles began singing in the children's choir at Village Presbyterian Church. He played French horn in middle school and high school and sang tenor in various ensembles in high school. Charles sang in several choirs at Ouachita Baptist University where he graduated with a degree in Biblical Studies and a minor in music. He worked in banking for fifteen years, earning his Master of Business Administration from Baker University. He sang tenor at St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church under Dr. Ken Walker for ten years, eventually pursuing ordination as a priest. Charles serves as rector of St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Kansas City where he enjoys singing the liturgy of the church each week. He and his husband Jay live in South Hyde Park.

Connor Ewens 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 *Lord Nelsons Mass* (Haydn), performed twice at Carnegie Hall with the OSU University Singers and soprano soloist for *Mass in B Minor* (Bach) with the Midland-Odessa Symphonic Chorale. She moved recently from Texas with her husband, Joe, and is excited to be involved in the thriving Kansas City music scene.

Nick Gillock has been a member of Te Deum since fall 2014. Nick currently works at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory as a Senior Academic Advisor and Adjunct Instructor, as well as serving as the bass section leader at Atonement Lutheran Church. He holds a Bachelor of Music Education from Kansas State University (2014) and a Master of Music in Musicology from UMKC (2021). While at UMKC, he completed a thesis entitled "Oh, When the Wiz: An Ethnography of Communal Music-Making in Kansas City Soccer Culture" and was named UMKC's Muriel McBrien Kauffman Superior Graduate Teaching Assistant. Prior to his graduate studies, he was the choral director at Indian Trail Middle School in Olathe. Nick has studied voice with Prof. Dale Ganz and Dr. Bryan Pinkall, choral studies with Dr. Julie Yu and Dr. Joshua Oppenheim, and musicology with Dr. Andrew Granade, Dr. Alison DeSimone, and Dr. William Everett. When not singing, Nick enjoys hanging out with friends, watching more soccer than any person should— particularly Sporting KC and Tottenham Hotspur, and supporting his alma mater, the KSU Wildcats!

Rupal Gupta is thrilled to begin her fifth season with Te Deum. She cultivated her lifelong love of choral music during college with the Harvard-Radcliffe Collegium Musicum and Chamber Singers. Since that time, choral singing has played a critical role through her medical career, not only as a source of mindfulness and knowledge but also as a wellspring from which to learn the joy of creating a whole greater than each of its parts. A board-certified pediatrician, Rupal is currently serving as Clinical Services Director with Kyruus, Inc., a Boston-based Healthcare IT company that aims to connect patients to the right healthcare. She was previously Interim Division Director of General Academic Pediatrics at Children's Mercy Hospital and Medical Director of its Operation Breakthrough Clinic. She is engaged in clinical research on the intersection of health and early childhood education. She earned her undergraduate degree at Harvard and her medical degree at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. When not singing or working, Rupal loves to laugh, read, and bake with her husband and two children.

Lindsey Hart is so excited to be joining Te Deum for her first 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, Kansas. 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 Kansas City Chiefs with her fiancé, Kyle.

Abby Helt is in her fourth season with Te Deum. Abby is currently teaching third grade at St. Ann Catholic School. She graduated from Kansas State University with a Bachelor of Music Education degree. At K-State, 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, Kansas. In addition to singing, Abby enjoys road-tripping, painting, and hanging with her family and friends.

Hans Bridger Heruth is excited to join Te Deum for his first season! He is an award-winning composer whose music has been described as "impressively stylish" (The American Prize), and for having an "invigorating richness" (KC Metropolis). In addition, he is a conductor, pianist, singer, and violinist of distinction. His works have been performed by many ensembles, most notably the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, LA Gay Men's Chorus, Wilmington Concert Opera, Nightingale Opera Theatre, (art) Song Lab, KC Vitas Chamber Choir, the Boulder Chorale, and the Festival Singers of Florida. He currently serves as the inaugural composer-in-residence for Vox Nova. He resides in Kansas City where he maintains an active schedule as a collaborative pianist and vocal coach, where he also serves as the accompanist at Shawnee Mission South High School. Outside of music, Hans enjoys cooking, running, drinking coffee, and reading poetry.

Jeff Jasperson is grateful to be singing with Te Deum for a fourth 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 spring choral variety show *Encore* at Free State High School in Lawrence. He is the tenor section leader of the Trinity Lutheran Church Choir in Mission, Kansas, and works as a paraeducator at Shawnee Mission North High School. Jeff and his fiancée Kayla live in south Kansas City with their golden retriever, Berkeley. In his spare time, Jeff enjoys taking Berkeley on walks, distance running, honing his cooking skills, watching the Chiefs, Jayhawks, Royals, Sporting KC, and KC Current, and attempting to win his fantasy football league.

Kristen Johnson has been singing her heart out since before she could join the church and school choirs as a child. She played violin through high school, even though it meant skipping lunch to also sing in the concert choir. During college, Kristen fell in love with the Anglican choral tradition singing for Dr. Arnold Epley in William Jewell's concert choir, then spent a year abroad cycling to Evensong services all over Cambridge. Kristen has been a soprano in the Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral choir since 2005, singing under Canon John Schaefer and Dr. Paul Meier. She is thrilled to begin singing again after the great pandemic-induced pause in choral singing. By day, Kristen is an attorney practicing administrative and regulatory law in the Environmental, Energy, Mining, and Transportation division at Stinson. She enjoys gardening, yoga, dancing, and spending spare time with her husband and three children.

Julia Kasten is excited to be singing her third season with Te Deum! A recent graduate from the UMKC Conservatory, she has a Bachelor of Music in both Vocal Performance and Music Theory. Julia works as a church musician and sings with Kantorei KC and the Tallgrass Chamber Choir. Outside of music, Julia loves her cats, Disney, and traveling.

Scott Kinworthy is the choir director at Northeast High School and is in his 23rd year of teaching. Scott received his bachelor's degree at Missouri State University where he sang under the direction of Dr. Guy Webb. He earned a master's degree from University of Missouri-St. Louis and did post-master's work at VanderCook University in Chicago. Scott is originally from St. Louis and sang with the St. Louis Chamber Choir under the direction of Phillip Barnes. He moved to Kansas City a little over three years ago and is excited to sing his first concert with Te Deum.

Nanette Kraus is at her musical best when collaborating with others as a pianist and singer. From accompanying musicians at KU, Emporia State University, and Baker University, to school and honor choirs in Kansas and Missouri, from musical theater productions to church, synagogue and community choirs, Nanette enjoys working with each age and stage in the musical process. She currently assists the next generation of singers at Liberty High School and the lifelong learners of the Liberty Community Chorus. Nanette sings alto and serves on the board of Te Deum Chamber Choir, and volunteers at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. A native Kansan, Nanette earned degrees from Bethany College and the University of Kansas and resides in the Northland with her husband Brian.

Ryan Layton is a teacher, singer, conductor, and collaborative pianist. Ryan currently serves as assistant choir director at Blue Springs High School and director of music at Barry Christian Church. He previously taught at Marshall High School (MO) and worked with the Choral Arts Alliance of Missouri, serving as conductor of the Columbia Chamber Choir and assistant director/accompanist of the Columbia Chorale. Additionally, he has accompanied numerous school, community, and honor choirs and conference reading sessions. Ryan is the KC Metro district representative and coordinator of the state sight-singing bee for the Missouri Choral Directors Association. He earned a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Music Education from the University of Missouri (2018) and recently started coursework for a Master of Music Education at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Ryan is an avid New York Times crossword solver, devoted Kansas City and Mizzou sports fan, and reluctant runner.

Nicole Murray is delighted to be singing with Te Deum for a sixth season. She also enjoys performing as a soloist, choir member, and choral conductor. As a soloist, she has appeared with the Kansas City Symphony, the Liberty Symphony Orchestra, the Northland Symphony Orchestra, the Heritage Philharmonic, and Kansas City Wind Symphony. Nicole is a member of the choral faculty at William Jewell College, and performs with their Cardinalis ensemble. She has also sung with the Kansas City Symphony Chorus, the Kansas City Chorale, Musica Vocale and the American Guild of Organists' Schola Cantorum ensemble. Her formal training includes music degrees from William Jewell College and the Lamont School of Music at the University of Denver. She works on her high notes each summer by riding roller coasters around the globe.

Colin Riley joined Te Deum in 2019 after arriving in the KC area from Upstate New York. Colin performed with the nationally recognized chamber choir Ensemble Companio from 2014 to 2019, serving as a tenor, officer, and board member. Colin graduated from Cornell University in 2009 with a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering. While there, he sang with the Cornell University Glee Club under Scott Tucker, with performances including *Ein Deutsches Requiem* in Beijing, Shanghai, and Hong Kong; the 2009 American Choral Directors Association National Convention; and a stage production of Leonard Bernstein's *Mass*. Colin is the Senior Director of Development Engineering for Rondo Energy, an energy storage company, and also holds a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Georgia Tech and a Master of Business Administration from Clarkson University. Colin lives in Overland Park with his wife and two daughters.

Sarah Schulte is excited to be singing with Te Deum for a third season! She is currently in her second year as director of choirs at Park Hill South High School, and was previously the assistant director of choirs at Blue Springs South High School. She graduated from the University of Missouri in 2018 with a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Music Education, Summa Cum Laude. While there, Sarah was active with the University Singers and Show-Me Opera programs, singing abroad in China, Sweden, and Estonia. In addition to teaching in Park Hill, Sarah has previously sung as a section leader in St. Paul's Episcopal Choir and with the Kansas City Symphony Chorus. Sarah loves hiking, house plants, craft beer, and her dog, Ollie!

Ben Wheeler joined Te Deum in 2021. He learned to love music as a Suzuki trained violinist under Alice Joy Lewis in Ottawa, Kansas from age 4 through 18. He has a Bachelor of Music in Music Theater from Oklahoma City University, where he studied with vocal teacher Larry Keller. He sang for 2 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.

Bailey C. Wilkerson joins Te Deum for her first season. She earned her Bachelor of Music in Vocal Music Education from the University of Missouri-Columbia. While there she sang with Hitt Street Harmony, University Singers, and the Bach Collegium Choir under the direction of R. Paul Crabb. As a soloist, she has appeared with the Southside Philharmonic Orchestra under Patrick Clark and at various churches around Missouri. She loves using her camera, baking from a box, and sing-along living room performances of the Wiggles with her toddler.

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