



TeDeum

Matthew Christopher Shepard
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

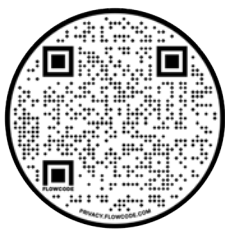
A
glimpse
OF
heaven

SACRED
TREASURES
OF THE
RENAISSANCE

JANUARY 21-22, 2023

te-deum.org

While you wait for the concert to begin,
or during intermission, please use this QR code
to take a five-question survey so we can better
understand who is in the audience today.



To thank you for your time, you will receive a
coupon code for \$5 off the June 3–4 *Monteverdi's
Venetian Vespers of 1641* concert.

Thank you!





Te Deum

Matthew Christopher Shepard
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

P R E S E N T S

A glimpse OF Heaven

SACRED TREASURES
OF THE RENAISSANCE

JANUARY 21, 2023 | 7:30 PM

Visitation Catholic Church
Kansas City, MO

JANUARY 22, 2023 | 3:00 PM

Grace Cathedral
Topeka, KS

All are invited to join us for a complimentary reception following the January 21st performance as we celebrate Te Deum's fifteenth season.

program notes

Program planning for *A Glimpse of Heaven* began with one central idea— that the aim of Renaissance church music was to connect the listener with the divine. The primary goal was not to find musical language to explore human depravity, but rather to be a beautiful balm amidst life's strife, and to provide, as the title suggests, a glimpse of heaven. The first half includes the *Missa Brevis* by Palestrina with chant propers, which are the specific prayers for each Mass. The second half is a variety of the most stunning motets to be sung throughout the church year.

A concert of Renaissance music will raise, for any conductor, the question of performing editions. The music of the 16th century was not written in modern score format, where the singers can see all parts simultaneously, as you can in a hymnal. Rather, the singers read from choirbooks or partbooks, which had only their single part. And equally significant, the music had no barlines, no measure, which meant no strict meter or regular accent. The impact was that singers performed the music with horizontal line rather than vertical harmony as the primary focus. And accents were created through text stress and ever-changing note grouping rather than metric stress. All attempts to solve these problems in modern editions fall short.

As a way to combat the performance challenges of anachronistic scores I have begun working on a system of modernizing partbooks. And for this concert we will sing two motets from these new editions— the singers using newly transcribed partbooks rather than full score.

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina's (c.1525–1594) best-known work is probably his *Missa Papae Marcelli* (*Pope Marcellus Mass*), which Te Deum performed last year. One of the edicts of the Council of Trent in 1563 was that composers write music that is more succinct and with greater text intelligibility. The primary work of the first half is one of these results, Palestrina's *Missa Brevis* for four-part choir. The movements of Palestrina's Mass are appropriate to be sung for any Mass during the year, but I've interpolated between them the chant propers for the Third Sunday of Epiphany, which just happens to be this very weekend.

Gregorian chant has been the primary musical material for Catholic worship for nearly two millennia and is still used in many Catholic churches today. My chant study has been focused on the area of performance practice, specifically in rhythmic performance. 1,000 years ago chant melodies were learned orally and memorized, but as the repertory grew, the need to be reminded of the rhythms led to the development of *adiastematic* neumes, or neumes that are written without the aid of staff lines to represent intervallic relationships. The decades-old research area of semiology, the study of signs, has revealed a complex and nuanced rhythmic notation used by monks prior to the invention of staff line notation in the 13th century. These ancient neumes look like a series of lines, loops, and squiggles written above the text, and they represent a vast world of rhythmic complexity and specificity. Te Deum singers have learned to read these neumes found in a 10th century manuscript from the Benedictine Abbey of Einsiedeln, Switzerland, and are performing today with this rhythmic interpretation. —MCS

I

a Mass for the Third Sunday of Epiphany

INTROIT

for the Third Sunday of Epiphany

PLAINCHANT

*Adorate Deum, omnes Angeli ejus:
audivit, et lætata est Sion:
et exsultaverunt filiae Judæ.*

Adore God, all you His angels:
Sion hears and is glad,
and the cities of Judah rejoice.

*Dominus regnavit, exsultet terra:
lætentur insulæ multæ.*

The Lord is King; let the earth rejoice;
let the many isles be glad.

*Glória Patri, et Fílio,
et Spirítui Sancto.
Sicut erat in principio,
et nunc, et semper,
et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen.*

Glory be to the Father, to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

KYRIE

Missa Brevis

GIOVANNI PIERLUIGI DA PALESTRINA

*Kyrie eleison.
Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison.*

Lord have mercy.
Christ have mercy.
Lord have mercy.

GLORIA

Missa Brevis

*Glória in excelsis Deo.
Et in terra pax
homínibus bonæ voluntátis.
Laudámus te. Benedícimus te.
Adorámus te. Glorificámus te.
Grátias ágimus tibi
propter magnam glóriam tuam.
Dómine Deus, Rex cæléstis,
Deus Pater omnípotens.*

Glory to God in the highest,
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.
Lord God, heavenly King,
God the Father almighty.

*Dómine Fili unigénite, Jesu Christe,
Dómine Deus, Agnus Dei,
Fílius Patris.*

*Qui tollis peccáta mundi,
miserére nobis.*

*Qui tollis peccáta mundi,
súscipe deprecationem nostram.*

*Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,
miserére nobis.*

Quóniam tu solus Sanctus.

Tu solus Dóminus.

Tu solus Altíssimus, Jesu Christe,

Cum Sancto Spíritu

in glória Dei Patris. Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ, only begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
Son of the Father.

Who takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

Who takest away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer.

Who sittest at the right hand of the
Father, have mercy on us.

For Thou only art holy.

Thou only art the Lord.

Thou only art most high, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

GRADUAL

for the Third Sunday of Epiphany

PLAINCHANT

*Timébunt gentes nomen tuum, Dómine,
et omnes reges terræ glóriam tuam.*

*Quóniam ædificávit Dóminus Sion,
et vidébitur in majestáte sua.
Allelúja, allelúja.*

The nations shall revere Your name,
O Lord,
and all the kings of the earth Your glory.
For the Lord has rebuilt Sion,
and He shall appear in His glory.
Alleluia, alleluia.

CREDO

Missa Brevis

*Credo in unum Deum,
Patrem omnipoténtem,
factórem cæli et terræ,
visibílium ómnium et invisíbílium.*

*Et in unum Dóminum Jesum Christum,
Fílium Dei unigénitum.
Et ex Patre natum ante ómnia sæcula.
Deum de Deo, lumen de lúmine,
Deum verum de Deo vero.
Génitum, non factum,
consubstantiálem Patri:
per quem ómnia facta sunt.
Qui propter nos hómnes
et propter nostram
salútem descéndit de cælis.*

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things, visible and invisible.

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.
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.

*Et incarnátus est de Spírítu Sancto
ex Maríá Vírgine: Et homo factus est. Cru-
cifíxus étiam pro nobis:
sub Póntio Piláto passus,
et sepúltus est.*

*Et resurréxit tértia die,
secúndum Scriptúras.*

*Et ascéndit in cælum:
sedet ad déxteram Patris.*

*Et íterum ventúrus est cum glória
judicáre vivos et mórtuos:
cujus regni non erit finis.*

*Et in Spírítum Sanctum,
Dóminum et vivificántem:
qui ex Patre Filióque procedít.
Qui cum Patre et Filio simul
adorátur et conglorificátur:
qui locútus est per Prophétas.*

*Et unam sanctam cathólicam
et apostólicam Ecclésiám.*

*Confíteor unum baptísma
in remissiónem peccatórum.*

Et expécto resurrectiónem mortuórum.

Et vitam ventúri sæculi. Amen.

And became incarnate by the Holy Ghost
of the Virgin Mary: and was made man.
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.

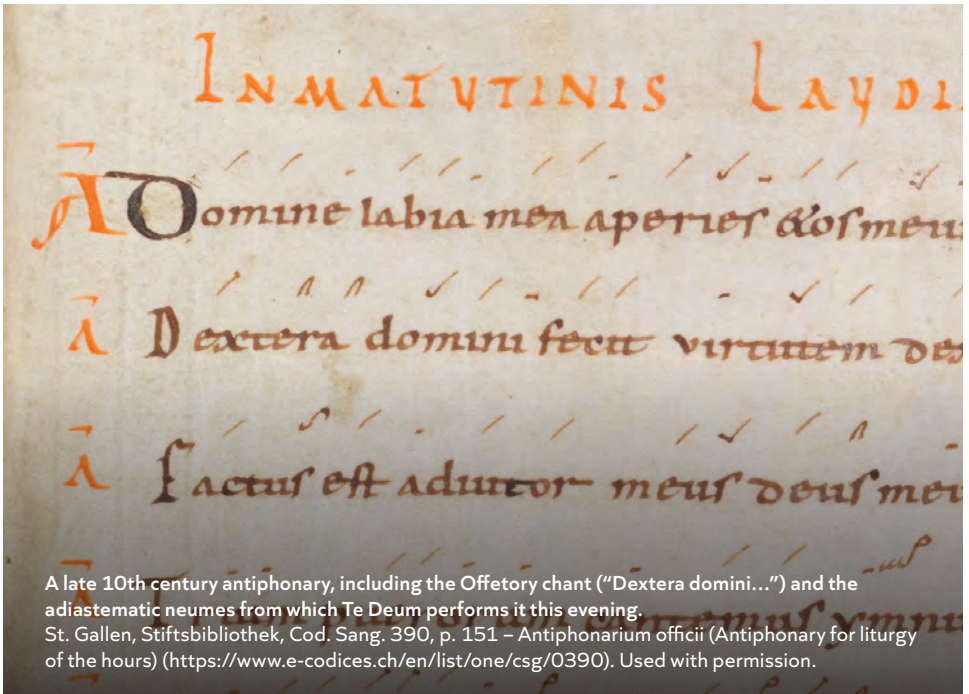
And in the Holy Ghost,
the Lord and Giver of Life,
proceeding from the Father and the Son.
Who with the Father and the Son,
is adored and glorified:
who spoke by the prophets.

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.



A late 10th century antiphony, including the Offetory chant ("Dextera domini...") and the adiastematic neumes from which Te Deum performs it this evening.
St. Gallen, Stiftsbibliothek, Cod. Sang. 390, p. 151 – Antiphonarium officii (Antiphonary for liturgy of the hours) (<https://www.e-codices.ch/en/list/one/csg/0390>). Used with permission.

OFFERTORY

for the Third Sunday of Epiphany

PLAINCHANT

*Déxtera Dómini fecit virtutem,
déxtera Dómini exaltávit me:*

*non móriar, sed vivam,
et narrábo ópera Dómini.*

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.

SANCTUS

Missa Brevis

*Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus
Dóminus, Deus Sábaoth.
Pleni sunt cæli et terra glória tua.
Hosánna in excélsis.*

*Benedíctus, qui venit
in nómine Dómini.
Hosánna in excélsis.*

Holy, Holy, Holy,
Lord God of Sabaoth!
Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory!
Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is He that cometh
in the Name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest!

AGNUS DEI

Missa Brevis

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccáta mundi:
miserére nobis.*

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccáta mundi:
miserére nobis.*

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccáta mundi:
dona nobis pacem.*

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of
the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of
the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of
the world, grant us peace.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

for the Third Sunday of Epiphany

PLAINCHANT

*Mirabántur omnes de his,
quæ procedébant de ore Dei.*

All marveled at the words
that came from the mouth of God.

DISMISSAL

Dialogue, Order of Mass

PLAINCHANT

*Ite missa est.
Deo Gratias.*

The Mass is ended.
Thanks be to God.

II

Motets for the Church Year

AVE MARIA

Antiphon for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

TOMÁS LUIS DE VICTORIA

Ave Maria, gratia plena,
Dominus tecum;
benedicta tu in mulieribus,
et benedictus fructus ventris tui,
Jesus.

Sancta Maria, Mater Dei,
ora pro nobis peccatoribus,
nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.

Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee;
blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb,
Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

NE IRASCARIS DOMINE

Motet, Cantiones Sacrae I

WILLIAM BYRD

Ne irasaris Domine satis,
et ne ultra memineris iniquitatis nostrae.
Ecce respice populus tuus omnes nos.

Be not angry, O Lord,
and remember our iniquity no more.
Behold, we are all your people.

AESTIMATUS SUM

Eighth Responsory for Holy Saturday

CARLO GESUALDO

Aestimatus sum cum
descendentibus in lacum,
factus sum sicut homo sine adiutorio,
inter mortuos liber.

VERSUS

Posuerunt me in lacu inferiori,
in tenebrosis et in umbra mortis.
Factus sum sicut homo sine adiutorio,
inter mortuos liber.

I am counted with them
that go down into the pit:
I am as a man that hath no strength:
free among the dead.

VERSE

Thou hast laid me in the lowest pit,
in darkness, in the deeps.
I am as a man that hath no strength:
free among the dead.

LOQUEBANTUR

Responsory after Lesson II, Matins on the Day of Pentecost

THOMAS TALLIS

Loquebantur variis linguis
Apostoli magna Dei,
prout Spiritus Sanctus dabat eloqui illis,
alleluia.

Repleti sunt omnes Spiritu Sancto,
et coeperunt loqui.

The Apostles spoke in many languages
of the great works of God,
as the Holy Spirit gave them the gift of
speech, alleluia.

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit
and began to speak.

AVE VERUM CORPUS

Motet for Corpus Christi

WILLIAM BYRD

Ave, verum corpus natum
de Maria Virgine:
vere passum, immolatum
in cruce pro homine:
cuius latus perforatum
fluxit aqua et sanguine:
esto nobis praegustatum,
in mortis examine.

O dulcis, o pie,
O Jesu fili Mariae,
miserere mei. Amen.

Hail the true body,
born of the Virgin Mary:
You who truly suffered and were sacrificed
on the cross for the sake of man.
From whose pierced flank
flowed water and blood:
Be a foretaste for us
in the trial of death.

O sweet, O gentle,
O Jesu, son of Mary,
have mercy on me. Amen.

4. VOC. V. SUPERIVS.

Ave verum cor- pus, natum de Ma-
ria Virgine, vere passum, im mola tum in
cruce pro ho mi ne: Cuius la tus per fo ra tum, unda fluxit san guine.

Superius partbook from the 1610 publication of Byrd's *Gradualia*, from which the motet *Ave Verum Corpus* is performed this evening.
Byrd, William. *Gradualia, ac Cantiones Sacrae*, 41. Ricardi Redmeri, London, 1610. (imslp.org)

O NATA LUX

Hymn at Lauds on the Feast of the Transfiguration

THOMAS TALLIS

O nata lux de lumine,
Jesu redemptor saeculi,
Dignare clemens supplicum
Laudes precesque sumere.

Qui carne quondam contegi
Dignatus es pro perditis,
Nos membra confer effici
Tui beati corporis.

O Light born of Light,
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
with loving-kindness deign to receive
suppliant praise and prayer.

Thou who once deigned to be clothed in
flesh for the sake of the lost,
grant us to be members
of thy blessed body.

EGO FLOS CAMPI

Motet, Liber Octavus Cantionum Sacram

JACOBUS CLEMENS (CLEMENS NON PAPA)

Ego flos campi
et lilium convallium.

Sicut lilium inter spinas
sic amica mea inter filias.

Fons hortorum
et puteus aquarum viventium
quae fluunt impetu de Libano.

I am the rose of Sharon,
and the lily of the valleys.

As the lily among thorns,
so is my love among the daughters.

A fountain of gardens,
a well of living waters,
and streams from Lebanon.

XII. SUPERIVS. Clemens non papa

Ego flos campi & lilium convallium. ego flos campi & lilium convallium. ego flos
campi & lilium convallium. sicut lilium inter spinas. sic amica mea
inter filias. fons hortorum & puteus aquarum viventium. quae fluunt impetu de libano. de libano quae fluunt impe-

Superius partbook from the 1558 publication of Clemens non papa's *Liber Octavus Cantionum Sacram Vulgo*, from which the motet *Ego flos campi* is performed this evening. Clemens, Jacob (Clemens non papa). *Liber Octavus Cantionum Sacram Vulgo*, xii. Peter Phalesius, Louven, Belgium, 1558. (mslp.org)



SOPRANO

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

ALTO

Sarah Baxter
Krista Childs
Connor Ewens
Rupal Gupta
Abby Helt
Nanette Kraus

TENOR

Tom Assel
Jonathan Doram
Charles Everson
Jeff Jaspersen
Colin Riley
Rafael Rodriguez

BASS

Kyle Chamberlin
Andrew Childs
Jon Duncan
Nick Gillock
Ryan Layton
Ben Wheeler

STAFF

Matthew Christopher Shepard
EXECUTIVE AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
Shannon Solis
OPERATIONS MANAGER
Jon Duncan
ASSISTANT REHEARSAL DIRECTOR
Bryan Waznik
AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST

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TE DEUM INC.

3501 Campbell St.
Kansas City, MO 64109
www.te-deum.org

Te Deum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent of the law.

Image: St. Gallen, *Antiphonarium officii*, 151. (see p. 8)

MATTHEW CHRISTOPHER SHEPARD

EXECUTIVE AND 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.

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.

Sarah Baxter is thrilled to join Te Deum. Sarah works at The University of Kansas Health System and attended Washburn University, majoring in vocal performance and anthropology. At Washburn, she sang in Voci Dolci honors quartet, Washburn Singers and participated in Sigma Alpha Iota. In addition to choral music, Sarah is an accomplished opera singer, performing with Lyric Opera of Chicago, Opera Omaha, Sarasota Opera, Opera New Jersey and Opera North. She is a professional chorister at Lyric Opera of Kansas City, currently in her 11th season. Sarah sings for a variety of churches in Kansas City and performs regionally in both fully staged musicals and variety show-style cabarets. Recent engagements include alto soloist with the new music ensemble KC VITAs in their summer concert series, soloist at the Lawrence Arts Center Broadway Cabaret & ensemble in *Carmen* with Lyric Opera of Kansas City.

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.

Dr. Andrew Childs has served as Associate Dean and Professor of Music at St. Mary's College since 2008. Previously, he taught at Missouri State University, the Yale University School of Drama, the Thames Valley Music School at Connecticut College, and served as Managing Coordinator of the Department of Voice and Opera at the Yale School of Music. He earned his Bachelor of Music from UC Irvine, and his DMA from the University of Washington. Andrew has sung nearly thirty operatic roles for Seattle Opera, Glimmerglass Opera, Harrisburg Opera, The Center for Contemporary Opera, Amato Opera, and Springfield Opera among others. He has recorded for the Parma, Albany, Koch, and Centaur labels. The *American Record Guide* wrote of his 2006 solo disc of Charles Ives songs on Centaur, "...there is no better recording by a tenor."

Krista Childs earned both her Bachelor of Music in Education and Master of Music at Missouri State University, where she sang for five years under the direction of Dr. Guy Webb. A native of Sedalia, Missouri, Krista specializes in early childhood music education and is a certified Kodaly instructor. She has extensive experience as a choral conductor and singer in liturgical, educational, and professional settings. She conducted the Children's Chorus of Southwest Missouri and taught previously in the Bolivar R-1 school district, and St. Mary's Academy. She currently teaches at McEachron elementary school in Topeka. She and husband Andrew are proud parents of Sara, Patrick, Rebecca, Zachary, and Paul.

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.

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.

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-Odesa 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.

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.

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.

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.

Rafael Rodriguez is thrilled to join Te Deum in his first season. A chorister for most of his life, Rafael originally hails from New York and brings a strong passion for sacred music. Rafael developed his musical skill and knowledge further starting in 2012 where he attended Saint Mary's College in Kansas and sang under the direction of Dr. Andrew Childs for over 8 years. While living in the Manhattan, Kansas area, 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. Since then, he has become a valuable member of the St. Vincent de Paul Church community where he directs the schola, sings in the choir, and teaches Gregorian chant to the high school students of St. Vincent's Academy.

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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