



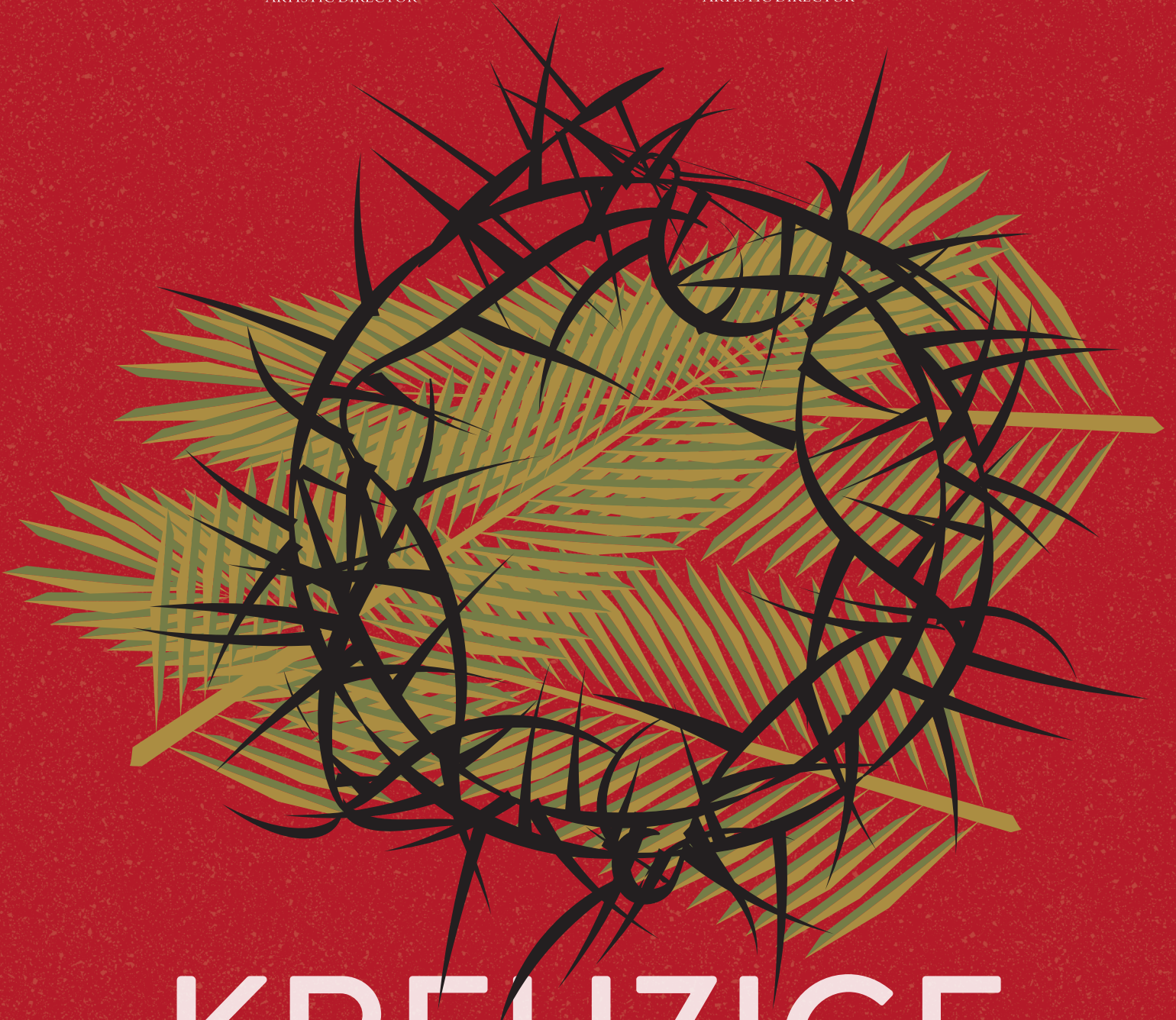
TeDeum

AND

KC BAROQUE  
PERIOD PERFORMANCE

Matthew Christopher Shepard  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Trilla Ray-Carter  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



# KREUZIGE

A GERMAN PASSIONTIDE

MARCH 7 AND 12, 2021

# Kreuzige

## I. Palm Sunday

*Himmelskönig, Sei Willkommen, BWV 182* ..... J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Jay Carter, countertenor

Jacob Sentgeorge, tenor

Gabe Lewis-O'Connor, bass

### 1. Sonata

### 2. Chorus

<i>Himmelskönig, sei willkommen, Laß auch uns dein Zion sein!</i>	King of Heaven, welcome, Let us also be your Zion!
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<i>Komm herein, Du hast uns das Herz genommen.</i>	Come within, You have taken our hearts from us.
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<i>Himmelskönig, sei willkommen, Laß auch uns dein Zion sein!</i>	King of Heaven, welcome, Let us also be your Zion!
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### 3. Recitativo (Basso)

<i>Siehe, ich komme, im Buch ist von mir geschrieben; deinen Willen, mein Gott, tu ich gerne.</i>	Behold, I come, in the Book it is written of me; Your will, my God, I do gladly.
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### 4. Aria (Basso)

<i>Starkes Lieben, Das dich, großer Gottessohn, Von dem Thron Deiner Herrlichkeit getrieben, Daß du dich zum Heil der Welt Als ein Opfer vorgestellt, Daß du dich mit Blut verschrieben.</i>	Powerful love, great Son of God, which has driven You from the throne of Your glory, so that You, for the salvation of the world, might be offered as a sacrifice, which You have authorized with Your blood.
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## 5. Aria (Alto)

<i>Leget euch dem Heiland unter, Herzen, die ihr christlich seid!</i>	Lay yourselves beneath the Savior, hearts that are Christian!
<i>Tragt ein unbeflecktes Kleid Eures Glaubens ihm entgegen, Leib und Leben und Vermögen Sei dem König itzt geweiht.</i>	Wear the spotless garment of your faith before Him, your body, your life, and your desires should now be consecrated to the King.

## 6. Aria (Tenore)

<i>Jesu, laß durch Wohl und Weh Mich auch mit dir ziehen!</i>	Jesus, through good and bad times let me journey also with You!
<i>Schreit die Welt nur "Kreuzige!"; So laß mich nicht fliehen, Herr; von deinem Kreuzpanier; Kron und Palmen find ich hier.</i>	Though the world scream only "Crucify!"; let me not run away, Lord, from Your cross' standard; I will find crown and palm here.

## 7. Chorale

<i>Jesu, deine Passion Ist mir lauter Freude,</i>	Jesus, Your passion is pure joy to me,
<i>Deine Wunden, Kron, und Hohn Meines Herzens Weide.</i>	Your wounds, thorns and shame my heart's pasture.
<i>Meine Seel auf Rosen geht, Wenn ich dran gedenke,</i>	My soul walks on roses when I think upon it;
<i>In dem Himmel eine Stätt Mir deswegen schenke!</i>	grant a place in heaven for me for its sake.

## 8. Chorus

<i>So lasset uns gehen in Salem der Freuden, Begleitet den König in Lieben und Leiden.</i>	Then let us go into the Salem of joy, accompanying the King in love and sorrow.
<i>Er gehet voran Und öffnet die Bahn.</i>	He goes before and opens the path.

## II. Maundy Thursday

### ***Unser Herr Jesus Christus in der Nacht, SWV 423 . . Heinrich Schutz (1585-1672)***

<i>Unser Herr Jesus Christus in der Nacht, da er verrathen ward, nahm er das Brod, danket und brachs und gabs seinen Jüngern und sprach: Nehmet hin und esset, das ist mein Leib, der für euch gegeben wird, solchs thut zu meinem Gedächtniss.</i>	Our Lord Jesus Christ on the night he was betrayed, took bread, broke it and giving thanks, gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; Do this in remembrance of me.
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<i>Desselbigen gleichen nahm er auch den Kelch nach dem Abendmahl, danket und gab ihnen den und sprach: Nehmet und trinket alle daraus. Dieser Kelch ist das neue Testament in meinem Blut das für euch vergossen wird zur Vergebung der Sünden, solchs thut, so oft ihrs trinkt, zu meinem Gedächtniss.</i>	In the same way also he took the cup after supper, Gave thanks and gave it to them, saying: Take it and drink all of you, This cup is the new testament in my blood which is shed for you for the remission of sins, do this, as often as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.
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## III. Good Friday

### ***Rosary Sonata IX: Jesus Carries the Cross . . . . . Franz Biber (1644-1704)***

David Hays, violin  
Elisa Bickers, organ

### ***Die Sieben Worte Jesu am Kreuz, SWV 478 . . . . . Heinrich Schutz (1585-1672)***

Kayleigh Aytes, Soprano Evangelist  
Jay Carter, Alto Evangelist & Thief on the Left  
Jacob Sentgeorge, Tenor Evangelist & Thief on the Right  
Paul Davidson, Jesus  
Gabe Lewis-O'Connor, Bass Evangelist

#### 1. Introitus

<i>Da Jesus an dem Kreuze stund und ihm sein Leichnam war verwund't sogar mit bitterm Schmerzen, die sieben Wort, die Jesus sprach, betracht in deinem Herzen.</i>	While Jesus was on the Cross and his body was wounded with bitter pains, contemplate in your heart the seven words that Jesus spoke.
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## 2. Symphonia

### 3. The First Word of Jesus

Alto Evangelist:

<i>Und es war um die dritte Stunde, da sie Jesum kreuzigten. Er aber sprach:</i>		And it was around the third hour, when they crucified Jesus. He said, however:
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Jesus:

<i>Vater, vergieb ihnen; denn sie wissen nicht, was sie tun!</i>		Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do!
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### 4. The Second Word of Jesus

Tenor Evangelist:

<i>Es stand aber bei dem Kreuze Jesu seine Mutter und seiner Mutter Schwester, Maria, Cleophas Weib, und Maria Magdalena. Da nun Jesus seine Mutter sahe und den Jünger dabei stehen, den er lieb hatte, sprach er zu seine Mutter:</i>		However there stood by Jesus' Cross His mother and His mother's sister, Mary, the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. Now when Jesus saw His mother and the disciple standing near, whom He loved, He said to His mother:
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Jesus:

<i>Weib, siehe, das ist dein Sohn!</i>		Woman, behold, this is your son!
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Tenor Evangelist:

<i>Darnach spricht er zu dem Jünger:</i>		Afterwards He said to the disciple:
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Jesus:

<i>Johannes, siehe, das ist deine Mutter!</i>		John, behold, this is your mother!
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Tenor Evangelist:

<i>Und von Stund an nahm sie der Jünger zu sich.</i>		And from that hour the disciple took her to himself.
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### 5. The Third Word of Jesus

Soprano Evangelist:

<i>Aber der Übeltäter einer, die da gehenkt waren, lästert' ihn und sprach:</i>		But one of the criminals who were hanging there cursed at Him and said:
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Thief on the Left:

<i>Bist du Christus, so hilf dir selbst und uns!</i>		If You are the Christ, then help Yourself and us!
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Soprano Evangelist:

*Da antwortete der ander,* | Then the other answering,  
*strafte ihn und sprach:* | scolded him and said:

Thief on the Right:

*Und du fürchtest dich auch nicht vor Gott,* | So you do not fear God,  
*der du doch in gleicher Verdammnis bist ?* | even though you are in such condemnation?  
*Und zwar wir sind billig darinnen, denn wir* | And indeed we are justly here, for we know that  
*empfangen, was unsre Taten wert sind;* | our deeds have earned it;  
*dieser aber hat nichts Ungerechtes gehandelt.* | but this person has done nothing unjust.

Soprano Evangelist:

*Und sprach zu Jesu:* | And he said to Jesus:

Thief on the Right:

*Herr gedenke an mich,* | Lord, think of me  
*wenn du in dein Reich kommst !* | when You come into Your Kingdom!

Soprano Evangelist:

*Und Jesus sprach:* | And Jesus said:

Jesus:

*Wahrlich ich sage dir:* | Truly I say to you:  
*Heute wirst du mit mir im Paradies sein.* | today you will be with me in Paradise.

## 6. The Fourth Word of Jesus

Evangelist Quartet:

*Und um die neunte Stunde* | And at the ninth hour  
*schrie Jesus laut und sprach:* | Jesus cried aloud and said:

Jesus:

*Eli, Eli, lama asabthani?* | Eli, Eli, lama asabthani?

Evangelist Quartet:

*Das ist verdolmetschet:* | That is translated as:

Jesus:

*Mein Gott, mein Gott,* | My God, my God,  
*warum hast du mich verlassen?* | why have you forsaken Me?

## 7. The Fifth Word of Jesus

Alto Evangelist:

<i>Darnach als Jesus wußte, daß schon alles vollbracht war, daß die Schrift erfüllet würde, sprach er:</i>	Afterwards, when Jesus knew that everything was already accomplished, so that the Scripture might be fulfilled, He said:
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Jesus:

*Mich dürstet!* | I thirst!

## 8. The Sixth Word of Jesus

Tenor Evangelist:

<i>Und einer von den Kriegesknechten lief bald hin, nahm einen Schwamm und füllte ihn mit Essig und Ysopen und steckte ihn auf ein Rohr und hielt ihn dar zum Munde und tränkte ihn. Da nun Jesus den Essig genommen hatte, sprach er:</i>	And one of the soldiers ran quickly, took a sponge and filled it with vinegar and hyssop, placed it on a reed and held it directly to His mouth to quench Him. Now when Jesus had taken the vinegar, He said:
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Jesus:

*Es ist vollbracht!* | It is finished!

## 9. The Seventh Word of Jesus

Tenor Evangelist:

*Und abermal rief Jesus laut und sprach:* | And also Jesus cried aloud and said:

Jesus:

<i>Vater, ich befehle meinen Geist in deine Hände!</i>	Father, I commit My spirit into Your Hands!
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Evangelist Quartet:

<i>Und als er das gesagt hatte, neiget er das Haupt und gab seinen Geist auf.</i>	And as He said this, He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.
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## 10. Symphonia

## 11. Conclusio

<i>Wer Gottes Marter in Ehren hat und oft gedenkt der sieben Wort, des will Gott gar eben pfe- gen, wohl hie auf Erd mit seiner Gnad, und dort in dem ewigen Leben.</i>	Whoever honors God's martyrdom and often considers the Seven Words will certainly serve God, here on earth through His Grace, and there in the everlasting life.
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Kansas City Baroque Consortium (KC Baroque) has since established itself as one of Kansas City's musical treasures. The ensemble is in demand as a regular collaborator with many of the area's finest choral ensembles and is delighted to be collaborating again with Te Deum for this concert! Presenting performances on period instruments, KC Baroque presents a three concert summer series, and during the pandemic has created a special series: Authentic Music for a Virtual World. These videos, available on the KC Baroque YouTube Channel and at [www.kcbaroque.org](http://www.kcbaroque.org), include a fascinating exploration of music in the time of past pandemics, performances by artists in their residences, and special archived concerts.

Upcoming events include *Musique à la Galerie*, a virtual concert of French delights by candlelight, filmed at the French gallery of Myers & Monroe which will be aired in April. Our three concert summer series returns in 2021 with *A Grand Tour*! Join us for a musical journey that begins in June with a visit to England, Ireland, and the Scottish Highlands, followed by an escape to the sunny hillsides of Italy in July, before we whisk you away for some royal divertissements at the Palace of Versailles in August! You'll find more information at [www.kcbaroque.org](http://www.kcbaroque.org).

————— Kansas City Baroque Consortium Artistic Director —————

**Trilla Ray-Carter** is the founder and director of the Kansas City Baroque Consortium. As a cellist, she has performed and taught throughout Europe and has participated in summer festivals in Italy, the former Yugoslavia, and in Germany. Prior to returning to the Midwest in 1993, she worked in Los Angeles as a studio musician with numerous film and television recording credits.

In addition to a busy freelance performing career throughout the midwest region, she has served as instructor of strings at William Jewell College, Cottey College for Women, and KCK Community College. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Cello Performance from Lawrence University, Appleton Wisconsin, and her post graduate studies were at the University of California and UMKC Conservatory of Music.

In 2007 and 2008, Trilla participated in the International Baroque Institute at the Longy School of Music in Cambridge, MA, where she worked with leading baroque specialists Phoebe Carrai, Elizabeth Blumentstock, Jed Wentz and Gonzalo Ruiz. She soon gathered other like-minded musicians together in Kansas City to explore the great repertoire of the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries on period instruments, and founded the Kansas City Baroque Consortium. Trilla plays on Martin Stoss.

————— Instrumentalists —————

<b><u>Recorder</u></b>	<b><u>Violin</u></b>	<b><u>Viola</u></b>	<b><u>Cello</u></b>	<b><u>Organ</u></b>
Trevor Stewart	David Hays Monty Carter	Nell French Brendan Pearson	Trilla Ray-Carter	Elisa Bickers
			<b><u>Bass</u></b>	
			Ken Mitchell	



A former Concertmaster of the BUTI young artists' orchestra at Tanglewood, **David Hays** has performed with the Minnesota Orchestra, the Chicago Symphony, the Indianapolis Symphony and others. A graduate of Indiana University (BM) and Northwestern University (MM, DM), David completed his training with Blair Milton and the Civic Orchestra of Chicago. As a chamber musician, he has performed live on WFMT Chicago with the Sheridan Chamber Players and was a finalist at the Banff International String Quartet Competition as a founding member of the Fry Street Quartet.

As a member of the Hawthorne Trio with Michael A. Murray and Amy Muchnick, he has performed throughout the US, in Poland, the Czech Republic and England. On baroque violin, David toured and recorded three CDs with Minneapolis-based Minstrelsy! over nine seasons. He has appeared with Temple of Apollo, the Lyra Concert, the Newberry Consort, the Chicago Baroque Ensemble, and was recently featured with the Kansas City Baroque Consortium. Recently David also served as Concertmaster for the closing festival performance at the American Guild of Organists Convention in Kansas City. David taught violin and chamber music at Northwestern University's National High School Music Institute for fifteen summers and served on faculty at the Oklahoma Summer Arts Institute. He has recorded on the Lyricord, Musical Arts Society and MSR Classics labels. His CD "Lullaby and Nocturne" with Dr. Peter Collins, piano, was released in 2013.

David has served as Concertmaster of the Springfield Symphony since 2000 and Professor of Music (Violin) at Missouri State University since 1999, where he teaches applied violin, pedagogy and chamber music. In recent seasons, he has performed solo works by Tchaikovsky, Beethoven, Sarasate and Mozart with orchestra and has appeared in recitals in China, Singapore, Bulgaria, Colombia, New Orleans, Chicago, and Minneapolis.

**MONTY CARTER** - With KC Baroque since its inception, Monty serves as Concertmaster of the Heritage Philharmonic of Jackson County, Principal Violist and Program Annotator for the Saint Joseph Symphony and freelance musician throughout the area. A studio instructor, ensemble clinician and composer, Monty has taught applied string studies and string methods courses at colleges and universities in Kansas and Missouri. He holds the MMus degree in performance from Louisiana State University, with a BMus from the UMKC Conservatory. With his wife, Trilla Ray-Carter, Monty provides performance and instruction services through Carray Music across the greater Kansas City region.

**NELL FRENCH** - has performed with KC Baroque since 2010. As a period violist, she has participated in the Bach Cantata Vespers Series, Jewell Early Music Summer Festival, the Kansas City Bachathon, Ensemble Musical Offering (Milwaukee), and Collegium Vocale (St Louis). As a modern violist, Nell is co-founder and violist with the string trio Fontana, Heritage Philharmonic and the Mountain Duo, as well as serving as an extra with the KC Symphony. She has taught applied music at Missouri Western University and at KCK Community College, and currently maintains a private viola studio. Nell is a graduate of the Interlochen Arts Academy and University of Colorado at Boulder.

**BRENDAN PEARSON** - has been playing viola and teaching music lessons in the Kansas City area since 2007. As a founding member of the Bountiful String Quartet he has spent more than a decade exploring ways to combine his love of music and his faith. As an undergraduate at Cal State Long Beach, Brendan was a member of the University String Quartet, the groundbreaking Studio Orchestra, the CSULB Collegium Musicum, and performed with the Los Angeles Baroque Orchestra. At the Boston Conservatory, he studied with Patricia McCarty and studied quartet playing with Roger Tapping and Andrew Mark.

**KEN MITCHELL** - Ken joined the Kansas City Philharmonic in 1980 and continued with the Kansas City Symphony until retiring in 2013. For two seasons prior to coming to Kansas City, he served as principal bass of the Evansville Philharmonic in Evansville, Indiana. Originally from Commack, NY, Ken holds BMus and MMus degrees in music performance from Indiana University as well AS the MS and PhD in computer science and networking from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. He has played in the Grand Teton Music Festival, the Colorado Music Festival, the Jeunesse Chamber Orchestra in Vienna, the Des Moines Metro Opera and with many local groups.

**TREVOR STEWART** is a recorder player and clarinetist based in the Kansas City metro. He serves as Principal Clarinet of the Wichita Symphony Orchestra, the Symphony of Northwest Arkansas, and NAVO Chamber Orchestra. He is the Instructor of Clarinet at Missouri Western State University, a private educator, and a clinician. As a soloist and chamber music collaborator, Trevor advocates for music by people in underrepresented demographics, and he has premiered several pieces by LGBTQ+ composers. Trevor earned a Master of Music degree in Clarinet Performance and an Artist's Certificate at the Conservatory of Music and Dance of the University of Missouri-Kansas City, where he studied with Jane Carl. He graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Music Education degree from the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith, where he studied clarinet with David Carter.

**ELISA WILLIAMS BICKERS** is the Associate Director of Music and Principal Organist at Village Presbyterian Church in Prairie Village, Kansas, where she leads the Alegría Young Adult Choir and the Village Ringers hand bell ensemble. She also aided in the acquisition and installation of a new mechanical-action pipe organ for the church, built by Richards, Fowkes & Co. Bickers has served on the music faculties of the UMKC Conservatory and Washburn University as instructor of organ and harpsichord. She is the harpsichordist and organist for the Bach Aria Soloists, a Kansas City-based chamber music ensemble devoted to the works of Johann Sebastian Bach and those inspired by him.

Active as a solo and collaborative organist, harpsichordist, and pianist, Bickers has performed throughout Europe and in Thailand, as well as all over the United States. She has collaborated with such musical groups as the Te Deum Chamber Ensemble, the Spire Chamber Ensemble, the Grammy award-winning Kansas City Chorale, and the Kansas City Symphony.

A native of Clinton, Maryland, Bickers began her organ studies with the Potomac Organ Institute. She has degrees in church music and organ performance from Texas Christian University (B.M., M.M.) and the University of Kansas (D.M.A.). Her organ teachers have included Dale Krider, Joseph Butler, and Michael Bauer. She has studied harpsichord playing and repair with Ed Parmentier and Ed Kottick, Jr. She has competed and won prizes in the William Hall Competition, National Young Artists' Competition in Organ Performance (NYACOP), and the International Buxtehude Competition. During her studies at KU, she was presented with the Carlin Award for excellence in teaching, the highest honor possible for graduate students at the university. She has also earned the Fellow certificate from the American Guild of Organists, the Guild's most advanced certification.

Bickers served as chair for New Music for the 2018 AGO National Convention, held in Kansas City, and currently serves on the KC AGO chapter's Investment Advisory Board. She makes her home in Overland Park, along with husband Robert, their daughter Isabel, two chubby cats, two average-sized rats, and a harpsichord built by Thomas Pixton. When not making music, she can be found in her vegetable garden, covered with dirt.

Bickers is represented by Concert Artist Cooperative.



————— Te Deum 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 to communities of faith to lead both Christian and Jewish worship services. His intellectual curiosity, fearless programming, and magnetic leadership has 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 region. He is frequently engaged as a conducting clinician, most recently with the University of Kansas and Mid America Nazarene University, and in the summer of 2020 will be the director of the American Choral Director's Association Kansas State Convention Honor Choir. 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 been a recent guest lecturer in music history and performance practice at William Jewell College and Baker University. 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.

Mr. Shepard also serves as the associate director of music at Village Presbyterian Church in Prairie Village, Kansas, where he leads adult choral and instrumental ensembles and leads their youth choir. 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 a fellow at the Conductors Institute at Bard College Conservatory and at the Oregon Bach Festival Composers Institute.

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#### Soloists

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**Young lyric coloratura soprano, Kayleigh Aytes**, is enchanting audiences with her charming stage presence, graceful voice, and elegant musicianship. Her recent engagements include collaborations with the Te Deum Chamber Choir and the Kansas City Baroque Consortium as a guest soloist. She is a featured artist in Trinity Lutheran's Bach Cantata Series for a second season. As a member, she performs with the respected Simon Carrington Chamber Singers, Kansas City Collegium Vocale and Spire Chamber Ensemble. This summer, Ms. Aytes was a young artist with the NAPA Music Festival in Napa Valley, California. You can also hear and see her on the stunning and contemporary promotional video for the Grand Opening of the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts.

Ms. Aytes' past operatic performing credits include Yvette in *La Rondine* with the Kansas City Puccini Festival, Musetta for Symphony of the Mountain's concert version of *La Bohème*, Fanny Mill in *La Cambiale di Matrimonio* with Knoxville Opera's Rossini Festival, and Johanna in the University of Tennessee's production of *Sweeney Todd*. With Knoxville Opera she portrayed Amy in *Little Women*, and covered Papagena and the Königin der Nacht in *Die Zauberflöte*.

While pursuing her undergraduate degree at the Conservatory of Music in Kansas City, Missouri, Ms. Aytes performed Königin der Nacht in *Die Zauberflöte*, Gretel in *Hansel and Gretel*, Witch I in *Dido and Aeneas*, and Yvette in *La Rondine*. After completing her Masters in Music at the University of Tennessee, where she was a member of the Knoxville Opera Studio as well as a Graduate Teaching Assistant, Ms. Aytes decided to put her singing career on hold. After taking time to nurture her personal life and pursue other opportunities, she is excited to be refocusing her energy on her true passion and talent, singing.

**Jay Carter** is recognized as one of the nation's finest countertenors and is a leading interpreter of Baroque repertoire, lauded for his luminous tone and stylish interpretations. He has appeared with many acclaimed conductors, including Maasaki Suzuki and the Bach Collegium Japan, Nicholas McGegan leading the St. Louis Symphony, and Daniel Hyde with the Choir of Men and Boys, St. Thomas Church, and has performed in many top performance venues. He holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Missouri Kansas City Conservatory. He earned a Masters in Music from the Yale School of Music and Institute of Sacred Music, and an undergraduate degree from William Jewell College, where he studied with Arnold Epley. Carter is on the voice faculty of Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ, where he leads Kantorei, an early music chamber choir. He also serves as Artistic Advisor for the Kansas City chamber choir Musica Vocale.

A voting member of the Recording Academy, **Paul Davidson** has performed as a professional musician in South Korea, England, Canada, the District of Columbia and 14 U.S. States. He is a soloist on two Grammy®-winning albums. This is his first concert with Te Deum. He performs locally with the Kansas City Chorale, Kantorei KC, Cardinalis (William Jewell), Festival Choral Society (Spring Hill, KS), Schola Cantorum (Immaculate Conception) and Trinity Choir (Trinity Lutheran – Mission, KS); he sings with the Cecilia Ensemble in Augusta, GA.

Recently, Paul has focused on independent crowd-funded projects, most recently commissioning a new composition "Invitation to Love" by Ed Frazier Davis. This piece headlined a full concert presented by six local musicians on February 12, 2021.

**Gabe Lewis-O'Connor** balances a busy schedule as conductor, professional soloist and choral performer, daily meditator, amateur woodworker, father and husband. Striving to bring humor, authenticity and emotion to all these passions is a lifelong pursuit. Prior to his masters and doctoral studies in conducting at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Gabe sang for four years with the professional vocal ensemble Chanticleer, which crystalized his belief that relationships are the core of powerful music-making. Gabe received a bachelor's degree in vocal performance from Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin and hails from Lawrence, Kansas, where he now lives with his wife Lauren, their feisty son Eamon and fierce daughter Celia.

**Tenor Jacob Sentgeorge** has won enthusiastic acclaim for his powerful performances as soloist with the ensembles Pro Musica Colorado, the Windsor Symphony Orchestra and the chamber ensemble Spire. Among his current projects are vocal/electracooustic settings of contemporary poets and a libretto to a new chamber opera in collaboration with poet Kathryn Nuernberger and composer Lee Hartman. He has presented numerous solo recitals in Florida, Maryland, Kansas, Illinois and Indiana, including at the National World War I Museum and Memorial in Kansas City. Additionally he has created roles in new operas, including the role of El Tigre in ¡Únicamente la Verdad! by Gabriela Ortiz and Zachariah in Pilatvs, which he co-created. Dr. Sentgeorge completed his D.M. in Voice Performance and Pedagogy at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music in 2012. His dissertation was completed with Dr. J. Peter Burkholder focusing on the songs of Charles Ives. Dr. Sentgeorge serves as Associate Professor of Voice at UCM.

————— Singers —————

<u>Soprano</u>	<u>Alto</u>	<u>Tenor</u>	<u>Bass</u>
Lucy Conklin	Joanna Ehlers	Tom Assel	Andrew Cunard
Abby Helt	Rupal Gupta	Josh Donaldson	Ken Foley
Sarah Sheldon	Julia Kasten	Liam McCarroll	Jeff Jasperson

**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.

**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.

**Andrew Cunard** graduated in 2010 with a business degree from Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa. While there, he sang in several premier groups including the Wartburg Choir where he grew as a choral singer under the direction of Dr. Paul Torkelson, Dr. Weston Noble, and current director Dr. Lee Nelson. After returning to Kansas City, Andrew joined Te Deum Chamber Choir and has sung with several other ensembles including Te Deum Antiqua and Kantorei of Kansas City, while also remaining active in music at Atonement Lutheran Church. Andrew received a Master of Business Administration from Rockhurst University in 2016 and spends his days working as a Loan Officer on The Rome Team at Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation.

**Josh Donaldson** is excited for his second season with Te Deum! Josh graduated from Pittsburg State University with a Master of Music in vocal performance and a Master of Music in choral conducting. Josh is a member of KC VITAs Chamber Choir and is the worship leader at Red Bridge United Methodist Church, where he directs the choir and leads the praise band. Josh is currently a Graduate Teaching Assistant in his final year at the University of Kansas where he will be completing his Doctor of Musical Arts in choral conducting. When not making music or studying, Josh enjoys attending musicals, rock concerts, trying new vegan restaurants, petting all the animals, and trying to keep his succulents alive.

**Joanna Ehlers** is a graduate of the UMKC Conservatory, earning both a bachelor's and master's of music degrees. Past opera roles include Dryad (Ariadne auf Naxos), Elizabeth Proctor (The Crucible), Carmen (Carmen), Charlotte (Werther), and Mother Marie (The Dialogues of the Carmelites). Most recently, Joanna appeared as Foreman of the Jury in the Landlocked Opera Inc. inaugural production of Gilbert and Sullivan's Trial by Jury. Joanna has also performed with the Lyric Opera of Kansas City, the Ancora Chorale, KC VITAs Chamber Choir, Cardinalis Chamber Choir, Ignea Strata, the Missouri Oratorio Society, Kantorei KC, and the GRAMMY-Award winning Kansas City Chorale. She is a current Company Artist with Moon River Opera and appeared in KJR Studios' 2020 virtual production of Die Fledermaus. Joanna is an accomplished equestrian and freelance writer who enjoys the outdoors and traveling with her family.

Ken Foley is in his third season with Te Deum. Ken is originally from Chagrin Falls, Ohio. He studied at the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati where he received a Bachelor of Music Education. He moved to Kansas City in 1995 to study with Eph Ehly at the UMKC Conservatory, where he earned his master's degree in choral conducting. He is in his 33rd year of teaching choral music and his 11th year as Director of Choirs at Shawnee Mission East High School. Ken was a member of the Kansas City Chorale from 1998-2001 and is happy to be singing in a choir again. He lives with his wife Heather and daughters Bria and Jilli.

Rupal Gupta joined Te Deum in 2017. She cultivated her lifelong love of choral music during her college years 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 Medical Director of Children's Mercy Hospital's Operation Breakthrough Clinic and 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, bake bread, and play Uno or Spelling Bee with her husband and two children.

Abby Helt is in her second season with Te Deum. Abby is a first-year music teacher 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.

Jeff Jaspersen is so grateful to be back with Te Deum for a second 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 currently sings for church services at Trinity Lutheran Church in Mission, Kansas, and works as a paraeducator at Shawnee Mission North High School. Jeff and his fiancée Kayla live in downtown 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, Royals, Jayhawks, and Sporting KC, and attempting to win his fantasy football league.

Julia Kasten is excited to be singing her second 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.

Liam McCarroll is a Kansas City-based tenor, occasionally performing around the city with various ensembles, and as a soloist. Currently, Liam works for a commercial fireproofing company and holds a section leader position at Atonement Lutheran Church. He also regularly performs with the Liberty Community Chorus and the Liberty United Methodist Chancel Choir under the direction of Bryan Taylor.

Sarah Sheldon graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 2014 with a Bachelor of Music in vocal performance and a minor in French. There she studied voice with Christine Seitz and sang with University Singers under the direction of R. Paul Crabb. In her studies, Sarah has performed as a soloist with groups such as Columbia Chorale, Columbia Civic Orchestra, Bach Collegium Choir, the Show-Me Opera, and the UMKC Conservatory Singers. Sarah works as a claims adjuster for Progressive Insurance and lives in Waldo with her partner Adam and their two cats, Bob and Betty.



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