



TE DEUM PRESENTS
RACHMANINOFF'S

ALL NIGHT
VIGIL



SEPTEMBER 27 – 28



RACHMANINOFF'S



ALL
NIGHT
VIGIL



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September 27, 2025 | 7:30 pm

Village Presbyterian Church
Prairie Village, KS

September 28, 2025 | 7:00 pm

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Kansas City, MO

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



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

A Note from the Artistic Director

When Sergei Rachmaninoff composed his All-Night Vigil in 1915, Russia was on the brink of revolution and war, yet he wrote a work of serene transcendence, which he later called “my favorite composition.” Drawing on ancient orthodox chant melodies and infusing them with his harmonic imagination, Rachmaninoff created music that feels timeless, balancing intimacy and majesty. The premiere was greeted with such fervor that audiences defied the customary ban on applause for sacred music.

That rapture was soon followed by silence. In the wake of the 1917 Revolution, the Moscow Synodal Choir that had premiered the piece was dissolved, and the Vigil was effectively suppressed for decades, surviving only in scattered “closed concerts” for Party elites until its reemergence in the late Soviet era. Its journey from near-oblivion to global renown is a testament to its enduring power. As Vladimir Morosan has written, it is a work that “invites all who come in contact with it into an experience of profound and seemingly timeless spiritual depth.”

The All-Night Vigil takes its name from the great Saturday-evening service of the Russian Orthodox Church. Traditionally lasting three hours, the Vigil weaves together the services of Vespers, Matins, and the First Hour into a single arc of prayer. The Vespers portion (movements 1–6) celebrates creation and the coming of the Light; the Matins portion (movements 7–15) rises toward the proclamation of the Resurrection before concluding with a triumphant march rining in the First Hour.

Te Deum’s performance honors this work’s great legacy while inviting a deeper connection for today’s listeners. Russian conductor Peter Jermihov has suggested that “an authentic performance must involve not only full comprehension of but also direct empathy with each word and phrase.” Rachmaninoff himself approved performances in translation, and tonight’s English rendering allows us to hear the fervent prayers as his Russian audiences did — in a language we understand, enabling that “direct empathy” to take root.

In presenting this masterpiece, we hope to offer not only a concert but a space of listening, a vigil of sorts, where ancient chant, lush harmonies, and the cadences of prayer converge. May this Vigil become for you, as it has for generations of singers and listeners, a luminous encounter with the divine.

— MCS

Sergei Rachmaninoff

All-Night Vigil, Op. 37

(1915)

Tara Curtis, mezzo-soprano

Jared Brooks, tenor

Vespers

1. *Come, ye people*
2. *Bless thou the Lord, my soul*
3. *Blest the man who walketh not in the counsel of the wicked*
4. *Gracious radiance*
5. *Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace*
6. *Virgin Mother of our Savior*

Matins

7. *Glory be to God on high and on earth peace*
8. *Sing praises to the Lord*
9. *Blessed art Thou, O most gracious Lord*
10. *Having now beheld the resurrection of Christ*
11. *My soul doth magnify the Lord*
12. *The Great Doxology*
13. *Troparion: Salvation has come*
14. *Troparion: Thou didst arise from the tomb*

First Hour

15. *O Victorious leader*

1. Come, ye people

Come, ye people, come and worship our King and Almighty God.
Come, ye people, come and worship and fall down before
our Lord the King and our only God.
Come, ye people, come and worship and fall down before
our very Savior and glorious God and righteous King.
Come, ye people, come and worship and fall down before our God.

2. Bless thou the Lord, my soul

Bless thou the Lord, O my soul.
Blessed art Thou, O Lord, our God.
O Thou my Lord and God, Thou art magnified exceedingly.
Blessed art Thou, O Lord.
Thou art arrayed with honor and with majesty.
Blessed art Thou, O Lord.
On the mountains stand the waters.
Marvelous are Thy works, O Lord, our God.
In the midst of the hills shall flow the waters.
Marvelous are Thy works, O Lord.
In Thy wisdom Thou hast made them all.
Glory to Thee, O Lord, who hast made them all.

3. Blest the man

Blest the man who walketh not in the counsel of the wicked.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
For the way of the righteous the Lord doth know,
but the way of the wicked will perish.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Serve the Lord with fear, rejoicing in Him always with trembling.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
How blessed are those who put their confidence in Him.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
O Lord, arise, O Lord, arise and save me, O my God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
For we are saved by God's great might,
and on all of Thy people there are blessings evermore.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Glory be to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
both now and ever, and to ages of ages. Amen.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory be to Thee, O God.

4. Gracious radiance

Gracious radiance, pure brightness of the Immortal,
glorious Father in heaven,
O holy and blessed Lord, O Thou Jesus Christ!
Now having come to sunset, we see the light of evening.
Gracious radiance.
We sing to Father, to the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God.
For Thou art worthy to be praised by happy voices
to worship Thee with reverent voices
O Son of God, giver of life:
all the world doth praise Thee.

5. Lord, now lettest Thou

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace
according to Thy word;
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast prepared before the face of all,
light to enlighten all the nations,
and the glory of Thy people Israel.

6. Virgin Mother of our Savior

Virgin Mother of our Savior, hail to Thee.
O Thou blessed one, Maria, the Lord is with Thee.
Blessed art Thou among women,
and blessed is the Fruit of Thy womb,
for Thou has born unto us a Savior,
the very Savior of our souls.

7. Glory be to God on high

Glory be to God on high,
and on earth peace,
may there be good will among all people.
O Lord, pray open Thou my lips,
and my mouth shall show forth Thy praise.

8. Sing praises to the Lord

Sing praises to the Lord. Alleluia.
Sing praises, ye servants of the Lord. Alleluia.
O blessed is the Lord from Sion,
who dwelleth in Jerusalem. Alleluia.
Oh give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good. Alleluia.
For His mercy is everlasting. Alleluia.
Oh give thanks to the God of the heavens. Alleluia.
For His mercy is everlasting. Alleluia.

9. Blessed art Thou, O most gracious Lord

Blessed art Thou, O most gracious Lord, now inspire me to obey Thy holy laws.
The angelic hosts were confounded,
thinking that Thou wast among the dead,
by Thy death, O Saviour, Thou hast crushed death's power,
and hast raised up the fallen Adam,
and from hell's grasp Thou hast freed us.

Blessed art Thou, O most gracious Lord, now inspire me to obey Thy holy laws.
Wherefore do you mix the myrrh with weeping,
O all you faithful women disciples now?
In the tomb a shining Angel called to the myrrh-bearing women:
"Look into the tomb and ye shall then realize,
He from the tomb has arisen."

Blessed art Thou, O most gracious Lord, now inspire me to obey Thy holy laws.
Very early in the morning the myrrh-bearers did hurry to
Thy tomb while sorrowing still,
but an Angel did announce unto them:
"The time has now passed for your grief, you must not weep,
tell the news that He has risen to the apostles."

Blessed art Thou, O most gracious Lord, now inspire me to obey Thy holy laws.
When the myrrh-bearing women came sorrowing to Thy tomb,
Thy body to anoint, grieving their Savior,
an Angel spoke unto them saying:
Why do you seek the living Lord among the dead?
For your God has arisen from the tomb."

Glory be to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
We bow down before the Father, before His Son, and the Holy Spirit,
Holy Trinity, undivided unity with the Seraphim calling:
Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord!

Both now and forever and to ages of ages.
When thou bore the Savior, thou, O Virgin,
didst deliver Adam from his Sin.
Joy thou hast given to Eve in place of sorrow and grief;
giving to all the fallen their salvation,
'tis from Thee, O Thou Son of God and Son of man.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, glory be to Thee, O God!

10. Having now beheld the resurrection of Christ

Having now beheld the resurrection of Christ,
let us bow down to the Holy Spirit,
the Lord Jesus, the only Holy sinless One.
Thy cross we do venerate and bless, O Christ,
and Thy holy resurrection we now magnify and worship:
For Thou art our God, and thus we acknowledge no other but Thee,
by Thy name we call Thee.
All ye faithful, come ye believers,
let us fall down and praise the Lord's resurrection from the dead:
for joy hath come through the cross into all the world,
with joy we sing praises,
Thy rising to life again: by suffering on the cross,
He hath destroyed death by death.

11. My soul doth magnify the Lord

My soul doth magnify the Lord,
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
*(Antiphon) More honorable than all the Cherubim
more glorious than all the Seraphim,
Thou hast borne without sin our God the Living Word,
Mary, O Thou most Holy One, we magnify Thee.*

He hath regarded with grace His lowly servant,
from this day forth all generations shall call me blessed.
(Antiphon repeat)

For the Almighty hath magnified me, and Holy is His name;
His mercy is on them that fear Him through all generations.
(Antiphon repeat)

He hath cast down the mighty from their thrones and lifted up the lowly ones;
the hungry He filled with good things and the rich He hath sent empty away.
(Antiphon repeat)

He has holpen His servant Israel in remembrance of His great mercy,
as of old He promised to Abraham and his seed, forever.
(Antiphon repeat)

12. The Great Doxology

Glory be to God on high and on earth peace,
may there be good will among all people.

We praise Thee, and we bless Thee,
we worship Thee, we glorify Thee,
we give Thee thanks for Thy great glory.

O Thou Lord, Thou heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Thou Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

O Thou Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
who takes away our sins, have mercy, receive our prayer.

Thou art seated at the right of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For Thou only art holy,
Thou only art the Lord, Jesus Christ,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

And every day will I bless Thee
and magnify Thy holy name forever and forever.
Vouchsafe, O Lord, this day, to keep us from sin this day.

Blessed art Thou, O our Lord, O Thou God of our fathers,
and praised and glorified be Thy holy name forever. Amen.

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us,
as we have set our hope upon Thee.

Blessed art Thou, O my Lord, hear my prayer
that I learn to obey Thy holy laws.

O bring healing to my soul. Unto Thee do I flee.

O Lord, Thou hast been our refuge from age to age.
I said: Lord, have mercy on me, and bring healing to my soul,
for against Thee I have sinned.

O Lord, unto Thee do I flee,
O teach me Thy holy will to obey for Thou art my God:
for with Thee is the fountain of life,
and in Thy light we see light.

Continue Thy mercy unto those that know Thee.
Show Thy mercy on all those who follow Thee.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.
Glory to the Father and the Son and Holy Spirit,
now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.
Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

13. Troparion: Salvation has come

Salvation has come into the world,
we sing to Him who rose from the grave
and Author of life for us all: having trampled death by death,
He the victory hath given unto us and great mercy.

14. Troparion: Thou didst arise from the tomb

Thou didst arise from the tomb
and burst the bonds of hell,
and Thou didst destroy the condemnation of death, O our Lord,
freeing us from the enemy's dread snares,
and Thou Thyself didst show to Thine own apostles,
Thou didst send them forth to proclaim Thy Word,
and through them peace Thou hast brought unto us all,
for Thou art plenteous in mercy.

15. O Victorious leader

O victorious leader, Thou ascendant mighty one,
Thy servants, saved from evil's snares, offer songs with grateful hearts
to Thee, O Thou Mother of the Lord;
for Thou hast invincible and gracious power at Thy command,
from all woes and cares set us free,
we pray unto Thee:
Hail to Thee, O Virgin, O Thou unwedded Bride.

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Crenshaw
Kristin Newbegin
Rosie O'Brien
London Roysden
Sarah Schulte
Jennifer Smith

Alto

Tara Curtis
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Allyssa Kemp
Ann Marzette
Roslinde Rivera

Tenor

Tom Assel
Jared Brooks
Nico Caruso
Andrew Flanagin
Tim Gorski
Rafael Rodriguez

Bass

Kelly Cossey
William Lubaroff
Josh Markley
Evan J. Nelson
Sam Nolte
Asher K. Tillman
Thou Yang



Meet Te Deum!

Scan this QR code to read about the singers you've enjoyed this evening.

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

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

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

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



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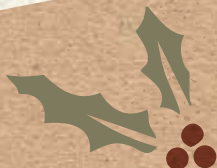
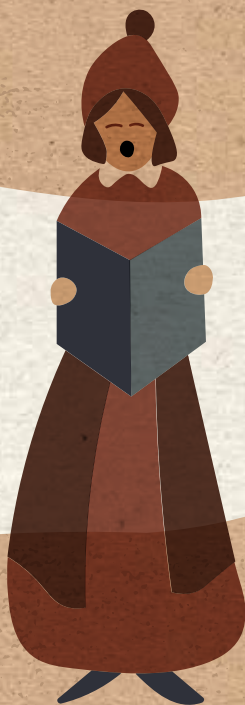
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