



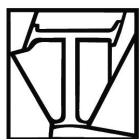
TE DEUM PRESENTS



CAROLS OF OLDE



DECEMBER 15 – 16



TeDeum



CAROLS OF OLDE



Post a photo of your coloring-page masterpiece and tag Te Deum by Dec. 24 to enter a drawing for two free tickets to our next show.





December 15, 2025 | 7:00 pm

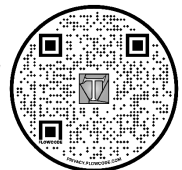
St. Mary's Episcopal Church
Kansas City, MO

December 16, 2025 | 7:00 pm

Village Presbyterian Church
Prairie Village, KS

*Carols of Olde is partially underwritten by
Eugene Wilson, in memory of Mary Ann Wilson*

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.

Carols of Olde

Featuring Elisa Bickers, organ

I. Light in Darkness

The mystery of Advent awakens in stillness and flame

Creator of the Stars of Night

Plainchant (7th-century)

Ther is No Rose of Swych Vertu

Trinity Manuscript (15th-century)

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Plainchant (5th-century)

1. Of the Father's love begotten,
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega;
he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore!

2. O, that birth forever blessed
when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bore the Savior of our race,
and the babe, the world's Redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore!

3. This is he whom seers in old time
chanted of with one accord,
whom the voices of the prophets
promised in their faithful word.
Now he shines, the long-expected.
Let creation praise its Lord,
evermore and evermore!

II. Prophetic Longing

Ancient voices cry out for redemption and deliverance.

This is the Truth Sent from Above

arr. Ian David Coleman (2023)

Adam Lay Ybounden

arr. Carson Cooman (2004)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Plainchant (8th-century)

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

2. O come, O come, thou Lord of
might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

3. O come, thou Dayspring,
come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows
put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

4. O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
fill the whole world with
heaven's peace.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

III. The Cradle and the Manger

Heaven touches earth in lullaby and humble awe.

What Child is This

Becky McGlade (2021)

The Holly and the Ivy

Matthew Owens (2011)

In the Bleak Midwinter

Gustav Holst (1906)

1. In the bleak midwinter,
frosty wind made moan;
earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow,
snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

2. Our God, heaven cannot hold him,
nor earth sustain;
heav'n and earth shall flee away
when he comes to reign:
in the bleak midwinter
a stable place sufficed
the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.

3. What can I give him,
poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man,
I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

IV. She Who Bears the Light

In Mary, heaven and earth converge. Her humble consent becomes the vessel of divine light, and her song echoes the hope of generations.

Hayl, Mary, Ful of Grace

Trinity Manuscript (15th-century)

Ave Maris Stella

Edvard Grieg (1893)

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

arr. Susan LaBarr (2018)

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Michael Praetorius (1609)

1. Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming,
by faithful prophets sung.
It came, a floweret bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.

2. Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it,
the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright
she bore for us a Savior,
when half spent was the night.

— English Translation by Theodore
Baker 1894

V. Joy Unbound

The Word is made manifest. Ancient song and new voice proclaim it.

Sussex Carol

Keane Southard (2025)

The First Nowell

English Carol (1833)

1. The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in
fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their
sheep, on a cold winter's night that
was so deep.

Refrain:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

2. They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond
them far; and to the earth it
gave great light,
and so it continued both day and
night. (Refrain)

3. Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and
earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath
bought. (Refrain)

Nowell! Nowell! Out of Your Sleep

John Tavener (2008)

Joy to the World

George Fredrick Handel (1742)

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Soprano

Lucy Conklin
GiGi Jolie
Crenshaw
Paige Flenniken
Rosie O'Brien
London Roysden
Jennifer Smith

Alto

Tara Curtis
Bria Jones
Ann Marzette
Roslinde Rivera
Sarah Schulte
Julia Kasten Sharp

Tenor

Tom Assel
Jared Brooks
Andrew Flanagin
Tim Gorski
Jeff Jasperson
Rafael Rodriguez

Bass

JD Daniel
Ryan Layton
William Lubaroff
Josh Markley
Evan J. Nelson
Sam Nolte



Meet Te Deum!

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

Dr. Matthew Christopher Shepard is the founder and conductor of Te Deum, one of the Midwest's leading professional choral ensembles. His work spans chamber and symphonic repertoire, including preparing large choral-orchestral works as assistant choral director of the Carmel Bach Festival, leading the University of Illinois Oratorio Society, and preparing dozens of major works with the Village Choir of Prairie Village. He advocates for new music, having premiered dozens of works by emerging and established composers, and his early-music scholarship has been recognized nationally with features in *Early Music America*.

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 from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance, studying both choral and orchestral conducting, and earned a doctorate from the University of Illinois, where he held teaching assistantships for the symphonic choir, chamber choir, and orchestra. 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.

Elisa Williams Bickers is the Principal Organist and Co-Director of Music Ministry at Village Presbyterian Church in Prairie Village, Kansas. Among other duties, she leads the *Alegría Adult Choir* and the *Village Ringers* hand bell ensemble and curates the church's landmark *Richards & Fowkes, Co.* pipe organ. She is also the keyboardist for the *Bach Aria Soloists*, a chamber music group dedicated to performing the works of Bach and those inspired by him.

Bickers has performed world-wide as a solo and collaborative organist and harpsichordist. She has worked with such musical groups as the *Te Deum Chamber Ensemble*, the *Spire Chamber Ensemble*, and the Grammy award-winning *Kansas City Chorale*, as well as the *Kansas City Symphony*. Her degrees from *Texas Christian University* and the *University of Kansas* are in church music and organ performance. She holds the Fellowship certificate from the *American Guild of Organists*, the Guild's highest certification.



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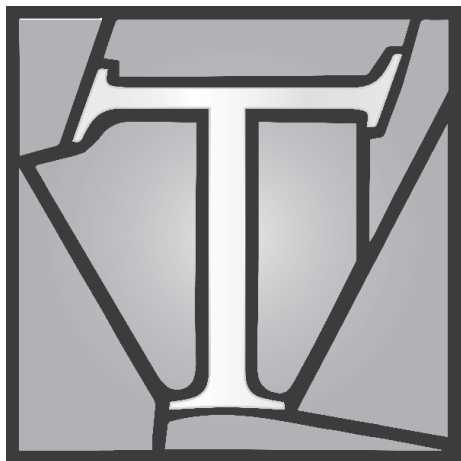
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