Peace and Joy

DECEMBER 8–9, 2019
Peace & Joy

I. The Waiting

Veni, Veni Emmanuel .......................... Ed Frazier Davis (2019)
*World Premiere

Veni, veni Emmanuel!
Captive solve Israel,
Qui gemit in exilio,
Privatus Dei Filio.
Refrain:
Gaude! Gaude! Emmanuel
Nascetur pro te, Israel!

Veni, veni Adonai!
Qui populo in Sinai,
Legem dedisti vertice,
In majestate gloriæ.

Veni, O Jesse Virgula!
Ex hostis tuos ungula,
De specu tuos tartari
Educ, et antro barathri.

O come, O come, Emmanuel!
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lowly exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, o come, Thou Lord of might!
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai’s height,
In ancient times did give the law,
In cloud, and majesty, and awe.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse!
Free Thine own from Satan’s tyranny,
From depths of hell Thy people save
And give them vict’ry o’er the grave.

A Spotless Rose ......................... Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

Andrew Cunard, solo

A spotless Rose is blowing,
Sprung from a tender root,
Of ancient seers’ foreshowing,
Of Jesse promised fruit;
Its fairest bud unfolds to light
Amid the cold, cold winter,
And in the dark midnight.

The Rose which I am singing,
Whereof Isaiah said,
Is from its sweet root springing
In Mary, purest Maid; For through
our God’s great love and might,
The blessed babe she bare us
In a cold, cold winter’s night.

Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming .......... Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

Lo, how a Rose e’er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse’s lineage coming
As saints of old have sung.
It came, a flowerer bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
When half-spent was the night.

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 to us a Savior;
When half spent was the night.

Flower, whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air,
Dispels in glorious splendor
The darkness everywhere.
True man, yet very God,
From sin and death He saves us
And lightens every load
II. The Mother

Today The Virgin  .........................  John Tavener (1944-2013)

Today the virgin comes to the cave
To give birth to the word eternal:
Rejoice, O world!
With the angels and the shepherds
give glory to the child!
Alleluia!

Mary my wife, O Mary my wife!
What do I see? I took you blameless
before the Lord
from the priests of the temple.
What do I see?

Joseph, the bridegroom,
O Joseph, the bridegroom!
Do not fear. God in his mercy has
come down to earth,
he takes flesh in my womb
for all the world to see.

Mary, my bride, O Mary my bride!
What do I see?
You, a virgin giving birth.
Strange mystery!

Warned by the angel we believe
that Mary gives birth inexplicable
to the infant, Christ, our God.

Ave Maria  ..............................  Anton Bruckner (1824-1896)

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 you;
Blessed are you among women,
And blessed is the fruit
of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,
Pray for us sinners,
Now and in the hour of our death.
Amen.

Bogoróditse Dyévo  ..........................  Arvo Pärt (1990)

Bogoróditse Dyévo, rádusya,
Blagodátñaya Mariye, Gospód s tobóyu.

Bлагословя́нна ты в зенáкх,
i blagoslovьéн plod chryéva tvoyevó,
yáko Spása rodílá yesí
dush náshikh

Rejoice, virgin mother of God,
Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb,
for you have borne the Savior
of our souls.
III. The Christmas Bells

_Gloria In Excelsis_ ............................... Geoffrey Wilcken (2000)

*World Premiere*

_Gloria in Excelsis Deo._
_Et in terra pax hominibus_  
_bonaevoluntatis._

Glory to God in the Highest  
and peace to his people on earth,  
For unto us a child is given  
and his name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God  
the Prince of Peace.

_Bells Rang Early in Jerusalem_  .............. Yakiv Yatsynevych (1869-1945)

_Oy, v Yerusalimi rano zadzvonili._  
_Oh, the bells rang early in Jerusalem._

_Schedriy vechir, dobriy vechir,_  
_dobrim Liudiam na zdorovya._  
_A bountiful evening, a good evening,_  
_to the health of all good people!_

_Oy, Diva Mariya po sadu hodila._  
_Oh, Maiden Mary walked in the garden._

_Po sadu hodila,_  
_Sina porodila._  
_She walked in the garden,_  
_and gave birth to a Son._

_Sina porodila,_  
_na rukah nosila._  
_She gave birth to a Son,_  
_and carried Him in her arms._

_Carol of the Bells_  ....................... arr. Peter J. Wilhousky (1902-1978)

_Hark! how the bells;_  
_Oh how they pound,_  
_Raising the sound,_  
_O’er hill and dale,_  
_Telling their tale._

_Sweet silver bells,_  
_Gaily they ring_  
_While people sing_  
_Songs of good cheer,_  
_Christmas is here!_

_All seem to say_  
_To young and old,_  
_Meek and the bold._

_“Throw cares away.”_  
_Gaily they ring_  
_While people sing_  
_Songs of good cheer,_  
_Christmas is here!_

_Christmas is here_  
_Gaily they ring_  
_While people sing_  
_Songs of good cheer,_  
_Christmas is here!_

_Ding dong ding dong_  
_Merry, merry, merry, merry_  
_Christmas,_  
_Merry, merry, merry, merry_  
_Christmas!_

_That is their song,_  
_With joyful ring,_  
_All caroling._

_One seems to hear_  
_On, on they send,_  
_On without end_  
_Their joyful tone_  
_To every home._

_Words of good cheer_  
_From everywhere_  
_Filling the air._
— 10 Minute Intermission —

IV. The Manger

O Magnum Mysterium .......................... Morten Lauridsen (1995)

O great mystery
and wonderful sacrament
that even the animals saw
the new-born Lord
lying in a manger!

Blessed Virgin, whose womb
was worthy to bear
our Lord Christ.
Alleluia!

Coventry Carol ......................... arr. Dale Warland (1968)

Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child,
by by, lully, lullay.

O sisters too, how may we do
for to preserve this day this poor youngling,
for whom we do sing, by by, lully lullay?

Herod the king, in his raging, charged he hath this day
his men of might, in his own sight,
all young children to slay.

Then woe is me, poor child, for thee!
and ever morn and day, for thy parting
neither say nor sing by by, lully lullay!

Away in a Manger ....................... arr. Ola Gjeilo (2012)

Rosie Smith, solo

Look down from the sky
And stay by my side
Until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus,
I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever
And love me, I pray
Bless all the dear children
In Thy tender care
And take us to Heaven
To live with Thee there
V. The Prayer For Peace

Friede auf Erden ............................ Arnold Schönberg (1874-1951)

Da die Hirten ihre Herde
Ließen und des Engels Worte
Trugen durch die niedre Pforte
Zu der Mutter mit dem Kind,
Fuhr das himmlische Gesind
Fort im Sternenraum zu singen,
Fuhr der Himmel fort zu klingen:
“Friede, Friede auf der Erde!”

Seit die Engel so geraten,
O wie viele blut'ge Taten
Hat der Streit auf wildem Pferde,
Der geharnischte vollbracht!
In wie mancher heiligen Nacht
Sang der Chor der Geister zagend,
Dringlich flehend, leis verklagend:
“Friede, Friede auf der Erde!”

Doch es ist ein ewiger Glaube,
Dass der Schwäche nicht zum Raube
Jeder frechen Mordgebärde
Werde fallen allezeit:
Etwas wie Gerechtigkeit
Webt und wirkt in Mord und Grauen
Und ein Reich will sich erbauen,
Dessen helle Tuben dröhnen:
Friede, Friede auf der Erde!

As they grazed their flock, the shepherds
bore the angel’s salutation
through the lowly portal, onward
to the Mother and her Child.
Hosts of Heaven led the hymn,
through the starry spheres resounding,
Heaven led the song proclaiming,
“Peace, O Peace upon the Earth!”

Since that time of angels, warning
O how many deeds so bloody
has that armored horseman, Conflict,
on his wild horse brought forth!
On how many a holy night
sang the choir of spirits quaking,
pressingly yet softly pleading,
“Peace, O Peace upon the Earth!”

Yet survives belief eternal
that the weak shall not forever
fall as helpless victim to each
murderer’s fresh indignity.
Righteousness, or something kin,
weaves and works in rout and horror,
and a kingdom yet shall rise up
seeking Peace upon the Earth.

Slowly shall its form develop,
holy duties while fulfilling,
weapons free of danger forging,
flaming swords for cause of Right.
And a royal line shall bloom,
mighty royal sons shall flourish,
whose bright trumpets peal proclaiming,
Peace, O Peace upon the Earth!

A Christmas Carol .......................... Charles Ives (1968)

Little star of Bethlehem!
Do we see Thee now?
Do we see Thee shining
O'er the tall trees?
Little Child of Bethlehem!
Do we hear thee in our hearts?
Hear the Angels singing:
Peace on earth, good will to men!
Noel!

O'er the cradle of a King,
Hear the Angels sing:
In Excelsis Gloria, Gloria!
From his Father’s home on high,
Lo! for us He came to die;
Hear the Angels sing:
Veni adoremus Dominum.
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 have made him one of the most sought-after conductors in the region.

Mr. Shepard is founder and conductor of Te Deum and its early music ensemble, Te Deum Antiqua. Now in its 12th season, Te Deum has established itself as one of the premier choral ensembles in the region. He is frequently engaged as a conducting clinician at Universities and schools throughout the region, most recently with the University of Kansas and Lawrence High School, 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 at the National Convention of the American Guild of Organists 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, where he leads adult choral and instrumental ensembles and directs 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.

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 Consulting LLC, a grant consulting firm specializing in grant research and proposal writing in a variety of fields. Tom has been singing with Te Deum since fall 2010.

Kyle Chamberlin is thankful to be singing his sixth season with Te Deum Chamber Choir. Kyle teaches choir at Indian Hills Middle School. He graduated from Emporia State University with a dual degree in vocal and instrumental music education. He also just completed his Master of Science in Education Administration at ESU. While at ESU, Kyle appeared in many musicals and operas and presented solo recitals in South Korea and Mexico City. In the past 10 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.
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.

JD Daniel is an emerging composer, bass-baritone and aspiring writer based in Kansas City. As a queer man of color and secularist, he is passionate about using his music and writing to speak from a broadly humanist perspective and give voice to the LGBTQ+ community and other marginalized groups. This is his first season with Te Deum, as well as with Kantorei KC and Cardinaulis. He holds a musicology-focused B.A. in Oxbridge Music and Philosophy from William Jewell College, where he was a Choral Scholar, touring internationally and recording multiple albums with its award-winning Concert Choir. He currently sings with KC VITAs and the St. George’s Choral Scholars of St. Mary’s Episcopal Church. Upcoming engagements include the bass-baritone role in C.P.E. Bach’s Magnificat with Missouri Oratorio Society, and the Society of Composers Inc. 2020 National Conference which will feature the Texas premiere of his choral work “Night Light.”

Katherine Dick has been a member of Te Deum for the last five years. She’s been a chorister since 5th grade Jazz Singers, thanks to an inspiring elementary music teacher. In 2014, she received a Bachelor of Music in vocal performance from the University of Kansas. While at KU, Katherine was an active member of Chamber Singers and performed in many opera/theatre productions throughout her college career. Most recently, Katherine portrayed Francesca in Theatre Lawrence’s production of the musical The Bridges of Madison County. Katherine spends her weekdays with elementary students at Raintree Montessori in Lawrence, Kansas. She enjoys collaborating with artists and friends in both the Lawrence and Kansas City communities. Katherine spends her free time with family and friends, with a good crossword, playing the piano, and, as of late, tap lessons! She is very much into petting dogs at sports games.

Josh Donaldson is excited to start his first 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.

Jon Duncan has been a member of Te Deum since 2013. Jon is the choir director at Shawnee Mission South High School in Overland Park, KS, and he previously taught at Indian Woods Middle School and Hocker Grove Middle School. Jon received his BME and MME both from the UMKC Conservatory of Music and Dance. 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. Outside of choral music, Jon enjoys taking care of his houseplants, raising Pokémon, and completing puzzles of all genres.

Joanna Ehlers, Kansas City native, is a graduate of the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance, where she earned both bachelor and master degrees in vocal performance. She has performed with the Lyric Opera of Kansas City, the Ancora Chorale, KC VITAs Chamber Choir, Te Deum Chamber Choir, Antiqua and Landlocked Opera Inc. Future engagements include the Kansas City Chorale and Cardinaulis. Joanna is a founding member of Ignea Strata and serves as a choral scholar at historic St. Mary’s Episcopal Church in downtown Kansas City. She resides in Independence, Missouri, with her family.

Ken Foley is in his second 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 University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance, where he earned his master’s degree in choral conducting. He is in his 32nd year of teaching choral music and his 12th 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.
**Juliana Fox** was pleased to join Te Deum in the spring of 2015. She holds bachelor’s degrees in vocal music education and vocal performance from Missouri State University. While at MSU, she was privileged to sing in the Concert Chorale under Dr. Guy Webb. She was also active in the opera program, costuming many productions as well as performing. Julianna is an alumnus of the Kansas City Chorale and taught elementary music in Hickman Mills before working in insurance services for State Street Financial. She is currently a stay-at-home mom to her son Miles and daughter Eden.

**Nick Gillock** has been a member of Te Deum since fall 2014. He completed his Bachelor of Music Education from Kansas State University in December 2014. He is currently pursuing a master’s degree in musicology at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance. Prior to this, he was the choral director at Indian Trail Middle School in Olathe. He has studied voice with Prof. Dale Ganz and Dr. Bryan Pinkall, and choral studies with Dr. Julie Yu, Dr. Joshua Oppenheim, and Dr. Eph Ehly. When not singing, Nick enjoys hanging out with friends and cheering on Sporting KC and the KSU Wildcats!

**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. This spring she began her education with the Academic Pediatric Association Research Scholars Program, through which she will explore 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 plays Monopoly with her son and husband while straining to hear her young daughter quietly making up melodies.

**Abby Helt** is excited to join Te Deum for her first season! Abby is finishing her Bachelor of Music Education degree from Kansas State University. She is currently student teaching and will graduate in December 2019. This fall she is student teaching at Westridge Middle School and East Antioch Elementary School. 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 has 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.

**Micah Horton** is excited to return to Te Deum for his third season with the choir. He teaches choir at Grandview High School, serves as the Director of Worship Music at Second Presbyterian Church in Brookside, and also plays guitar and electric bass. Micah holds bachelor’s degrees in music composition & psychology from Eastern Nazarene College in Quincy, Massachusetts. He also has a Master of Music Education from the UMKC Conservatory of Music & Dance. Micah recently served as the Resource Chair for Multicultural Perspectives for the Missouri Choral Director’s Association. He is a New Jersey native & proud Philadelphia sports fan.

**Jeff Jasperson** is elated to be a member of Te Deum for his first 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. Since 2017, Jeff has been a director of the choral variety show Encore at Free State High School in Lawrence. He also works as a paraeducator at Shawnee Mission North High School. Jeff and his fiancée Kayla recently moved from Lawrence to downtown Kansas City and are loving it. In his spare time, Jeff enjoys singing and playing guitar at open mics, distance running, watching the Jayhawks, Chiefs, Royals, and Sporting KC, and attempting to win his fantasy football league.

**Julia Kasten** is very excited to start her first season with Te Deum! She currently attends school at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and is working towards the completion of a bachelor’s degree in both vocal performance and music theory. As well as performances and choirs at the conservatory, Julia works as a church musician and performs with the Tallgrass Chamber Choir directed by Jacob Narverud. This season is also the first that Julia will be singing with Kantorei KC. Outside of music, Julia loves her cats, Disney, and traveling.
Katie Kendle is an experienced vocalist and engaging performer, connecting with audiences through a variety of styles and ensembles. She joined Te Deum Chamber Choir in 2010 and Te Deum Antiqua in 2014. In prior years she has performed with numerous ensembles, including Fine Arts Chorale under the direction of Terri Teal, Kansas City’s Puccini Fest, Southwestern University Chorale, and the University Choir and Madrigal Singers of Texas Tech. Katie enjoys freelance work as well, singing for churches and weddings in the Kansas City area, and collaborating with other local artists in songwriting projects. She is currently the music teacher for preschool and homeschool classes at Overland Park Community Bible Study. Katie makes her home in Kansas City with her husband Josh and their three children.

Nanette Kraus joined Te Deum in 2013. Nanette recently moved to Kansas City, Missouri, where she enjoys a wide variety of music projects as church musician, collaborative pianist, and singer. She serves as the staff accompanist for Liberty High School and Liberty Community Chorus, and creates rehearsal tracks for choirs in the region. In addition to Te Deum, she sings with KC VITAs Chamber Choir. From 2009-2016, Nanette served as staff accompanist and piano instructor at Baker University. Nanette earned a Bachelor of Arts in music from Bethany College and a Juris Doctor from the University of Kansas. When not making music, Nanette volunteers at the Kauffman Center and on the Te Deum board, and enjoys landscape photography and Jayhawk basketball.

Ann Lewis joined Te Deum Chamber Choir in the fall of 2009 for its first full season. She graduated from William Jewell College in 2009 with degrees in piano performance and church music with a vocal emphasis. In 2013, she completed a Master of Arts in teaching from the University of Central Missouri. She currently teaches at Kearney Middle School, where she serves as director of vocal music, teaches popular music courses, and assists with the high school vocal music program. Prior to teaching at KMS, Ann served as the vocal music teacher at Marshall High School (Missouri) for four years. She continues to direct the Marshall Community Chorus. Outside the music realm, Ann works at Anthropologie to support her dress addiction. She also runs a pie side hustle: Easy As Pie KC.

Hilary Morton is a proud new member of Te Deum. Hilary recently moved to Kansas City from Lawrence to begin teaching choral music at Shawnee Mission North High School. She previously taught at Lawrence Free State High School in Lawrence and at Oregon Trail Jr. High in Olathe. A Lawrence native, Hilary attended the University of Kansas and sang under the direction of Simon Carrington. She dual-majored as an undergrad, receiving a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education and in Theatre/Voice. She minored in French and holds a Masters of Choral Pedagogy from KU. She has been involved in theatre in Lawrence for almost 40 years, from sketch comedy productions to Broadway cabaret performances. When Hilary’s not singing or making others sing, she is nestled with her fur babies, watching scary movies whilst baking cookies and crafting specialty cocktails for her loved ones.

Victoria Olson received her Bachelor of Music from the University of Nebraska at Omaha and recently completed her Master of Music and Artist Certificate with an emphasis in Baroque studies at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance. She has been an active collaborator in numerous concerts, large-scale projects, and recitals with ensembles such as Te Deum, Antiqua, Kantorei, Spire, and Missouri Choral Artists. In addition to vocal studies, Victoria holds a strong interest in music education and has served as a clinician, adjudicator, and private voice instructor across the Midwest. She is a versatile artist with experience in both traditional and new music, specializing in the Baroque era with a particular interest in cantatas, oratorios, and works for small chamber ensembles. Her performance career has taken her through the Midwest to Eastern Europe as a prominently featured soloist for major choral works in two opera houses.

Colin Riley is excited to join Te Deum for his first season. A recent arrival 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 a Senior Engineer with General Electric 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 and spends weekends visiting museums with his wife and daughter.
Sydney Seratte has been a member of Te Deum for not one, not two, but seven seasons! Sydney teaches music at Citizens of the World Charter School in Kansas City, Missouri. Prior to joining the team at CWC, she taught music at Bluejacket-Flint Elementary School in Shawnee, Kansas. She graduated with a Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance. As a UMKC student, Sydney enjoyed singing in university choirs and vocal recitals. Her teachers have included Janeal Krehbiel, Cathy Crispino, Dr. Charles Robinson, Dr. Ryan Board, Dr. Aidan Soder, Corbin Trimble, Debra Raffety, Robert Relly, Joan Hildebrand, and Patrice Sollenberger. Sydney teaches Simply Music piano lessons in the metro area, holds a master’s degree in education from MidAmerica Nazarene University, and a master’s degree in music education from UMKC. She loves midtown Kansas City, house plants, vegetarian food and her two (too many) cats, Del and Meret.

Sarah Sheldon is excited to join Te Deum this season! Sarah 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 boyfriend Adam and their two cats, Bob and Betty.

Rosie Smith is so excited to begin her first season with Te Deum! A fresh K-12 music education graduate of William Jewell College, Rosie now teaches 6-12 vocal music at Paola Middle and High School. During her time at Jewell, Rosie sang with the William Jewell College Concert Choir and Choral Scholars under the direction of Dr. Anthony Maglione. Rosie also served as student conductor for those two groups as well as Jewell’s Chapel Choir and Handbell Choir. She was granted the opportunity to conduct the Concert Choir during their tri-annual England/Scotland performance tour as well as study choral conducting at the Choral Institute at Oxford, co-directed by Dr. James Jordan and James Whitbourn, in the summer of 2018. Rosie is thrilled to be able to continue her love of performing with Te Deum and cannot wait to see what this season has in store.

Andrew Wilson – After a hiatus from singing to pursue his career in audio engineering, Andrew is thrilled to be joining Te Deum for his first season! Andrew studied vocal performance at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance under Dr. Raymond Feener. During his time at the conservatory, he sang in conservatory Concert Choir under the direction of Dr. Charles Robinson, and Conservatory Singers under the direction of Dr. Robert Bode. He also participated in multiple UMKC opera productions under the direction of Marciem Bazzell, Fenlon Lamb, and Dorothy Danner. Andrew currently works as an audio engineer for Green Lady Lounge, Antioch Church, Artist Community Project, and Advanced Sound and Communication.
12th Season Sponsors

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