

KENT TRITLE

Biography 2024-25

Kent Tritle is one of America's leading choral conductors. Called "the brightest star in New York's choral music world" by The New York Times, he is Director of Cathedral Music and Organist at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City; Music Director of the Oratorio Society of New York, the Grammy-nominated volunteer chorus; and Music Director of Musica Sacra, New York's elite professional chorus. Kent is a member of the graduate faculty of The Juilliard School, serving its Vocal Arts Department.

Also an acclaimed organ virtuoso, Kent Tritle is the organist of the New York Philharmonic.

Kent Tritle begins his 2024-25 concert season leading Musica Sacra in a program of music by Alfred Schnittke, Henryk Gorecki, and Kaija Saariaho at the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola, and concludes it with the Oratorio Society of New York, conducting the world premiere performance of the Paul Moravec/Mark Campbell oratorio *All Shall Rise* at Carnegie Hall. In between, the highlights of his schedule include Musica Sacra's Carnegie Hall holiday program of Bach, Mozart, and Beethoven with guest soloists Susanna Phillips and Simone Dinnerstein, and the return of Musica Sacra's "SurRound" 360° concert after a sold-out 2023 debut; Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* and Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 with the Cathedral Choirs of St. John the Divine, and the inaugural recital of a series celebrating the return of the Cathedral's Great Organ after a six-year silence for repairs; and *Carmina Burana* and *Messiah* with the Oratorio Society of New York.

Among Kent's recent notable performances: at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, Verdi's Requiem, Mahler's "Symphony of a Thousand," and Britten's *War Requiem* performed by the Oratorio Society of New York and the Symphony and Symphonic Chorus of the Manhattan School of Music; and with the Cathedral Choir, the New York premiere performance by the Cathedral Choir of Einojuhani Rautavaara's *Vigilia* (called by Opera News "a choral concert for the ages"). With Musica Sacra, world premieres of music by Juraj Filas, Michael Gilbertson, and Robert Paterson. And with the Oratorio Society of New York, the world premieres of the Paul Moravec/Mark Campbell oratorios *Sanctuary Road* (the recording of which received a Grammy nomination) and *A Nation of Others*.

Kent has created high-profile collaborations for his groups with other major players in the New York music scene, directing Musica Sacra for the New York Philharmonic performances of *St. Matthew Passion* and Mozart Requiem, as well as the orchestra's live score performances of *2001: A Space Odyssey* and *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*; and the Oratorio Society of New York for Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* with the Orchestra of St. Luke's led by Sir Roger Norrington, and Carnegie Hall's 125th Anniversary Gala. He also led the "Mass Appeal Mass" of the "Make Music New York" festival for three years, including the 2012 premiere of a work by Philip Glass in Times Square.

Kent Tritle is renowned as a master clinician, giving workshops on conducting and repertoire; he leads annual choral workshops at the Amherst Early Music Festival, and recent years have included workshops at Berkshire Choral International, Summer@Eastman and at the Sibelius

Academy in Helsinki. As Director of Choral Activities at the Manhattan School of Music from 2008 to 2022, Kent established the school's first doctoral program in choral conducting. A Juilliard School faculty member since 1996, he currently directs a graduate practicum on oratorio in collaboration with the school's Vocal Arts Department.

In more than 150 concerts presented by the *Sacred Music in a Sacred Space* series from 1989 to 2011, Kent Tritle conducted the Choir and Orchestra of St. Ignatius Loyola in a broad repertoire of sacred works, from Renaissance masses and oratorio masterworks to premieres by notable living composers, earning praise for building the choir and the concert series into one of the highlights of the New York concert scene. From 1996 to 2004, Tritle was Music Director of the Emmy-nominated Dessoff Choirs. Kent hosted "The Choral Mix with Kent Tritle," a weekly program devoted to the vibrant world of choral music, on New York's WQXR from 2010 to 2014.

As an organ recitalist, Kent Tritle performs regularly in Europe and across the United States; recital venues have included the Leipzig Gewandhaus, the Zurich Tonhalle, the Church of St. Sulpice in Paris, Dresden's Hofkirche, King's College at Cambridge, Westminster Abbey, and St. Vitus Cathedral in Prague. As the organist of the New York Philharmonic, he has performed Saint-Saëns's "Organ" Symphony conducted by Lorin Maazel, Andrew Davis, Antonio Pappano, David Robertson, and Stéphane Denève, and recorded Brahms's *Ein Deutsches Requiem*, Britten's *War Requiem* and Henze's Symphony No. 9, all conducted by Kurt Masur, as well as the Grammy-nominated *Sweeney Todd* conducted by Andrew Litton. He is featured on the DVDs *The Organistas* and *Creating the Stradivarius of Organs*. Kent is also the featured soloist with the All-Star Orchestra in season six of that American Public Television series, in a performance of Saint-Saëns's "Organ" Symphony led by Gerard Schwarz.

Kent Tritle's discography features recordings on the Telarc, Naxos, AMDG, Epiphany, Gothic, VAI and MSR Classics labels. Recent releases include the Paul Moravec/Mark Campbell oratorio *A Nation of Others* with the Oratorio Society of New York; the Grammy-nominated Naxos recording of the Moravec/Campbell *Sanctuary Road* also with the Oratorio Society; Mahler's Symphony No. 8 in David Briggs's organ-choral version, and *Eternal Reflections: Choral Music of Robert Paterson* with Musica Sacra. Other releases include the 2013 recording of Juraj Filas' Requiem, *Oratio Spei* dedicated to the victims of 9/11, with the Prague Symphony Orchestra and the Kühn Choir; *Messages to Myself*, an acclaimed recording with Musica Sacra of five new works; and recordings – including *Cool of the Day*, an a cappella program of music ranging from Gregorian chant, Palestrina, and spirituals to Strauss's Deutsche Motette, and Ginastera's *The Lamentations of Jeremiah* with Schnittke's Concerto for Choir – with the Choir of St. Ignatius Loyola.

Kent is the 2020 recipient of Chorus America's Michael Korn Founders Award for Development of the Professional Choral Art. Other recent honors include the 2017 Distinguished Achievement Award from Career Bridges and the 2016 President's Medal for Distinguished Service from the Manhattan School of Music. Kent is on the advisory boards of the Choral Composer/Conductor Collective (C4) and the Clarion Music Society, and was the 2016 honoree at Clarion's annual gala.

Kent Tritle holds graduate and undergraduate degrees from The Juilliard School in organ performance and choral conducting. He has been featured on ABC World News Tonight, National Public Radio, and Minnesota Public Radio, as well as in The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal. He was featured in Episode 6 of the first season of the WIRED video series “Masterminds,” an installment titled, “What Conductors Are Really Doing.”

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