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Kent Tritle's 2024-25 Season

- **Musica Sacra: Schnittke, Górecki, Saariaho; Carnegie Hall holiday program of Bach, Mozart, and Beethoven; "SurRound II" at St. John the Divine**
- **Oratorio Society of New York: *Carmina Burana*, *Messiah*, world premiere of Paul Moravec/Mark Campbell *All Shall Rise***
- **Cathedral of St. John the Divine: *St. Matthew Passion*, Beethoven's Ninth, and the inaugural recital marking the return of the Great Organ**
- **Featured appearances in *Confluence*, a new PBS streaming series, and the All-Star Orchestra series' sixth season**



Kent Tritle conducting Musica Sacra in "SurRound" at St. John the Divine, photo by Brian Hatton

Kent Tritle begins his 2024-25 concert season on October 16, leading Musica Sacra in a program of music by Alfred Schnittke, Henryk Górecki, and Kaija Saariaho at the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola, and concludes it on May 5 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. (Full programs follow below.)

Appearances on public television series: *Confluence* and All-Star Orchestra

Kent is also featured in two public television series this year. ***Confluence***, a new three-episode series on the PBS streaming service, explores the enduring connections between three of the most essential aspects of the human experience: art, science, and creativity. Featuring a range of stories told by artists including Joshua Bell, the artist Nick Cave, and Roomful of Teeth, the series culminates with an episode, *Everything New is Old Again*, in which Kent is featured in a segment about the pipe organ. This episode will debut on July 26 on the streaming service; broadcast on PBS stations across the US will begin shortly thereafter. www.pbs.org/show/confluence/

Season six of the **All-Star Orchestra**, an American Public Television series of concerts performed by an ensemble made up of principal players of major U.S. orchestras led by Gerard Schwarz, opens with "A Symphonic Organ Spectacular" that features Saint-Saëns' "Organ Symphony" with Kent as soloist. Nationwide broadcast begins in October 2024. www.allstarorchestra.org

Kent Tritle is Director of Cathedral Music and Organist at the **Cathedral of St. John the Divine**; Music Director of both **Musica Sacra**, New York's elite professional chorus, and **Oratorio Society of New York**, the acclaimed avocational ensemble; and organist of the **New York Philharmonic**.

MUSICA SACRA – ICCM collaboration, Carnegie Hall holiday program, "SurRound II," New York Philharmonic *Messiah*

Kent's 18th season as Music Director of Musica Sacra begins with a collaboration with the ICCM (International Centre for Contemporary Music): "**The Seasons**," part of ICCM's *Coming of Age* festival of 20th- and 21st-century works that have matured into contemporary classics. Headlining the concert is Alfred Schnittke's Concerto for Choir (1984-5) – one of the 20th century's most challenging, and masterful, choral works, a setting of *The Book of Lamentations* by the Armenian mystic and poet Grigor Narekatsi (951-1003). This performance will mark the work's 40th anniversary year. Joining it on the program are Henryk Górecki's *Lobgesang* (2000) for chorus and glockenspiel and Kaija Saariaho's *Tag des Jahrs* (2002), a setting of poetry by Friedrich Hölderlin for chorus and electronics. ICCM is an international center for performance, production, and promotion of contemporary music with offices in London and New York. (October 16, 2024, at the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola)

This year, **Musica Sacra's annual holiday season concert at Carnegie Hall** will feature two stellar guest artists and three classic favorites: Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy* with pianist Simone Dinnerstein; Mozart's solo motet *Exsultate, Jubilate* featuring soprano Susanna Phillips; and selections from Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*, as well as Christmas motets by Poulenc, Lauridsen, Bassi, and Biebl (full program below). (December 18, 2024, at Carnegie Hall)

Returning after a sold-out debut in October 2023 is Musica Sacra's "**SurRound II**," an immersive concert in 360° in the candlelit Cathedral of St. John the Divine. The audience, seated in the Great Choir stalls and floor, will experience a program of medieval, Renaissance, and contemporary works as Kent leads the singers throughout the cathedral. The program includes Gregorio Allegri's *Miserere* and John

Tavener's *Lament of the Mother of God* as well as music by Adolphus Hailstork, Sarah McDonald, William Dawson, Perotin, Joanna Forbes L'Estrange, Heinrich Schütz, and Morton Lauridsen. (April 1, 2025, at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine)

About the 2023 SurRound event, Classics Today said, "As the chorus moved we got to hear individual voices, inner harmonies, and, in a way, the manner in which great choral music works. By placing the chorus above, behind, and mixed in with the choir stalls for different works, the never ending panoply of tone and color put us in the middle of the creative process. A remarkable evening."

After critically-acclaimed collaborations with the **New York Philharmonic** in 2023 (*St. Matthew Passion*) and May 2024 (Mozart Requiem), Musica Sacra will join the orchestra for its annual performances of Handel's *Messiah*, this year led by Ton Koopman (December 11-14, 2024, at David Geffen Hall). Musica Sacra also returns to the New York City Ballet for that company's signature production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (May 27 – June 1, 2025, at David Koch Theater).

ORATORIO SOCIETY OF NEW YORK – World premiere of Moravec/Campbell *All Shall Rise, Carmina Burana, and Messiah*

To launch his 20th season as its music director, Kent leads the Oratorio Society of New York in the first event of its Carnegie Hall season, a program highlighted by Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana* in the composer's own two-piano and percussion orchestration, with pianists Amir Farid and Blair McMillen, along with Libby Larsen's *Invitation to Music*, selections from Brahms's *Liebeslieder*, and Oliver Caplan's *Cloud Anthem*. The concert's vocal soloists are Eva Martinez, John Riesen, and John Brancy, and the Cathedral Choristers of St. John the Divine join for the Orff. (November 11, 2024, at Carnegie Hall)

The Oratorio Society's 150th performance of Handel's *Messiah* features soloists Nola Richardson, Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen, Joshua Blue, and Joseph Parrish, Cohen and Parrish making their OSNY debuts. (December 23, 2024, at Carnegie Hall)

Culminating the Oratorio Society season is a concert featuring the world premiere of *All Shall Rise*, an oratorio exploring the history of voting rights in the U.S., by composer Paul Moravec and librettist Mark Campbell – the third work OSNY has commissioned from the duo, following *Sanctuary Road* (2018) and *Nation of Others* (2022) – along with Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 2, "Lobgesang." The concert's soloists are Susanna Phillips, Lucia Bradford, Jonathan Pierce Rhodes, and Steven Eddy. (May 5, 2025, at Carnegie Hall)

CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE – *St. Matthew Passion, Beethoven's Ninth, and the return of the Great Organ*

The Cathedral's annual "**Joy of Christmas**" concert has Kent and Bryan Zaros leading the Cathedral Choirs and Orchestra in a program including Daniel Pinkham's Christmas Cantata, works by Kerensa Briggs, Henri Büsser, and John Rutter, and Christmas carols sung by all. (December 14, 2024, at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine)

To celebrate 40 years of the Cathedral's **New Year's Eve Concert for Peace**, Kent will lead a performance of Beethoven's Symphony No. 9, with soloists Kathryn Lewek, Raehann Bryce-Davis, Paul Appleby, and William Guanbo Su, and the Cathedral Choirs and Orchestra. (December 31, 2024, at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine)

The Great Organ of St. John the Divine has been silent since it was damaged by fire in 2019. Now repaired and ready for action (pun intended), it will be celebrated by a series of recitals, which Kent will inaugurate with a program that will showcase the instrument's vast tonal and dynamic spectrum: works by J. S. Bach, Rachel Laurin, Messiaen, Franck, Crumb, and Widor (full program below). This concert is free and open to the public, as are two subsequent recitals by Daniel Ficarra and David Briggs. (*February 4, 2025, at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine*)

The spring brings a performance of J. S. Bach's mighty **St. Matthew Passion** in which Kent spotlights the musical architecture of Bach's masterwork with creative placement of the Cathedral's choirs – the Choir, Chorale (volunteer ensemble) and Choristers (boys and girls) in the space. The soloists are Paul Appleby (Evangelist), Joseph Parrish (Christus), Eva Martinez, Mary Beth Nelson, Joshua Blue, and Harrison Hinsche. (*March 8, 2025, at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine*)

Amherst Early Music Festival 2024

Kent returned to the Amherst Early Music Festival this summer to lead its Choral Workshop in repertoire including two pieces by Tomás Luis de Victoria (1548–1611): Motet and *Missa O Quam Gloriosum* as well as Agostino Steffani (1654–1728): *Stabat Mater* for choir and strings. The soloists for the performance were Emily Eagen, Tracy Cowart, Phillip Cheah, Mark Hanke, Stephen Biegner and Peter Stewart.

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 acclaimed avocational chorus; and Music Director of Musica Sacra, New York's elite professional chorus. In addition, Kent is a member of the graduate faculty of The Juilliard School, serving its Vocal Arts Department. An acclaimed organ virtuoso, he is also the organist of the New York Philharmonic.

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 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.

Kent Tritle founded the *Sacred Music in a Sacred Space* concert series at New York's Church of St. Ignatius Loyola, and led it to great acclaim from 1989 to 2011. From 1996 to 2004, he was Music

Director of New York's The Desoff Choirs. Kent hosted "The Choral Mix with Kent Tritle" on New York's WQXR, a weekly program devoted to the vibrant world of choral music, from 2010 to 2014. Among his recent honors are the 2020 Chorus America Michael Korn Founders Award for Development of the Professional Choral Art, 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. He was recently featured in the WIRED video series "Masterminds," an installment titled, "What Conductors Are Really Doing."

<https://kenttritle.com>

Kent Tritle on Facebook: www.facebook.com/kenttritle

Kent Tritle on Instagram: www.instagram.com/kenttritle/

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KENT TRITLE 2024-25 SEASON

Saturday, September 14, 2024, at 3:30 pm

[The Smithfield Church, Amenia, NY](#)

KENT TRITLE, organ

Arthur Fiacco, cello

Music of Bach, Brahms, and Mendelssohn performed on a historic Johnson & Johnson organ, 1893
Benefit for the Oratorio Society of New York

Saturday, September 21, 2024, at 3 pm

[Marbletown Reformed Church, Stone Ridge, NY](#)

KENT TRITLE, organ

Arthur Fiacco, cello

Music of Bach, Brahms, and Mendelssohn performed on a historic J.W. Steere & Son organ, 1896
Benefit for Musica Sacra

Wednesday, October 16, 2024, at 7:30pm

Church of St. Ignatius Loyola, New York, NY

[MUSICA SACRA: "The Seasons"](#)

Kent Tritle, conductor

KAIJA SAARIAHO

HENRYK GÓRECKI

ALFRED SCHNITTKE

Tag des Jahrs (The Seasons) (2001) for chamber chorus & electronics

Lobgesang (Hymn of Praise) (2000) for chorus a cappella & glockenspiel

Concerto for Choir (1984-5) for mixed chorus a cappella

Presented in collaboration with ICCM

Saturday, November 2, 2024, at 4:00 pm

The Town Hall, New York, NY

[THE DESSOFF CHOIRS](#)

Malcolm J. Merriweather, conductor

Kent Tritle, James Bagwell, and Christopher Shepard, guest conductors

Will Liverman, baritone

JOHANNES BRAHMS *Requiem*

Monday, November 11, 2024, at 7:00 pm

Carnegie Hall, New York, NY

[ORATORIO SOCIETY OF NEW YORK](#)

Kent Tritle, conductor

Eva Martinez, soprano

John Riesen, tenor

John Brancy, baritone

Choristers of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, Bryan Zaros, director

LIBBY LARSEN *Invitation to Music*

OLIVER CAPLAN *Cloud Anthem*

JOHANNES BRAHMS *Liebeslieder, Op. 52 (selections)*

CARL ORFF *Carmina Burana (orchestration for two pianos and percussion)*

December 11-14, 2024

David Geffen Hall, Lincoln Center, New York, NY

[NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC](#)

Ton Koopman, conductor

Maya Kherani, soprano

Maarten Engeltjes, countertenor

Kieran White, tenor

Klaus Mertens, bass-baritone

Musica Sacra, Kent Tritle, director

G. F. HANDEL *Messiah*

Kent Tritle is the organist of the New York Philharmonic.

Saturday, December 14, 2024, at 4:00 pm

Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York, NY ([page pending update](#))

"THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS"

CATHEDRAL CHOIRS AND ORCHESTRA OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE

Kent Tritle & Bryan Zaros, conductors

DANIEL PINKHAM Christmas Cantata
KERENSA BRIGGS "A tender shoot"
Traditional "Go, tell it on the mountain," arrangement by Ken Burton
HENRI BÜSSER "Sleep of the Infant Jesus"
JOHN RUTTER Gloria
Christmas carols sung by all

Wednesday, December 18, 2024, at 7:30 pm

Carnegie Hall, New York, NY

MUSICA SACRA

Kent Tritle, conductor

Susanna Phillips, soprano

Simone Dinnerstein, piano

FRANCIS POULENC *Hodie Christus natus est*
MORTON LAURIDSEN *O magnum mysterium*
J. S. BACH *Christmas Oratorio* selections:
 "Jauchzet, frohlocket, auf, preiset die Tage"
 "Bricht an, o schönes Morgenlicht"
 "Ach mein herzliebes Jesulein"
FRANZ BIEBL *Ave Maria*
W. A. MOZART *Exsultate, Jubilate*
JAMES BASSI *Quem pastores laudavere*
LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN *Choral Fantasy*

Monday, December 23, 2024, at 7:00 pm

Carnegie Hall, New York, NY

ORATORIO SOCIETY OF NEW YORK

Kent Tritle, conductor

Nola Richardson, soprano

Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen, countertenor

Joshua Blue, tenor

Joseph Parrish, bass-baritone

G. F. HANDEL *Messiah*

Monday, December 31, 2024, at 7:00 pm
Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York, NY ([page pending update](#))
"NEW YEAR'S EVE CONCERT FOR PEACE"

CATHEDRAL CHOIRS AND ORCHESTRA OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE

Kent Tritle, conductor
Kathryn Lewek, soprano
Raehann Bryce-Davis, mezzo-soprano
Paul Appleby, tenor
William Guanbo Su, bass-baritone

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 9

January 2, 3, 4, 7, 2025
David Geffen Hall, New York, NY
[NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC](#)
Kevin John Edusei, conductor
Isabel Leonard, mezzo-Soprano

SAMY MOUSSA *Elysium*
HECTOR BERLIOZ *Les Nuits d'été*
RICHARD STRAUSS *Also sprach Zarathustra**

*Kent Tritle is the organist of the New York Philharmonic

Tuesday, February 4, 2025, at 7:30 pm
Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York, NY ([page pending update](#))
KENT TRITLE, organ

J. S. BACH Toccata and Fugue in D Minor, BWV 565
OLIVIER MESSIAEN *Apparition de l'église éternelle*
RACHEL LAURIN *Berceuse à Pierre*
CÉSAR FRANCK *Pièce héroïque*
GEORGE CRUMB *Pastoral Drone*
CHARLES-MARIE WIDOR *Symphonie VI, Op. 42, No. 2*

Saturday, March 8, 2025, at 7:00 pm

Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York, NY ([page pending update](#))

CATHEDRAL CHOIRS OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE

Kent Tritle, conductor

Paul Appleby, Evangelist

Joseph Parrish, Christus

Eva Martinez, soprano

Mary Beth Nelson, mezzo-soprano

Joshua Blue, tenor

Harrison Hinsche, baritone

J. S. BACH *St. Matthew Passion*

Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at 7:30 pm

Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York, NY

[MUSICA SACRA: "SurRound II"](#)

Kent Tritle, conductor

"SurRound II" is an immersive concert in 360° in the candlelit Cathedral of St. John the Divine. The audience, seated in the Great Choir stalls and floor, will experience a program of medieval, Renaissance, and contemporary works as the singers move throughout the cathedral. Gregorio Allegri's *Miserere* and John Tavener's *Lament of the Mother of God* as well as music by Adolphus Hailstork, Sarah McDonald, William Dawson, Perotin, Joanna Forbes L'Estrange, Heinrich Schütz, and Morton Lauridsen.

Monday, May 5, 2025, at 7:00 pm

Carnegie Hall, New York, NY

[ORATORIO SOCIETY OF NEW YORK](#)

Kent Tritle, conductor

Susanna Phillips, soprano

Lucia Bradford, mezzo-soprano

Jonathan Pierce Rhodes, tenor

Steven Eddy, baritone

FELIX MENDELSSOHN

Symphony No. 2, "Lobgesang"

PAUL MORAVEC/MARK CAMPBELL

All Shall Rise (world premiere)

May 27 – June 1, 2025

David H. Koch Theater, Lincoln Center, New York, NY

[NEW YORK CITY BALLET](#)

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Musica Sacra, Kent Tritle, director, is featured in performances of Mendelssohn's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

July 23, 2024