

Mitchell Jerko is a pianist, organist and tenor from Saint Marys, Pennsylvania and is new to the Kansas City area. As a solo performer and a collaborative pianist, he has a wide background of performing experience on stage. After completing his bachelor's in piano and voice from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, he continued his studies and earned his master's degree in vocal performance from Kansas State University in 2018. Throughout his career, Mitchell has also been involved in church music, serving numerous congregations as organist, pianist and director of choral ensembles. He is the current organist and pianist for Hosanna! Lutheran Church in Liberty, Missouri.

As a singer and collaborative pianist, Mitchell has performed works from the musical theatre, art song, and opera repertoires. A few of his opera credits include the roles of Tamino in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*, the magician in Menotti's *The Consul* and Boy I in Bernstein's *Trouble in Tahiti*. Mitchell has been a semi-finalist in NATS auditions and has served as an adjudicator for the West Central Region for both musical theatre and classical singing categories. In 2022, Mitchell recorded a selection of American art songs that are featured on the debut album for the classical recording label, Radium Recordings, entitled *Serenade*. In addition to working as a church musician and collaborative pianist, Mitchell is an active recitalist and choral singer. He currently sings with the newly formed early music ensemble, Blue Earth Camerata, originating in Manhattan, Kansas.

Mitchell is thrilled to join the team of instructors and musicians at the Music Academy of Kansas City as a piano and voice instructor. He is looking forward to working with students and encouraging them to pursue and perfect their craft while fostering a love of music.