Detrich Buxtehude was one of the most important composers during German Baroque. His great influence can be illustrated by J.S. Bach’s fascination with the art of the great master of the Northern city of Lübeck. Bach’s ardent desire to study with Buxtehude prompted him to undertake a long and perilous journey which put his first employment into jeopardy. Although mostly known today as a composer of organ music, Buxtehude has been one of the key contributors to the maturation of the church music in Germany, particularly influential in the development of the church cantata.

The musicians involved in the Buxtehude program are well-known figures associated with the Conservatory or other musical institutions of Kansas City.

Ryan Board, one of the finest young choral conductors of the Mid West, is a graduate of the Westminster Choir College and University of Missouri - Kansas City, who currently conducts and teaches at the Kansas City Conservatory of Music. Dr. Board is also a founder of one of the best regional early music a capella vocal ensemble —— ARMONIA SINGERS.

The program features airs and cantatas based on scripture, German texts from the Lutheran tradition, and Catholic mystical Latin poetry.

Buxtehude was a master composer whose music is still very much alive. It evokes emotions, moves and inspires, and, above all, it unmistakably, leads us to the ultimate source of Buxtehude’s art: the divine.