

The Memorial Church of Harvard University
Music Notes for Sunday, March 26, 2023

Gwyneth Walker is one of America's most published composers, whose versatility is evidenced in the wide variety of genres for which she writes. Dr. Walker was formerly on the faculty of Oberlin Conservatory, before devoting herself full-time to composition. "Lord Jesus, Think on Me" is the middle movement of her triptych *Eternal Brightness*, which takes as its basis the hymn tune *Southwell*.

Dan Locklair is Professor of Music and Composer in Residence at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. This week, the Harvard University Choir collaborated with the Harvard Glee Club and the choir of All Saints, Ashmont, in the world premiere of the composer's *Harvard/Ashmont Evening Service* (which it will repeat this afternoon in Ashmont). *Create in Me a Clean Heart* was written in 1980 and is dedicated to one of Locklair's teachers, composer Samuel Adler. The work sets a selection of verses from Psalm 51: slow-moving, chant-like figures in the opening and closing pages surround a dance-like, rhythmic central section.

One of the most prolific composers of choral music today, John Rutter was educated at Clare College, Cambridge, where he later became Director of Music. Most widely known for his Christmas carols and arrangements, Rutter edited the hugely successful *Carols for Choirs* anthologies with Sir David Willcocks, and has been called "the world's greatest living composer and conductor of choral music." The rich sonorities of *Elegy* are quintessential Rutter, with its warm, expressive melody in the tenor register. The composer, organist, and conductor, Daniel E. Gawthrop, has received commissions from Washington National Cathedral, the American Boychoir, and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. The postlude is the opening work in his *Sketchbook Four*—its meandering melodies and irregular meter give a timeless quality to the music.