

The Memorial Church of Harvard University
Music Notes for Sunday, May 14, 2023

Composer in Residence Carson Cooman's oratorio *The Revelations of Divine Love (Metaphors from Sea and Sky)* was performed in its entirety by the Harvard University Choir during this year's Arts First Festival. The work combines the religious visions of Julian of Norwich with the "sonic geography" of Nantucket Island. This morning's offerings are two of Julian's most famous writings: the serene *Prayer*, which the composer superimposes onto the calm side of Coataue; and the beautiful *The Middle of the Heart*, paired with the gorgeous sunsets seen from Madaket.

David Conte is Professor of Music at San Francisco Conservatory and is particularly known for his widely-performed choral works. The prelude is his pensive *Soliloquy*: premiered at the Cleveland Museum of Art in 1996, it is dedicated to the organ builder Walter Holtkamp, Jr., in celebration of his legacy in that art.

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. Today's postlude, his *Variations on an Easter Theme*, is a duet for organ based on the fifteenth-century melody *O filii et filiae*, which utilizes toccata-like figurations and faux-medieval harmonies.