

The Memorial Church of Harvard University

Music Notes for Sunday, October 2, 2022

The English composer John Ireland studied with Stanford at the Royal College of Music, where he later taught; from 1904–1926 he was organist and choirmaster at St. Luke's Church, Chelsea (London). Ireland composed the *Communion Service in C* during his time at St. Luke's at the request of George Martin, organist of St. Paul's Cathedral. The *Gloria* is written in a simple ternary structure (two fast sections enclosing a slower central one) with modal harmonies and mainly homophonic textures; the *Agnus Dei* contains ethereal solos for soprano and baritone with simple choral and organ interjections.

Sir Charles Villiers Stanford studied at Cambridge University, and also in Leipzig and Berlin, where he was a pupil of Carl Reinecke: while in Germany, he became an ardent devotee of the music of Johannes Brahms, whose influence is strongly heard throughout Stanford's oeuvre. Stanford was later the organist of Trinity College, Cambridge, before moving to London as the first professor of composition at the new Royal College of Music, where his notable students included Gustav Holst, Herbert Howells, and Ralph Vaughan Williams. His contribution to the revival of Anglican Church music at the end of the nineteenth century is unparalleled. Of all Stanford's motets and anthems, the *Three Latin Motets* are the most regularly sung, and were written as graces to be performed before meals on feast days in the hall of Trinity College. "Beati quorum via" is the lyrical second motet, which explores the various textural combinations of a six-part choir.

The German composer, organist, and theorist, Sigfrid Karg-Elert taught at the Magdeburg Conservatory before the financial support of Grieg enabled him to focus solely on composition. The prelude reflects a French influence—particularly that of Debussy—and incorporates the use of whole-tone scales and impressionistic harmonies; the postlude is the popular triumphal march and trio on Luther's Reformation chorale, "Now Thank We All Our God."