

The Memorial Church of Harvard University
Music Notes for Sunday, April 9, 2023 (9 am Easter Sunday service)

The Ferris Choral Fellows lead this morning's musical offerings with two Easter favorites. Charles Wood studied with Stanford at the Royal College of Music in London: he would himself become a professor of music there, where his pupils would include Ralph Vaughan Williams and Herbert Howells. Wood only started composing music for the church in his later years, but it is for this repertoire that he is primarily remembered today. Wood's popular harmonization of the Dutch tune *Hoe groot de vrugten zijn* (from *David's Psalmen*, Amsterdam, 1685) is this morning sung to the text "This Joyful Eastertide" by the Anglican priest George Ratcliffe Woodward.

René Clausen was conductor of the acclaimed Concordia Choir for over thirty years until his retirement in April 2020. *Set Me As a Seal* is a movement from the cantata *A New Creation* and has become the composer's most performed work.

French composer André Campra was an important composer of French opera in the period between Lully and Rameau. His most famous opera, *Idomeneé* (whose libretto formed the basis of Mozart's more famous *Idomeneo*) contains the Rigadon dance, which has become a popular concert piece for organists. Carson Cooman is composer in residence at the Memorial Church; his *Intrada* is dedicated to Feliks Brojer (Felix Bräuer). The musical material is very loosely derived from the first phrase of the Sorbian Easter hymn "Džens Chrystus z mortwych stanył je." The postlude is Charles-Marie Widor's most famous composition, the *Toccata* from the fifth organ symphony: written in 1879, this thrilling work has become a staple Easter offering in churches around the world.