

## **The Memorial Church of Harvard University Music Notes for October 15, 2023**

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. In 1981 he formed the Cambridge Singers with whom he has recorded widely on his own label, Collegium Records. 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 Harvard University Choir will perform his *Requiem* in its entirety in concert on October 29 and this morning, the elegiac setting of the familiar words of Psalm 23.

Australian-born composer Melissa Dunphy resides in Philadelphia and teaches composition at Rutgers University. An accomplished actress, her compositions specialize in vocal, political, and theatrical music. *Work* is a slow-moving, lyrical setting of her own adaptation of a chapter from Kahlil Gibran's 1923 prose poetry book *The Prophet*.

Patricia Van Ness's musical style is influenced by the sounds and spirit of Medieval and Renaissance music, and she has received many awards and recognitions for her compositions. *Pastoral Suite* is dedicated to the longtime Organist and Director of Music at First Church, Cambridge, Peter Sykes, where Van Ness is composer in residence. Composer in residence Carson Cooman's festive *Toccata-Rondo* was originally written for the Brazilian-Latvian organist Kris Rizzotto for a concert tour of South America.