

**The Memorial Church of Harvard University**  
**Music Notes for Sunday, November 19, 2023**

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 later became Professor of Music at Cambridge University, and a founding Professor of the Royal College of Music, London, where his pupils would include Vaughan Williams and Howells. The *Service in B-flat Major*, written in 1879 while Stanford was Organist of Trinity College, Cambridge, includes canticles for Matins, Evensong, and an entire Communion Service; the *Magnificat* is written in Stanford's rich, noble vein, but has contrasting moments of great delicacy.

Patricia Van Ness is Composer-in-Residence at First Church Congregational in Cambridge, for whose choir *O Pulcher, fons gratiae* was composed. 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.

In addition to Stanford's five large-scale organ sonatas, the composer penned a number of shorter works for organ; today's prelude features two of these. Percy Fletcher was Musical Director at the Savoy and Drury Lane theaters, London, and is mainly remembered as an arranger and conductor of hit musicals in those famous spaces. *Festival Toccata* was written in 1915 and is dedicated to the virtuoso English organist and composer Edwin Lemare.