

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

The English composer Philip Moore was Organist and Master of the Music at York Minster, England, for twenty five years. A prolific and versatile composer, his anthem “All Wisdom Cometh from the Lord” (which sets passages from Ecclesiasticus and Psalm 119) is typical of Moore’s eclectic style. A bold, majestic opening leads into a fast, energetic section, which is followed by an extended baritone solo; the work ends with a serene passage of accompanied plainsong.

British composer Judith Weir studied with Sir John Tavener and Robin Holloway, and she is currently Master of the King’s Music in the UK. *By Wisdom*, which sets words from the Book of Proverbs, was composed to mark the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II in 2022, and first performed in St. Paul’s Cathedral, London, in June of that year.

English composer Judith Bingham was educated at the Royal Academy of Music in composition and singing. From 1983-95, she was a full time member of the alto section of the BBC Singers, while also maintaining an active freelance career as a composer. Although best-known for her choral and vocal music, Bingham has always written music in nearly all musical genres, and she has received a steady stream of commissions from musicians and ensembles around the world who are drawn to her distinct style with its particularly personal harmonic sound. Simon Preston held positions at Christ Church, Oxford, and at Westminster Abbey, before devoting himself exclusively to the role of concert organist; he died in May of 2022. *Alleluyas* was inspired by a passage from the Liturgy of St. James: “At his feet the six-winged Seraph; Cherubim with sleepless eye, veil their faces to the Presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry, Alleluya, Alleluya, Alleluya, Lord most high.”