

## **The Memorial Church of Harvard University**

### **Music Notes for February 26, 2023**

R. Nathaniel Dett was a Canadian-American composer, organist, and educator, who studied at Harvard from 1920-21 with composer Arthur Foote and won the university's Francis Boott award. During his lifetime he was a leading Black composer known for incorporating African-American folksongs and spirituals into his choral and piano compositions, as he does in this morning's offering.

Undine Smith Moore taught at Virginia State University from 1927 until her retirement in 1972. She was a prolific composer of choral works, and her oratorio based on the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., *Scenes from the Life of a Martyr*, was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize.

Florence Price was born in Little Rock, Arkansas and was educated at the New England Conservatory. After teaching appointments in Arkansas and Atlanta, she settled in Chicago, where her national reputation grew significantly. She was the first African American woman composer to earn widespread national recognition. Her more than 300 works (including *A Pleasant Thought*) include music in many genres and styles, including four orchestral symphonies, alongside numerous vocal and chamber pieces, and many arrangements of popular music for radio. During her time at NEC, Price studied the organ with Henry M. Dunham; her organ output includes several large-scale works as well as short pieces that were written for various publishers of church music.

Adolphus Hailstork studied with Nadia Boulanger and David Diamond, and taught at Virginia's Norfolk State University. A prolific composer in a number of different genres, this morning's prelude is a meditative reflection on the famous spiritual. Carl Haywood is Director of Choral Activities and Professor at Norfolk State University. He has been very active as a conductor and clinician, and he has published numerous arrangements and compositions. Haywood was the service music editor for and major contributor to the Episcopal Church's *Lift Every Voice and Sing II: An African-American Hymnal*.