

**The Memorial Church of Harvard University**  
**Music Notes for Sunday, April 2, 2023**

American composer Howard Helvey is Organist and Choirmaster of Calvary Episcopal Church in Cincinnati, Ohio, and wrote *The Advent of Our King* for the 107<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Carol Services at Harvard. His arrangement of the African-American Spiritual, *Ride on King Jesus*, is full of dynamic and textural contrasts, and a creative use of syncopation.

The English composer Kenneth Leighton held university appointments at Leeds and Oxford before becoming Reid Professor of Music at Edinburgh in 1970. He is primarily remembered for his significant contribution to church music, utilizing distinctive harmonies and colorful word-painting. The laborious, even monotonous, quarter note pulse of Leighton's *Solus ad victimam* effectively portrays the arduous journey to the cross, and builds to a rousing conclusion with the graphic depiction of the word "laughter."

Dan Locklair is Professor of Music and Composer in Residence at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and worked with the Harvard University Choir two weeks ago for the premiere of his *Harvard/Ashmont Evening Service. St. John's Suite* was composed during the summer of 2007 on commission from St. John's Baptist Church (Charlotte, NC). He writes: "The beloved Palm Sunday hymn tune, *St. Theodulph*, is most often associated with the hymn text 'All Glory, Laud, and Honor.' This movement seeks to capture Christ's solemn procession into Jerusalem as described in John 12:12-15. Both the minor mode and dotted rhythms help convey the dark, but stately, mood, which culminates in the glory of the triumphant full organ. At the climax, a statement of the hymn tune appears in a bold, double-pedal statement. Near the ending of the piece, the quiet of a reed stop—accompanied by the warm strings of the organ—emerges as a reminder that this triumphal march is only temporary and soon gives way to the dark and sad days of Holy Week."

***Ride On, King Jesus* (1998)**

African American Spiritual, arr. Howard Helvey (b. 1968)

Ride on, King Jesus;  
No man can a-hinder me.  
Ride on, King Jesus, ride on;  
No man can a-hinder me.

He is king of kings,  
He is lord of lords,  
Jesus Christ, the first and last;  
No man a-works like him.

King Jesus rides a milk-white horse;  
No man a-works like him.  
The river of Jordan he did cross;  
No man a-works like him.

King Jesus rides in the middle of the air;  
No man a-works like him.  
He calls the saints from everywhere;  
No man a-works like him.

***Solus ad victimam*** (1968)  
Kenneth Leighton (1929–1988)

Alone to sacrifice thou goest, Lord,  
Giving thyself to death whom thou hast slain.  
For us thy wretched folk is any word?  
Who know that for our sins this is thy pain?

For they are ours, O Lord, our deeds, our deeds,  
Why must thou suffer torture for our sin?  
Let our hearts suffer in thy passion, Lord,  
That very suffering may thy mercy win.

This is the night of tears, the three days' space,  
Sorrow abiding of the eventide,  
Until the day break with the risen Christ,  
And hearts that sorrowed shall be satisfied.

So may our hearts share in thine anguish, Lord,  
That they may sharers of thy glory be;  
Heavy with weeping may the three days pass,  
To win the laughter of thine Easter Day.

Peter Abelard (1079–1442), English translation Helen Waddell (1889–1965)